



Justice as driver of Growth

**2ND CHIEF JUSTICE
BREAKFAST – PRIVATE
GAVAMANI KONEKT-
BUSINESS COUNCIL- 30TH
OCTOBER 2025**

We are delighted to share with you today:



Judicial Independence



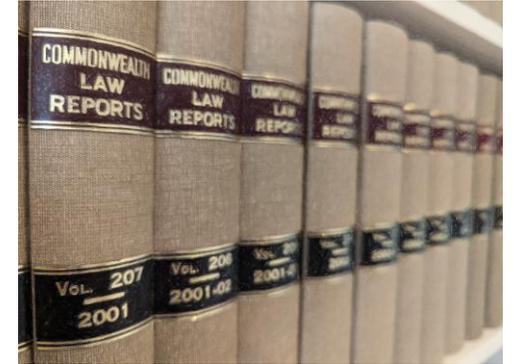
- The Secretary for National Judicial Staff Service an ‘agent’ of the State.
- Business engagements with the executive government, private sector and community through the Secretary NJSS, thereby maintaining Judicial Independence.
- NJSS Special Procurement Committee for all services above K 1million.



New Waigani Law Court Complex

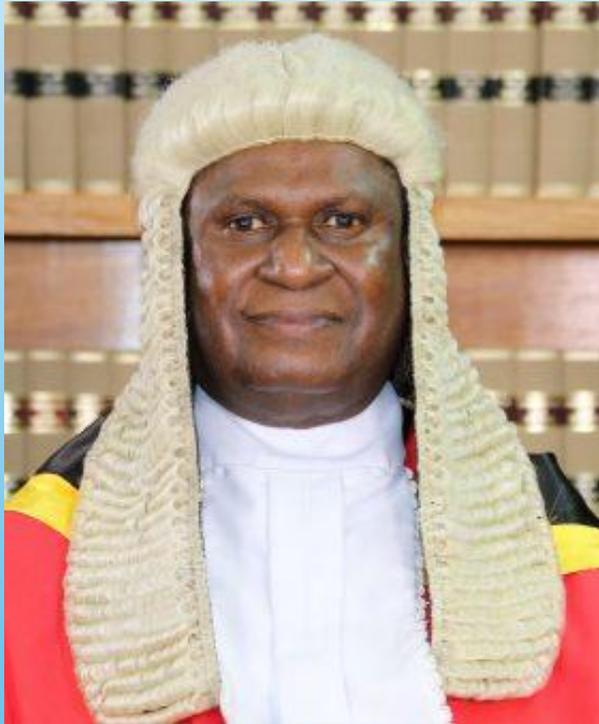
- **Opened 10th September 2025**
- **K 680 Million +**
- **Open for business February 2026**
- **5 story with lifts/ Separate 3 story administration block**
- **14 courtrooms**
- **Library**
- **31 Judges Chambers**
- **New & modern acoustics and audio/visual equipment**
- **Lawyers robing, research and meeting rooms**
- **New and modern security features, disability access and spacious**

Judiciary's current profile



- 47 Judges (2 Acting Judges, 18 expatriate Judges)
- 14 National Court Tracks (Crimes, Civil, Election Petitions, Judicial Review, Commercial, Human Rights, Resource, Environment & Climate Change, Mediations and ADR and Leadership Tribunal)
- Supreme Court (Waigani + other centers)
- 25 National Court Registries (Waigani, Lae, Kokopo, Mt Hagen, Goroka, Wewak, Kimbe, Madang, Alotau, Mendi, Kundiawa, Wabag, Kavieng, Buka, Tari, Popondetta, Daru, Vanimo, Kerema, Minj, Manus, Kainantu, Kwikila, Bereina, Lihir)
- 4 National Court Sub-Registries (Bialla, Arawa, Tabubil/Kiunga)
- Circuit areas (Mendi, Popondetta, Kwikkila, Kiunga/Tabubil, Daru, Bogia)

Chief Justice Objectives



1.Reduce the backlog of cases



2.Reduce the long and lengthy delay reserved judgements and list



3.Expedite hearing and disposal of fresh cases



4.Increase use of mediation and ADR to assist in achieving objectives (1) to (3).

