

2024 Annual Report

PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence



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.

In 2023, the PNGCJE actively facilitated a range of judicial education and training programs. These initiatives were designed to enhance court excellence and promote better access to justice. The programs covered various critical areas of judicial education, including court practice and procedure, judicial administration and management, and substantive law.

The programs were conducted under the following PNGCJE/PCJE programs areas:

- a) *PNG Judges and Magistrates;*
- b) *National Judicial Staff Services – National and Supreme Courts;*
- c) *Magisterial Services – District Court;*
- d) *Law and Justice Sector Agencies;*
- e) *Pacific Island Judges and Magistrates – PCJE;*
- f) *Regional Court Officers – PCJE; and*
- g) *Lay Judicial Officers – PCJE.*

a) Judges and Magistrates (PNG)

Judicial education and training for judges and magistrates encompass a diverse range of components that are designed to enhance the professional skills of judicial officers, optimize case management, deepen understanding of substantive law, bolster judicial integrity, and tackle current challenges. Below is a list of training programs that were delivered for the Judges and Magistrates in 2023.

| Program | Location | Delivery | Dates |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence | Port Moresby, | F2F | 7-9 February |
| 2. Election Petition | Port Moresby, | Webinar | 9 March |
| 3. Judicial Wellness Program for Judges and Spouses | Port Moresby | F2F | 4-5 April |
| 4. Conducting Tribunal Leadership | Port Moresby, | Webinar | 12 May |
| 5. Judicial Forums for Judges and Magistrates | Port Moresby, | F2F | 19-23 June |
| 6. Supreme Court Duties for Provincial Judges | Port Moresby, | F2F | 24 August |
| 7. Maritime Law | Port Moresby, | F2F | 4-5 September |
| 8. Whistleblower Protection | Port Moresby | F2F | 12 September |
| 9. Intermediate Course on Environmental Adjudication: Upholding Environmental Justice in Asia Pacific | Novotel Nadi, Fiji | | 19-21 October |
| 10. Human Rights in PNG: Gender Based Violence (GBV) in PNG as violation of Human Rights | Port Moresby | Webinar | 22 November |

b) National Judicial Staff Services (Court officers)

Training courses for the National Judicial Staff Services are focused on equipping National and Supreme Court officers with the necessary skills needed to ensure smooth functioning of court proceedings and enhance compliance with judicial and government protocols. A total of twenty-two courses were delivered in 2023 for NJSS officers.

| Program | Location | Delivery | Dates |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Training of Trainers (ToT) – Batch 1 | Port Moresby | F2F | 9 March |
| 2. Training of Trainers (ToT) – Batch 2 | Port Moresby | F2F | 10 March |
| 3. Gender Equity & Social Inclusion - Batch 1 | Port Moresby | F2F | 12 April |
| 4. Gender Equity & Social Inclusion - Batch 2 | Port Moresby | F2F | 28 April |
| 5. Customer Service Training | Kavieng, New Island | F2F | 30-31 May |
| 6. Information Technology Training | Kavieng, New Island | F2F | 1-2 June |
| 7. Gender Equity & Social Inclusion Awareness | Madang | F2F | 26-27 June |
| 8. Customer Service | Mendi, SHP | F2F | 13-14 July |
| 9. Gender Equity & Social Inclusion Awareness | Lae, Morobe | F2F | 28 July |
| 10. Financial Literacy | Lae, Morobe | F2F | 24-25 July |
| 11. Customer Service | Lae, Morobe | F2F | 26 - 27 July |
| 12. Protocol Training - Batch 1 | Port Moresby | F2F | 25 - 26 July |
| 13. Protocol Training - Batch 2 | Port Moresby | F2F | 27 - 28 July |
| 14. Customer Service | Kerema, Gulf | F2F | 16-17 August |
| 15. Ethics and Integrity | Port Moresby | F2F | 23 August |
| 16. Customer Service | Wewak, ESP | F2F | 28-29 August |
| 17. Financial Literacy | Goroka, EHP | F2F | 14-15 September |
| 18. IT Skills | Wewak, ESP | F2F | 1 September |
| 19. Course Development | Port Moresby | F2F | 8 November |
| 20. Ethics and Integrity | Port Moresby | F2F | 13 November |
| 21. Team Building | Port Moresby | F2F | 16-17 November |
| 22. Ethics and Integrity | Port Moresby | F2F | 17 November |

c) Magisterial Services (District Court)

