



## IT SOLUTION FOR THE JUDICIARY

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Judicial Research Centres  
Nigeria



This project is jointly funded by the European Union and the State Governments of Nigeria.



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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“ Enabling fast and effective research, the JRCs turn the dream of speedy and effective dispensation of justice into reality. ”

*Honourable Justice Kashim Zannah  
Chief Judge of Borno State*

“ The Centre will aid Judges immensely in writing judgements, as they will be able to easily check references and cases cited by counsel. It will facilitate easy access to information and increase case flow management, thereby increasing speed and timeliness in justice delivery and easy access to justice ... We thank you very much for all your good work and hope that you will continue to identify with us in achieving speedy dispensation of justice. ”

*Honourable Justice R. H. Cudjoe, OFR  
Chief Judge of Kaduna State*



### JRC's Services

- Internet access
- Electronic Resource Materials (online law publications)
  - Lexis Nexis
  - Westlaw
- IT Training on basic computer skills using the Microsoft Office Suite
- Complaints Management System that helps to collect, analyze and trace complaints
- Design and development of websites for the Judiciary system in Nigeria
  - [www.nji.gov.ng](http://www.nji.gov.ng)
  - [www.bornohighcourt.gov.ng](http://www.bornohighcourt.gov.ng)
  - [www.ktsj.gov.ng](http://www.ktsj.gov.ng)
  - [www.bnsj.gov.ng](http://www.bnsj.gov.ng)

“Justice delayed is not only justice denied, but the transparency of verdicts too, sometimes called to question ... Quite often, apart from technical delay, the materials and facilities at the disposal of our Judicial officers also play a part. The envisaged practical usefulness of the Research Centre to the High Court, Magistrate and Area Court Judges as well as other Judicial Officers underscores the importance of this Centre to the entire Justice system in the state.”

*Chief Steven Lawani (OFR)  
Acting Governor of Benue State*

“Today's commissioning of the Judicial Research Centre is a clear testimony of our commitment to improving the Judiciary and Justice delivery in the State ... to achieve maximum benefits of this project, the Government will consider the possibility of expanding the Centre to cover all Judicial Divisions in the State, as well as providing similar facility to the Ministry of Justice.”

*Barrister Ibrahim Shehu Shema (FNIM)  
Executive Governor of Katsina State*





## Background

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been supporting the development and implementation of good practices in judicial reform since the year 2000.

The JRCs are an integral part of a large scale European Union (EU) funded project on “Support to the EFCC and the Nigerian Judiciary” which was launched in 2006 and assists the Nigerian Judiciary at Federal level and within 10 pilot states in devising and implementing action plans for strengthening judicial integrity and capacity. Measures included in these action plans aim to enhance access to justice, the timeliness and quality of justice delivery, integrity, accountability, and transparency of the courts and coordination across the criminal justice system.

Independent, effective and efficient courts, committed to the values of integrity, impartiality, and fairness are key prerequisite for economic growth, democracy, and development. It is in this context that the EU is supporting through UNODC the Nigerian Judiciary in its reform efforts.

## What is a Judicial Research Centre?

A Judicial Research Centre (JRC) is an IT facility which provides access to legal research tools, the Internet and some specialized IT applications such as a Complaints Management System.

A Judicial Research Centre has three main components: a satellite dish, a server room and a pool of computers, printers and a scanner.

## Main Objectives

The aim of the Judicial Research Centre is to improve timeliness and quality of justice delivery as well as the overall transparency of courts operations. Easy access to legal information and state-of-the art information systems will help judges and magistrates in conducting research and writing judgements, finding references and case citations.

JRCs are being deployed to all 10 pilot states under the project, namely Anambra, Benue, Borno, Delta, Enugu, Federal Capital Territory, Lagos, Kaduna, Katsina, and Rivers as well as the National Judicial Institute (NJI).

“ Judiciary Research Centre (JRC), High Court of Justice, Awka, has become a reality. It is with great joy and happiness, and indeed with deep gratitude to God Almighty, Today, being the 1st day of June, 2009, that I find myself having to commission this project.

*Honourable Justice Emeka Nzegwu, OFR  
Chief Judge of Anambra State*