

# Taking the Court House to the People

Will Travelling Courts bring access to Justice?

## Overview

PAPUA NEW GUINEA EXPERIENCE



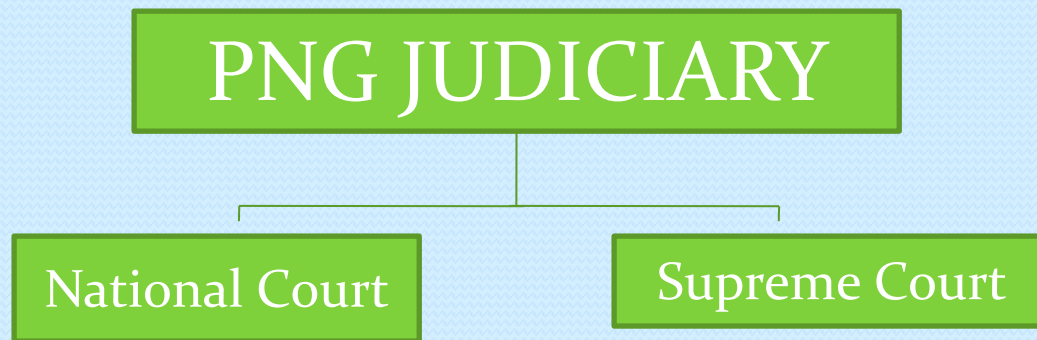
# Taking the Court House to the People

- Twenty One (21) Provinces in Papua New Guinea
- Eighty Nine (89) Districts



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- Judges in PNG hold dual commission.