Key result outcomes for these courses included increased sense of professionalism, effective customer service skills and improved aptitude for various administrative duties.

| Program | Location | Delivery | Dates |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Training of Trainers | Port Moresby | F2F | 15-19 May |
| 2. Customer Service Training | Kavieng, New Ireland | F2F | 30-32 May |
| 3. IT Skills Training | Kavieng, New Ireland | F2F | 1-2 June |
| 4. MS Teams & Zoom Meeting | Port Moresby | F2F | 7 August |
| 5. Customer Service | Kerema, Gulf | F2F | 16-17 August |
| 6. Customer Service | Wewak, ESP | F2F | 28-29 August |
| 7. IT Skills | Wewak, ESP | F2F | 30-31 August |

d) Law and Justice Sector Agencies

Training for officers in the law and justice sector was essential for several reasons. Not only did it equip officers with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform their duties effectively and ethically, but it also promoted efforts to uphold the rule of law and improve judicial services to the people. A total of eight training programs were facilitated for lawyers and other legal professionals in 2023

| Program | Location | Delivery | Dates |
|---|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Seminar on Revenue Law Practice in PNG | Port Moresby | F2F | 22 February |
| 2. UPNG Law Students' Dinner | Port Moresby | F2F | 10 March |
| 3. Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series 1 | Port Moresby | F2F/Online | 17 May |
| 4. Maritime Law | Port Moresby, | F2F | 5 September |
| 5. Mediation and Commercial Law | Port Moresby | F2F | 5 September |
| 6. Whistleblower Protection | Port Moresby | F2F | 13 September |
| 7. Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series 2 | Port Moresby | F2F/Online | 25 October |
| 8. Anti-Corruption Legislative Reforms in PNG | Port Moresby | F2F | 26 October |

Pacific Centre for Judicial Excellence (PCJE)

In 2023, the PNGCJE through the Pacific Centre for Judicial Excellence (PCJE) delivered the following courses for Pacific Island judges, magistrates and court officers.

e) Regional Judges and Magistrates

| Program | Location | Delivery | Dates |
|---|---------------------|----------|--------------|
| 1. Cybercrime & Electronic Evidence (Cybercrime Secretariat Conference) | Port Moresby | F2F | 7-9 February |
| 2. Managing and Reporting of Fraud and Corruption Cases | Brisbane, Australia | F2F | 13-17 March |
| 3. Fraud and Corruption Course for Judges | Port Moresby | Online | 25 May |
| 4. Anti-money Laundering for Pacific Judges | Port Moresby | F2F | 8-11 August |
| 5. Maritime and Admiralty Law | Port Moresby | F2F | 4 September |
| 6. Whistleblower Protection | Port Moresby | F2F | 12 September |

f) Regional Court Officers

| Program | Location | Delivery | Dates |
|------------------|--------------|----------|--------|
| 7. Customary Law | Port Moresby | Webinar | 23 May |

g) Lay Judicial Officers

| Program | Location | Delivery | Dates |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------------|
| 8. Human Rights Defenders Training | Port Moresby | F2F | October-November |

Community Awareness - Access to Justice

The purpose of the community awareness program on Access to Justice was to assist peace officers, land mediators, and community/village leaders understand the fundamentals behind administration of justice as provided for by the Constitution of Papua New Guinea.

| Location | District/Province | Delivery | Dates |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| 1. Meirubu Village | Rigo & Abau, Central Province | F2F | 21 September |
| 2. Kupiano Town | Rigo & Abau, Central Province | F2F | 22 September |
| 3. Waiori Village | Rigo & Abau, Central Province | F2F | 19 October |
| 4. Wanigela Village | Rigo & Abau, Central Province | F2F | 19 October |
| 5. Kapari Village | Rigo & Abau, Central Province | F2F | 20 October |
| 6. East Cape Village | Alotau, Milne Bay | F2F | 7 November |
| 7. Lelegwagwa Bou Ward | Alotau, Milne Bay | F2F | 7 November |
| 8. Lelehoa Ward | Alotau, Milne Bay | F2F | 7 November |
| 9. Waigani Estate | Alotau, Milne Bay | F2F | 8 November |
| 10. Hagita Estate | Alotau, Milne Bay | F2F | 8 November |
| 11. Mutu'uwa Community | Alotau, Milne Bay | F2F | 9 November |
| 12. Wewak Urban Court | Wewak, East Sepik | F2F | 21 November |
| 13. Rev. Maru Teachers College | Wewak, East Sepik | F2F | 21 November |
| 14. East Sepik Nursing School | Wewak, East Sepik | F2F | 22 November |
| 15. Dabunari Village | Central Province | F2F | December |
| 16. Barakau Village | Central Province | F2F | December |
| 17. Kalo Village | Central Province | F2F | December |
| 18. Matairuka Village | Central Province | F2F | December |
| 19. Boregaina Village | Central Province | F2F | December |
| 20. Kwikila Station | Central Province | F2F | December |

2023 Judicial Education and Training Highlights

Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Finance Training

The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Finance Training was organized by the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence in collaboration with the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime and supported by the Government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative. The workshop was facilitated to equip Judges and magistrates with ideas on how to address anti-money laundering and counter terrorism finance in the country. The workshop was attended by both Judges and Magistrates.



Judges and Magistrates at the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Finance Training.

Whistleblower Protection Workshop

The Whistleblower Protection workshop was an initiative between the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence and the United Nations Development Programme through the office of the UNDP Chief Technical Advisor, Dr. Alma Sedlar. The workshop was delivered not only to detect fraud, corruption and misconduct, but also to safeguard public interest and promote a culture of accountability and integrity. The whistleblowers training was part of the Preventing and Countering Corruption in Papua New Guinea Project (PNG Anti-Corruption Project) funded by the European Union and implemented by UNODC and the United Nations Development Project.

Managing and reporting Fraud and Corruption Cases

This week-long workshop brought together four court officers from the PNG Judiciary and thirty other Pacific Island court officers. This workshop took place at the Federal Court of Australia in Brisbane, Queensland. The event was jointly hosted by the Pacific Judicial Integrity Program and the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence. Its purpose was to equip registrars, judges' associates, and other court officers with the necessary skills to effectively manage fraud and corruption-related cases. Notably, two facilitators from the PNG Judiciary, Ms. Victoria Belo (Assistant Registrar of the National Court) and Mrs. Stacey Levakia-Wali (PNGCJE Program Officer), actively contributed to the workshop.

Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series

The Sir Buri Kidu Lecture Series is an annual event hosted by the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG). Each year distinguished guest speakers are invited to deliver lectures on diverse topics related to judicial administration and other related topics. The first SBK lecture in 2023 was presented by the former Australian Chief Justice Susan Kiefel on the topic of "Prerogative Writs and Modern Judicial Review: Constancy and Change." This lecture provided an invaluable opportunity for the public, and members of the law and justice sector to delve into the intricacies of international judicial systems. Beyond the lecture, participants engaged in networking, fostering connections with both their peers and the esteemed guest speaker.



Lecture presentation by the former Chief Justice of Australia, Susan Kiefel, AC, KC.

Trainer of Trainers

The Trainer of Trainers (TOT) workshop was a crucial one-week intensive course delivered by the PNGCJE team of program officers, with assistance from Mr. Kepa Darima, NJSS Training Manager. The TOT course was targeted for aspiring Magisterial Services business unit managers. The workshop consisted of both theory and practical aspects of training.



