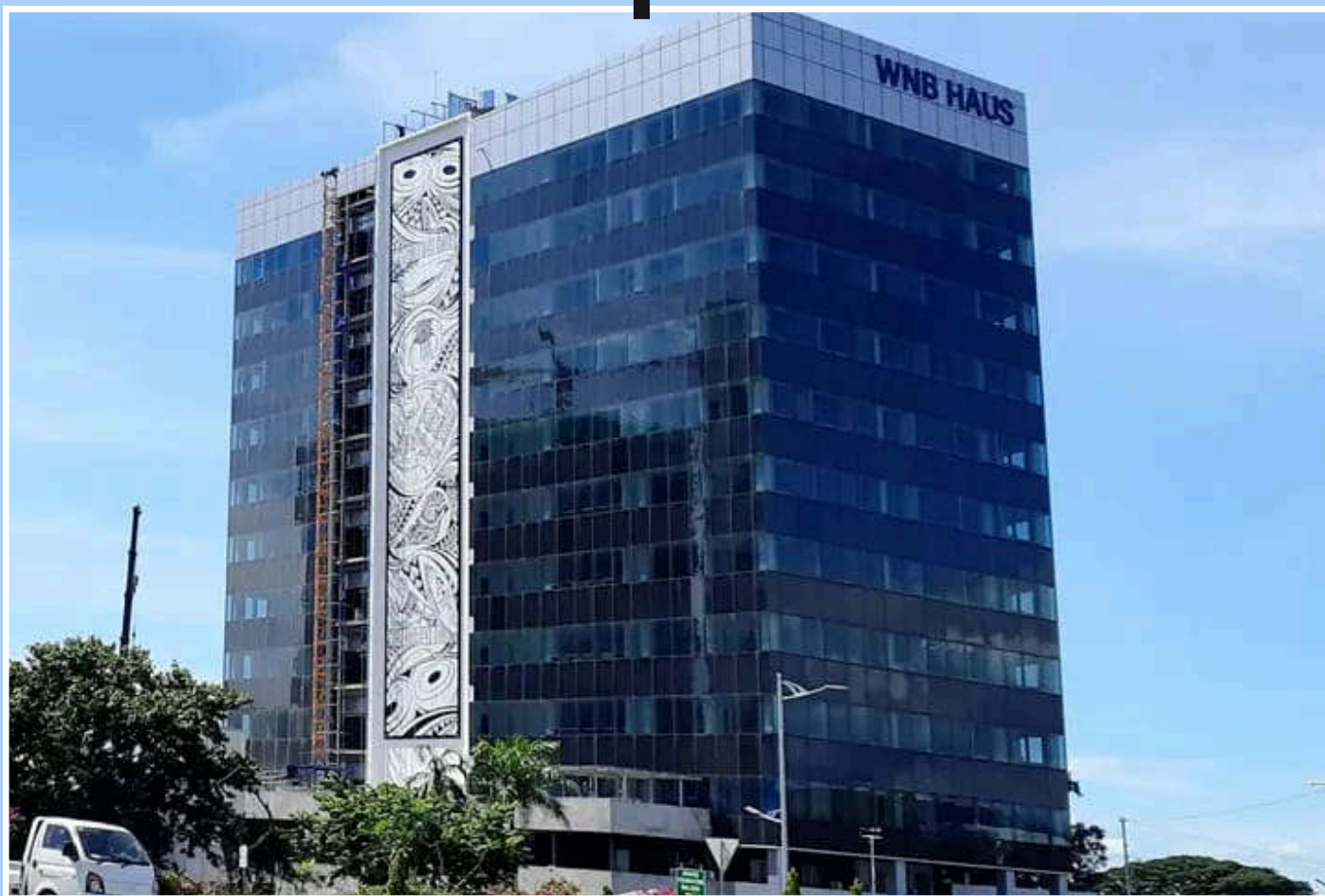




2023

Annual Management Report



+ (675) 301 2854/301 2980/301 2970



www.justice.gov.pg



West New Britain Haus
Independence Drive,
Waigani, