



PNG Judiciary
National Judicial Staff Service

PNG Judiciary Initiatives

PGK 3 FUTURES FORUM – 2024



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About PNG Judiciary

The PNG Judiciary is the third arm of the government and consists of three interdependent functions. These three functions work in harmony with the aim to achieve the timely dispensation of cases.

The functions

- 1. Judicial:** Supreme & National Courts;
- 2. Case Management:** Registry Supreme & National Courts
- 3. Administrative Support:** National Judicial Staff Services



PNG Judiciary Initiatives



Courts

Higher Courts Restructure
Number of Judges Ceiling



Registry

Alternate Dispute Resolution
(ADR)



N.J.S.S

Judicial Education
Court Complex

Courts Initiatives

Higher Courts Restructure



Number of Judges Ceiling

Change: two-tier court to three-tier court leading to the Constitutional Amendments – Provide for Court of Appeal: Amended and certified in August 2024

The suite of legislative reviews and need to be:

1. *Enacted* - Higher Court Administrative Authority Bill – replace NJSS Act, Bill for the Court of Appeal, Bill of an Organic Law for employment of Judges
2. *Amended by way of a Bill* - Supreme Court Act, National Court Act, Organic Law for Judicial Legal Service Commission (JLSC), Bail Act, Sheriff Act, Lawyers Act
3. All other Acts/Organic Laws that make mention of the S&NC to include the Court of Appeal

Review of relevant Court Rules to accommodate for the Court of Appeal

The number of Judges - amendment to the National Court Number of Judges Act 1984.

Certified on the 16th of January 2024.

Increase the number of National Court Judges Ceiling, from 40 to 200 Judges maximum, and the minimum no to 60.

Registry Initiatives

Mediation



Arbitration

Mediation is a form of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) - a third party who is neutral helps parties communicate to reach an amicable solution.

The objective is for parties in dispute to be in control of any decision made to resolve the matter.

There are existing facilities at the Waigani S&N Court House, with a list of qualified Mediators to assist.

Arbitration is a formal form of ADR, requiring evidence and testimonies to be presented to the Arbitrator.

The Arbitrator applies laws and facts to the case to make a decision, the Arbitrators decision is final.

The Legislation was Certified on 16th May 2024:

- Arbitration (Domestic) Act 2024 No.1/2024 &
- Arbitration (International) Act 2024 No.1/2024

Through the Judges ADR Committee, the Rules are currently being established for operational purposes.



NJSS Initiatives

Judicial Education



NJSS Co-Funds the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE).

Vision: Improve Court excellence and improve access to justice

Mission: Design, develop, and deliver high-quality and responsive judicial education and training programs that are focused on enhancing and improving the knowledge, skills, and attributes of Judges, Judicial and Court Officers, and officers of the law & Justice Sector



Waigani National Court Complex (WNCC)

Designed to accommodate for the Higher Court Restructure, the state-of-the-art Court Complex houses the Supreme and National Court with space for the Court of Appeal

Capacity for 596 people - 31 Judges and 565 staff

14 court rooms for court matters be heard

100% Funded by the Government of Papua New Guinea

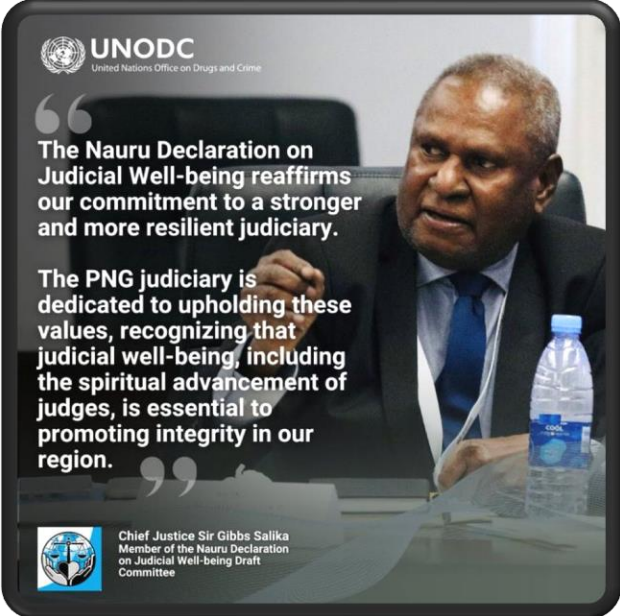
Official Opening is scheduled to coincide with PNG's 50th Independence celebrations next year





Conclusion

The PNG Judiciary is moving towards modernization of its operations by leveraging proven international best practices and advancements in the information and communication technology industry.



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Thank You

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