

PATHWAYS TO REFORMING PRE-TRIAL DETENTION IN NIGERIA – PPDC’S ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONTRIBUTIONS

Presented at the 2024 Human Rights Conference of the International Bar Association, Tokyo 2024.

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Outline



Introduction



**Legal and
Institutional
Framework and
Challenges**



**Efforts by
Government and
other
Institutions**



**Current PPDC's
Efforts**



Conclusion


Introduction

- About 65-70% Awaiting Trial Population in Custodial Centres
- No accurate data for other arresting and detaining agencies
- Incarceration is often used as first resort before investigation
- Nigerians are no so cared of being invited for interviews at police stations



Post



Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) 
@fijnigeria



The police have summoned [@BukkyShonibare](#), the chairman of FIJ's Board of Trustees, to Abuja to answer questions about "cybercrime".

FIJ believes the invitation is in relation to its five-week-long investigative focus on smuggling and the Nigeria Customs Service 🙋

6:48 AM · Mar 26, 2024 · **73.6K** Views

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Efforts by Government and other Institutions

- Legislative Reforms

- ACJA 2015
- Legal Aid Act 2011
- Police Act 2020
- NCOS Act 2019
- Force Orders

- NBA and NGO Driven Reforms

- NBA Human Rights Committees
- NBA Human Rights Institutes
- OSJI and OSIWA Funded projects
- McArthur Funded Projects
- INL Funded Project

- NGOS

- PRAWA
- UNODC
- NULAI
- PWAN
- HBBA
- Improved Training
- Decongestion Efforts
- Technological Improvements
- Community Engagement and Enlightenment



2276

Criminal Case Files Archived at the Record Centre

902

Case Files Uploaded on the Case Management System



Set up of a fully functional Magistrate Court Secretarial Pool at JSC Complex Lafia



Provision of Alternative Power Supply to Courts



FILE SORTING

Sorting, arrangement, boxing and shelving of 534 historical criminal case files at the Nasarawa State Ministry of Justice

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

13 capacity developments for over 347 stakeholders



VIRTUAL HEARING FACILITIES

Installation of virtual hearing facilities with speech to text translators in two High Courts (High Court 1 and 2) and 1 Magistrate Court (Chief Magistrate Court 2, Lafia) with back end at the correctional center (with alternative power supply system)



13



Capacity Development training for Over 347 Stakeholders

2

Virtual Hearing Facilities Installed



17

filing cabinets Across 7 courts and MoJ



MILESTONES IN NUMBERS

Current PPDC's Efforts

- **CACM – PROJECT ONE – KPN**
 - **The AIM is to advance the timely, effective and transparent dispensation of justice**
- **Objectives**
 - Improved capacity, efficiency, and accountability in Nigeria's court case management system
 - Improved control, preservation, and storage of evidence within the Nigerian criminal justice system
 - Improved scheduling system for court sessions and hearings in the Nigerian criminal justice system
 - Improved court administration processes within the Nigerian criminal justice system

The RPDN II Project

Objective 1.0:
Government of Nigeria (GoN) technological capacity in Custodial Centers for select states and three women's correctional facilities are adequate to secure pre-trial detainee rights under the ACJA Pre-trials detainee populations of correctional facilities in select states and three women's correctional facilities is reduced.

Objective 2.0:
Legal aid and other pre-trial services are accessible to pre-trial detainees in Custodial Centers and other detention centers. Regular monitoring of the Law enforcement agency custodial centers will be incorporated into the program design.

Objective 3.0:
Coordination and communication among the ACJMC, other criminal justice actors and CSOs are adequate to implement the ACJA.

Our design among other things will for the three years of this project:

- Provide pro bono legal service to about 1,750 detainees every year.
- Recruit over 150 Lawyers across the project states
- Work with over 10 University based Law Clinics
- Collaborate with the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria to Develop a Mass Open
- Online Course for Legal Aid Providers and paralegals across the country- Support the digitization and centralization of magistrate court registries
- Operationalize CIMS to ensure that it is used to highlight and find solutions to pretrial issues in Nigeria.

Conclusion

- When a person is deprived of his/her liberty, he/she is entitled to a prompt trial or release, and in cases of arbitrary detention, they are entitled to compensation.
- In Nigeria such a person is only too happy to be release and rarely insist on monetary compensation for the breach of his/her right to personal liberty. Compensation is inanimate and comes in the form of relief.
- There is ample evidence to show that early intervention in criminal process has positive impact on suspects, his or her family as well as the criminal justice system in general.
- By this Nigerians of low means would not have to suffer the injustice of awaiting trial for the indefinite length of time.
- PPDC with the RPDN Phase II project is pushing the narrative for improved capturing of inmate data within the custodial centres and improved access to healthcare, better support from existing institutions of government to provide legal representation to pretrial detainees and working with the Key Criminal Justice institutions as part of the ACJMC to ensure compliance with reformative legislative mechanisms to protect pretrial detainee rights, ensure better communication and coordination as well as foster improved access to technology which will equate to access to justice.
- Please visit www.ppdc.org to see more information on our programs and projects