

For immediate release

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Long term Judge receives CB Madan Prize

Centum Group CEO Mr. James Mworira presented the CB Madan Prize to Justice Mr. John Khamoni at a colorful ceremony at Strathmore University on 9th December 2015. The award was a recognition of Justice Khamoni's contribution to the rule of law in Kenya through a career spanning over 40 years. Justice Khamoni enrolled as an advocate in 1970 and became a magistrate in 1978. He later became a high court judge in 1990. Several prominent jurists including, Martha Karua, Paul Muite, LSK CEO Apollo Mboya, Pheroze Nowrojee and Gitobu Imanyara were in attendance to witness the occasion.

He made a number of important rulings that asserted judicial independence and served to limit the excesses of the executive in the 1990s. In 1991, at the height of the drive for multiparty democracy, Justice Khamoni granted bail to leaders of the Kamukunji Meeting, Luke Obok and James Orengo after an appeal. A magistrate's court had previously rejected their bail application. His ruling in Republic vs Jared Benson Kangwana served as a defense against abuse of criminal proceedings by the state especially during the 1990s. "The ruling, running into 140 pages exhaustively considered the law in issue and took 7 hours to read. I has since been applied and followed in a number of cases to guard against state abuse of criminal proceedings", Pheroze Nowrojee, Chairman of the CB Madan Award Committee, explained. "I served everyone in Kenya to the best of what I believed to be lawful and just. It was a great pleasure and privilege to serve our country and our people." Hon. Justice Mr. Khamoni stated on receiving the award.

Centum Group CEO, Mr. James Mworira also gave the Memorial lecture on the link between economic development and the rule of law. "Constitutionalism and the rule of law are not ends in themselves but foundations upon which economic development and prosperity are built. The stability of a society is wholly dependent on the extent to which it can extend economic opportunity to a majority or a significant minority of its citizens. Kenya is today a magnet for capital and the entrenchment of the rule of law and property rights has played a critical role to the improved economic environment that we enjoy today. Economic development will empower the citizenry and an empowered citizenry is essential to strengthening of democratic institutions.

The CB Madan Prize is awarded annually by the Platform Magazine for the Law and Justice Society and is presented to an individual or group who has made a significant effort to advantage the cause of constitutionalism and the rule of law. The award commemorates the contribution of Hon. Chief Justice Mr. CB Madan, the first Chief Justice of Kenya.