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Contact: Ana Victoria Cruz
Phone: +1 (202) 407-9326
E-Mail: cruza@wjpnet.org



The World Justice Project

The World Justice Project brings government, business and civil society together to strengthen rule of law in Malawi

LILONGWE, MALAWI—The World Justice Project (WJP), an independent, global organization working to advance the rule of law, and Citizens for Justice (CFJ), a Malawi-based NGO promoting an informed and empowered Malawian citizenry, will convene a diverse cross-section of leaders from business, government and civil society in Malawi on March 12-14, 2013, to assess opportunities to strengthen the rule of law through practical solutions. Using data from the WJP's Rule of Law Index[®], a tool that offers a comprehensive look at the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice, participants will identify Malawi's most pressing challenges, develop solutions and begin to chart a roadmap for the future.

“The rule of law is key to the promotion of good governance, economic opportunity, social progress, and fundamental fairness and equity,” said WJP founder William H. Neukom. “Effective rule of law helps strengthen the ability of nations to create jobs, enhance education and improve public health, and allows governments and judiciaries to function well for the people they serve.”

The WJP's Rule of Law Index is based on rigorous polling of ordinary citizens and independent assessments by international legal experts. By collecting and analyzing data on how well countries adhere to the rule of law, the WJP has produced the most effective diagnostic tool available to stakeholders around the world.

“The WJP's goal is to act as an honest broker of information, providing a tool for informed deliberations based on impartial data,” said Juan Carlos Botero, WJP Executive Director. “Our Index has been useful for governments in several countries and it is our hope we may do the same for Malawi in these important times.”

Malawi stands poised to enter a new era for strong rule of law, following the transition of leadership last year to President Joyce Banda, who will speak at the workshop. Malawi has signaled that advancing the rule of law is a priority for the country's future, and the request for this workshop marks a strong step towards that goal. The WJP's Index shows Malawi ranks among the highest (third and fourth) in the region when it comes to civil justice and order and security, indicating that not only are its people safe, but that they do not resort to violence to address personal grievances. However, Malawi also faces challenges in protecting fundamental rights.

Following the workshop, a WJP-led delegation of international leaders will meet with government officials to craft a set of recommendations to strengthen Malawi's rule of law as the country works to grow its economy, end corruption, reduce poverty, and make progress in areas like education and women's rights.

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About The World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, global organization working to advance the rule of law for the development of communities of opportunity and equity worldwide. The WJP believes that everyone is a stakeholder in the rule of law, and that a multidisciplinary approach is essential to creating systemic, long-lasting change. When laws are fair, universally implemented, and respected by all, they can help unlock the true social, political and economic potential of entire societies. For more information, visit www.worldjusticeproject.org.

About Citizens for Justice

Citizens for Justice is a Malawi-based non-profit organization advocating for environmental and social justice which seeks to respond to a number of emergent and recurring challenges threatening communities in Malawi. For more information, visit www.cfjmalawi.org.