



OPENING A MEDIATION OFFICE IN THARAKA NITHI COUNTY IN KENYA

By Christine Ndilo Kakyema

I WILL BE A SPEAKING AT THE NORTH WEST COLLABORATIVE FUTURES CONFERENCE HOSTED BY CANADA/US MEDIATORS ON OCTOBER 21/22, 2021.

Tharaka Nithi County in Kenya is located in the central region of Kenya bordering Embu County and Meru County. The County has a population of 393,177 people with an annual growth rate of 3%. The main economic activities are farming of tea, coffee, horticulture, cotton, millet, and maize. Pastoralism is practiced in the lower part of Tharaka North and Tharaka South and livestock keeping in the upper region which produces dairy milk, cheese products and meat. In Chuka town of Tharaka Nithi County, there is a High Court. The nearest Court annexed mediation service is located in Embu which is 45km away costing 500 Kenya Shillings to and fro which is equivalent to 5 pounds. This makes it expensive for disputants, some who end up walking long distances to get the services of mediation in Embu County.

Purpose of the mediation office

1. A site for mediation chambers
 - a. Mediators can manage their cases in that office
 - b. They can keep their files, office documents and other accessories in the office
 - c. It will incorporate the 100 trained mediators in Tharaka Nithi, providing professional work to earn income for mediators
 - d. At the moment there are community trained mediators who can manage the cases.
2. A site to support development of a mediators' association
 - a. Through the office it will be easy to reach the mediators
 - b. The site will pose as a grassroots advocacy platform to the society about mediation
 - c. It will accommodate the 100 trained mediators creating job opportunities.

3. A center for consultancy which adds value to the practice of mediation by making clients confident about the services offered.
4. This will help the people of Tharaka Nithi who have conflicts to avoid walking long distances to access services.

Key considerations in setting up the mediation office

1. Finances for office equipment and rent of the house.
2. Marketing and advertisements to enable people of Tharaka Nithi to know about the office and the services offered.

Approach of setting up the mediation office

1. Write proposals to the County Government of Tharaka Nithi Kenya.
2. Write proposals to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and participants.
3. Train government officials; through training them they will pose as mediation ambassadors in their offices.
4. Use the site as a center for training, mentoring and doing continuing professional development.
5. Make the mediation office as the link office to the Judiciary Mediation Accreditation Committee within Tharaka Nithi region with mediators in the region
6. Approach churches, media houses, conferences etc.

Conclusion

Tharaka Nithi County has many civil cases of land, misunderstanding due to farming and zero grazing. Hence the mediation office will serve the local people within Tharaka Nithi with solving cases of disputes.

My name is Christine Ndilo Kakyema. My Fellowship Topic is: Opening a Mediation Office In Tharaka Nithi County in Kenya.

I WILL DELIVER MY 2021 INAUGURAL IGNATIAN LECTURE ON CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AT THE NOVEMBER 24 HOUR LEAD IN SUMMIT - GRADUATION EVENT: NOVEMBER 19/20, 2021.

Vision: Justice and Peace For All!

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WASILIANA – Kiswahili word for 'dialogue'.

HUB – Connecting communities, businesses, families and nations.

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Editorial Team Note (WHNF2021-101): The article reflects the Author's opinion. This article was first posted on the Mediation & Dispute Resolution (MDR) Professionals blog wasilianahubmediators.co.ke.

"Tharaka Nithi County has many civil cases of land, misunderstanding due to farming and zero grazing. Hence the mediation office will serve the local people." - Christine Ndilo Kakyema, FELLOW Cohort 1 at The 2021 National Fellowship Certificate for Mediators in Kenya