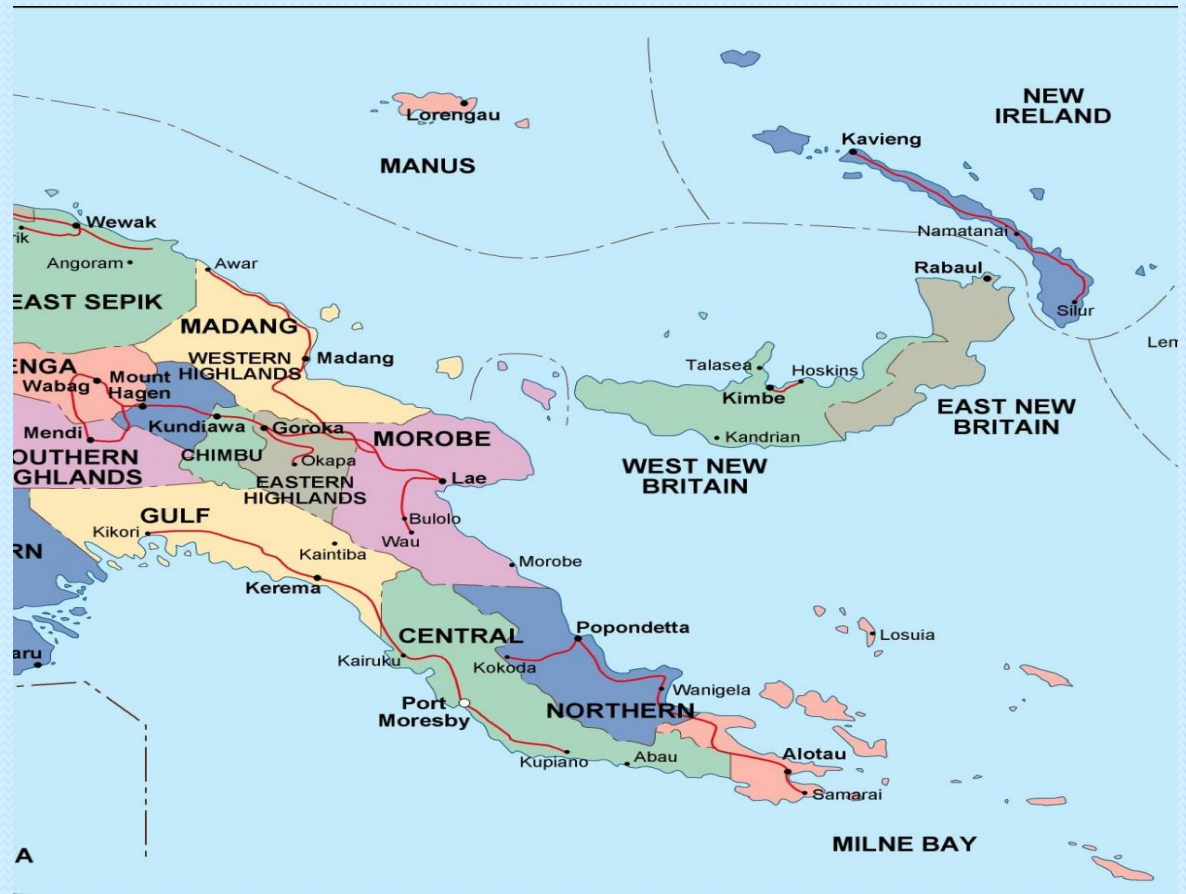
# Taking the Court House to the People

Will travelling court bring access to justice?

- Highly Centralised
  - **Supreme Court Registry located in Port Moresby (Waigani)**
  - **Support staff located in Port Moresby (Waigani)**

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- Court Circuits in provinces.
  - Lae
  - Kokopo
  - Wewak
  - Mt. Hagen



# Taking the Court House to the People

- Court Circuits included in the year - Court calendar issued by the Chief Justice.



Chief Justice circuit to Minj - Jiwaka Province July 2021



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## **NATIONAL COURT**

- Highly decentralised
  - 21 Provinces
  - Resident Judge(s) located in 14 provinces
  - National Court Houses & Registries
  - Support Staff
  - 7 Provinces work in progress

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- National Court Circuits

- Vanimu
- Popondetta
- Kerema
- Daru
- Tari
- Lorengau
- Minj



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justice?

## **Benefits and Results**

- Accused has access to the Court
- Less expensive for accused

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## **Benefits and Results**

- Plaintiff and Defendant have access to the Court.
- Reduced Judiciary time and costs to plaintiff and defendant.

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## SUPREME COURT STATISTICS – CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASES

- 2019
  - Total number of pending cases 291
  - Total number of completed cases 175
  - Total number of cases completed on circuits 18



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## SUPREME COURT STATISTICS (CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASES)

- 2020
  - Total number of pending cases 162
  - Total number of completed cases 22
  - Total number of cases completed on circuits 1

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## **SUPREME COURT STATISTICS – CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASES**

- 2021 - January to August
  - Total number of pending cases - 50
  - Total number of completed cases - 1
  - Total number of cases completed on circuits - Nil

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## ELECTION PETITION

- Total number of completed cases - 79
- Total number of cases completed in Port Moresby (Waigani) - 35
- Total number of cases completed on circuits - 44



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## **CHALLENGES**

- Delays for Supreme Court hearings.
- Costly for Supreme Court to conduct a Court Circuit.



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## **CHALLENGES**

- Security for Judges and Lawyers.
- Lack or inadequate infrastructure and support.  
Eg. Electricity and water disruptions.



Ambua Lodge -Tari



# Taking the Court House to the People

## COURT USER FORUM

- Public Awareness Program

Eg. Village communities and Schools

- Rights of Individuals



**2019 Court User Forum at Hula Village - Central Province**



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## COURT USER FORUM

- Current Law and Order Issues

Eg. Drugs and Alcohol abuse



# Taking the Court House to the People

## COURT USER FORUM

- Meeting with Law and Justice Agencies.

eg. Public Prosecutors Office, Public Solicitors Office, Police and Correctional Service

- Pending Cases



**2019 Court User Forum at Hula Village - Central Province**



# Taking the Court House to the People

## COURT USER FORUM

- Meeting with Law and Justice Agencies.

Eg. Public Prosecutors Office, Public Solicitors Office, Police and Correctional Service.

- Bench Warrants





QUESTION TIME !