Mediation & Arbitration

Mediation



ALTERNATIVE
DISPUTE
RESOLUTION CENTRE



49 FULLY
ACCREDITED
MEDIATORS (FAMS)



99 PROVISIONALLY
ACCREDITED
MEDIATORS (PAMS)



SUCCESSFUL
MEDIATIONS



COURT ANNEXED



POST COURT
MEDIATION

Arbitration



- ✓ *Arbitration (Domestic) Act 2024.*
- ✓ *Arbitration (International) Act 2024.*
- ✓ This replaces the old legislation and is benchmarked on the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) model law, and the New York Convention (The Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards).
- ✓ Commercial and Industrial disputes to be arbitrated, rather than through the National Court.
- ✓ National Court shall retain its interpretative, and inherent jurisdiction on reviews and appeals.
- ✓ Boost investor confidence, and business with clear, cheaper and timely dispute resolution.
- ✓ Administrative mechanisms in embryonic stage and led through the Judiciary's ADR Centre.



Law Reforms on Court Restructure

Law	Status
<i>Constitutional Amendment No.47 (Court Restructure) Law 2024</i>	Enacted, implementation depend on Organic Laws and subsequent Acts.
Organic Law on Terms and Conditions of Judges	Approved by NEC
Supreme Court (Amendment) Bill	Approved by NEC
National Court Bill	Approved by NEC
Court of Appeal Bill	Approved by NEC
Criminal Appeal Procedures Bill	Approved by NEC
Interpretation (Amendment) Bill	Approved by NEC

Three-tier Higher Court system

- 7 Supreme Court Judges
- 11 Court of Appeal Judges
- 40 National Court Judges
- Assistant Judges
- Minimum of 60 Judges and maximum of 200 Judges under *National Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Act 2023*
- Transition under Chief Justice and Judicial Legal Services Commission (JLSC)
- Align the Registry and Corporate Services
- Need a fully fledged program to align court users



District Court Jurisdiction to Increase!

- K10,000.00 to K 500,000.00
- Indictable Offences Triable Summarily, and increase in criminal jurisdiction





E-Judiciary

- Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) is for civil case management, it has been upgraded to an Integrated Data Management System or IDM 8;
- The Case Docketing System (CDS) was the first e-based case management system used for over 10 years is being phased out;
- Papua New Guinea Legal Information Network (PNGLIN);
- Vlex Online Legal database;
- Court script has been launched by the Chief Justice this month. Next year, all court transcripts can be ordered online;
- Liberty Library Management System in partnership with Soft Link International (Australia);
- Integrated Criminal Case System Database (ICCSD) is a Law & Justice Sector project, that streamlines the criminal justice system from arrest to release;
- E-Judiciary features include Satellite link;
- Automation of judicial administration business processes;

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the Western Hemisphere. The image is darkened to serve as a background for text. The title is written in large, white, sans-serif font on the left side.

Resources Environment & Climate Change Track – RECC Track

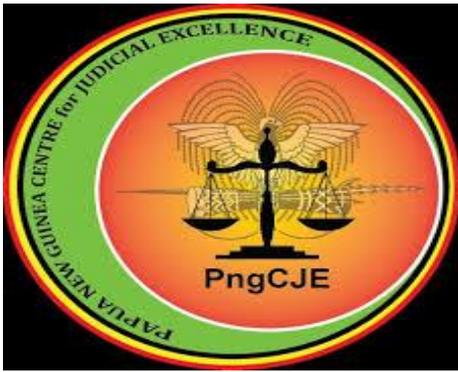
- The Resources, Environment and Climate Change Track (or RECC Track) was established in May 2024 under the direction of Chief Justice.
- National Court needed a specialist track to deal with matters relating to resources in PNG, as well as the serious issues facing this country and the world regarding the environment and climate change. It is intended that proceedings filed in the RECC Track will be dealt with in a timely and expeditious manner.
- Draft Court Rules for the RECC Track are being prepared. It is also intended that training and awareness sessions for Judges, lawyers and the public will take place next year on RECC Track matters. This will further increase the number of matters being referred to the RECC Track.
- *Anyone heard of ‘green hushing’?*

