



EITD Research

Research for Enterprise, Industries, Technology and Development

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State Counsel Orders Police to Investigate Letter to Judge and Others

Tuesday September 29, 2009, High Court, Kumba

Subject: Letter of the EITD Research RJJR Programme to Justice Evande on his judgment in Suit No. HCK/31/2008 and related matters in his High Court Registry

Yesterday, 28/09/09, at 5.20 pm, the deputy State Counsel told Mr. Mbwoye (Director of EITD Research) to go home and return to the High Court today at 9.00 am, to attend to a complaint against him from Justice Evande, concerning the RJJR Programme letter to the Judge. Mr. Mbwoye's report of the event is available on the Revival of Justice and Judiciary Reform (RJJR) Programme website, address: www.rjjr.eitdr.org.

So today, at 9.00 am, Mr. Mbwoye was at the State Counsel's office in the High Court. The State Counsel had not arrived. Neither had the deputy handling Mr. Mbwoye's matter. There were quite a few other people waiting all along the corridor outside the office. 10.18 am, the deputy State Counsel arrives, meets Mr. Mbwoye outside his office and apologises for being late, cordially. He said his daughter fell ill and he had to take her to the hospital. He shuttled a number of times between his office and the State Counsel's secretariat, while seeing other people in his office. Then, at 12.20 pm, he came out and told Mr. Mbwoye that the file of his matter is already with the Central Police Commissioner for investigation, and that Mr. Mbwoye should go and tell his side of the story to the Commissioner. What story? Mr. Mbwoye wondered aloud, to the deputy State Counsel, saying the RJJR Programme letters are to specific officials who all work right here within the High Court premises! Don't the letters tell the story, what more is there to say? The deputy State Counsel shrugged his shoulders and smiled.

12.47 pm, Mr. Mbwoye arrives at the Secretariat of the Central Police Commissioner. The Commissioner was not on seat. His secretary said he could be back at about 2.30pm. The Commissioner came in at 2.10 pm and Mr. Mbwoye was soon ushered in to see him. The Commissioner had the RJJR Programme letters to High Court officials before him when he asked Mr. Mbwoye what the matter was. "Sir, the State Counsel told me to come and see you for investigation". Why? He asked. "I don't know" replied Mr. Mbwoye, saying the EITD Research RJJR Programme has written to certain officials working in the High Court and the letters have been forwarded to him by the State Counsel for investigation. The Commissioner said they had received the letters which were before him, thought they had been misdirected, and have already prepared a forwarding letter to send them to the High Court for onward transmission to those concerned! He asked Mr. Mbwoye to sit down, took a mobile phone, called the State Counsel and introduced his consternation.

The Commissioner listened for quite a while at the phone. After which, the Commissioner asked, in French, "So, concretely what do you want me to do, as the complainant is here with me?" The Commissioner listened again carefully at the phone, switched it off and told Mr. Mbwoye that the State Counsel wants to see both him (the Commissioner) and Mr. Mbwoye in the State Counsel's office tomorrow at 9.00 am. Looking forward to meeting!

The EITD Research RJJR Programme uses various political processes and public interest litigation to robustly engage the justice system and hold it to account continually. Website address: www.rjjr.eitdr.org.