Magisterial Services Business Unit managers and training facilitators

Human Rights Defenders Training for Village Court Officers

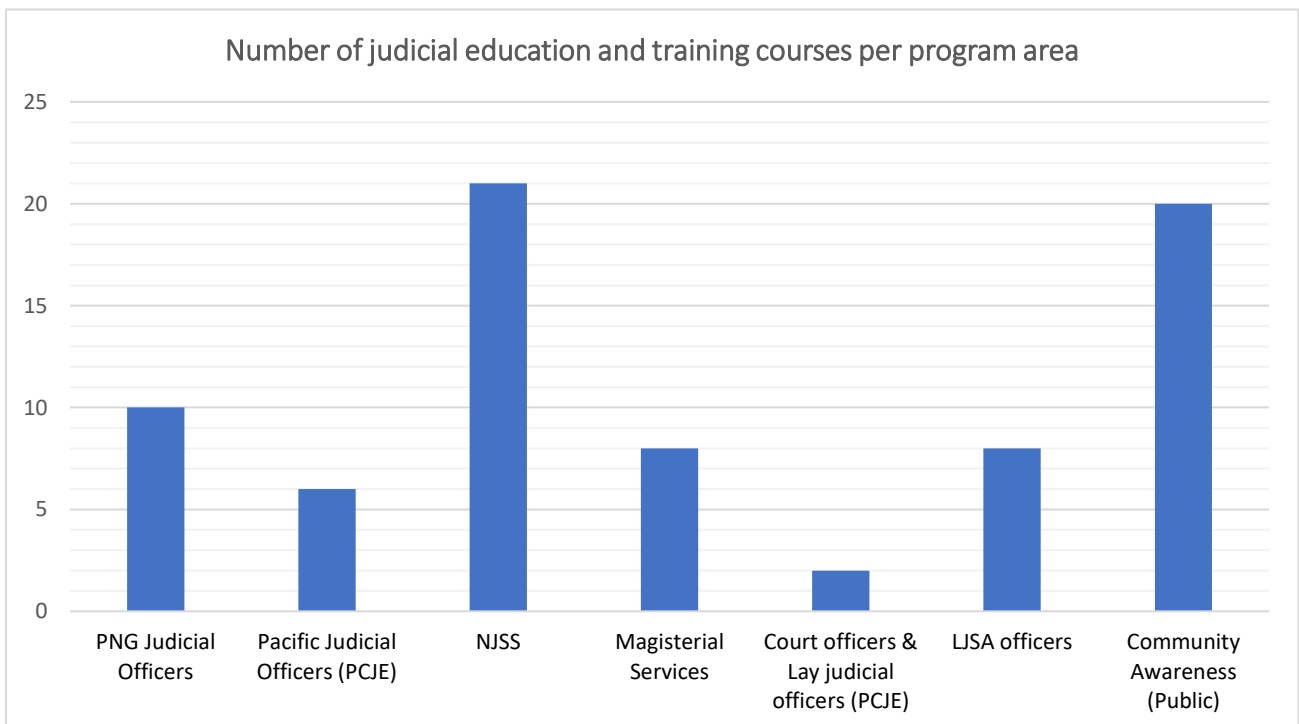
The Human Rights Defenders course was designed and delivered in collaboration with the NCDC Gender Based Violence Secretariate and the Department of Justice and Attorney General. The training started on 9 October 2023 and ended on 13 October 2023. The purpose of the course was to educate

village court magistrates about laws relating to Human Rights, and to enable Village Court workers to act as Human Rights Defenders in their respective jurisdictions.



Participants of the Human Rights Defenders training

Summary of 2023 Judicial Education and Training Programs



Summary of completed training programs.

Over the past 11 months, a total of seventy-five specialized judicial education and training courses were conducted. These courses were meticulously designed to equip judicial officers, court personnel, and other stakeholders within the court system with the necessary tools to perform their duties effectively and competently.

The PNGCJE continues to place paramount importance on the professional integrity and competence of judicial and court officers. It remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting judicial excellence and ensuring sound judicial administration. This commitment is reflected in the breadth and depth of the programs offered by the Centre, as well as its unwavering efforts to extend its reach to the remote corners of the country¹.

¹ <https://www.pngjudiciary.gov.pg/index.php/about-the-courts/papua-new-guinea-centre-for-judicial-excellence>