RECC Track matters:

- environmental planning and protection;
- climate issues;
- a Climate Emergency;
- land use planning;
- exploration, mining and development of minerals, oil and gas and any other resources, mining of oil, gas and any other mineral or natural resource;
- logging, forest conservation and management;
- reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;
- pollution;
- wildlife conservation, protection and trade;

RECC Track matters:

- water rights;
- the Waters of Papua New Guinea;
- any other natural resources;
- the environment, Sustainable Development, environmental impact assessment, strategic impact assessment and Climate Change;
- applications for redress of a denial, violation or infringement of, or threat to, rights or fundamental freedom relating the right to life and to a clean and healthy environment;
- resettlement and relocation;
- climate induced migration and displaced communities;
- issues that concern or are based on any National, Provincial and Local Level Government legislation that concern the environment, land, Natural Resources, land use, conservation, Climate Change, Sustainable Development and related issues;
- international agreements, treaties, conventions or protocols on Climate Change, the environment, land, air, water, their use and related issues and any domestic legislation that give force to, adopt or recognize any or all such agreements, treaties, conventions or protocols; and
- any other matters that raise issues concerning the environment, land, Natural Resources, land use, conservation, Climate Change and any environmental social or cultural sustainability issues or occurrences.



- ✓ The PNGCJE continues to offer general, tailor made and specialist legal and judicial training based on regional and international standards, with trainers and facilitators from local and abroad.
- ✓ The training is not limited to Judges, but has involved Lawyers, Private Citizens, Government Departments and the Community.
- ✓ It is open to the private sector, for mediation and arbitration training, as well as other areas that concern the law and the courts.
- ✓ The PNGCJE Annual Reports can be accessed at pngcje.gov.pg/prospectus/annual-reports/



About the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence

THE Papua New Guinea Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) coordinates judicial education and training for Papua New Guinea Judiciary, Magisterial Services, and Law and Justice Sector agencies.

The purpose of the Centre is to facilitate and coordinate structured professional training to all judicial officers, court officers, and officers of the law and justice sector to help improve the delivery of judicial services to the people.

The PNGCJE has been involved in various activities and programs in 2023 aimed at promoting court excellence and improving access to justice. The Centre also offered a variety of programs including Protocol training, Ethics and Integrity workshops, Access to Justice Awareness, Judicial Orientation, Financial Literacy, and Training of Trainers.

The PNGCJE was established in 2010 under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered between the Chief Justice of the PNG Supreme and National Courts, the Chief Magistrate and the Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney General.

Key Objectives for the Establishment of PNGCJE

- Promote Judicial Excellence;
- Promote professional development and training; and
- Foster an awareness of judicial administration, developments in the law and social and community issues.

Our Core Values

The core values that underpin the professional development activities of PNGCJE are:

- Excellence in the professional integrity and competence of Judicial officers and Court staff;
- Excellence in dispensation of justice by the Courts according to international best practices;
- High level of competency, skills and experiences of Judicial officers and Court staff;
- Maintenance of democracy, good governance. and the Rule of Law by the judiciary.

COLLABORATION



Judiciary

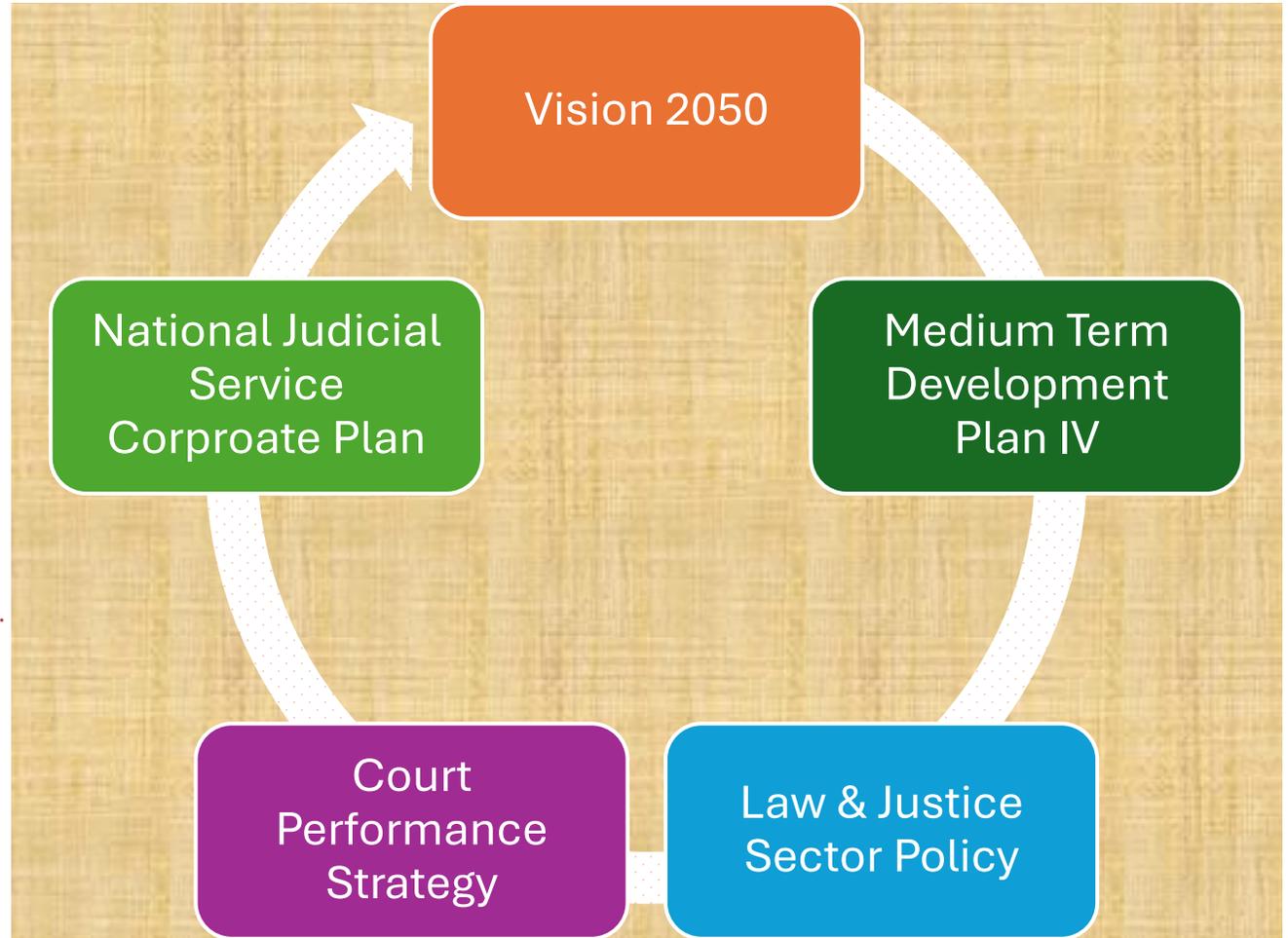
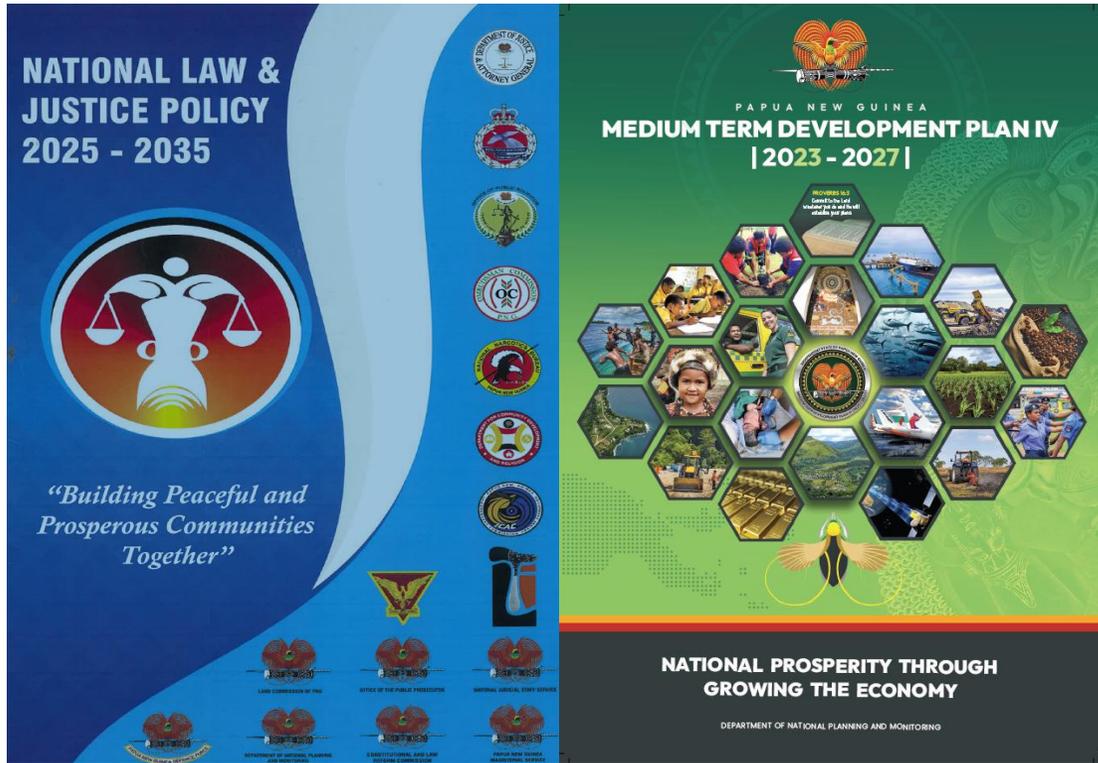
**National
Executive
Council**

National Co-ordinating
Mechanism (NCM)
Law and Justice Sector

Social Law and Order Sector
(SLOS)

Department of Justice and
Attorney General (DJAG)

Minister for Justice



Acknowledge Business Partners

- BSP
- Hotels (Lamana, Stanley, Gateway/Coral Sea Hotels, Hilton and Hotels/ Guest Houses in Provinces)
- Air Niugini/ Tropic Air
- Arise Security and Guard Dog
- Digicel
- St Johns
- Spic and Span
- Ruswin
- Island Mobile Hire Cars
- Catering companies



Digicel

L
Lamana Hotel



TCB TRAVEL
TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

THIS COURT WAS ESTABLISHED
BY THE PEOPLE
THROUGH THE CONSTITUTION
TO DO JUSTICE WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR
TO ALL MANNER OF PERSONS

THERE IS NO LIBERTY
UNLESS THE POWER OF JUDGING
IS SEPARATED FROM THE EXECUTIVE



Thank you...

The Judiciary plays a key and impartial role in upholding the rule of law in business transactions. It also aims to deter lawlessness in all its forms through its criminal sanctions to help create an enabling environment for safer communities where business and livelihoods can thrive!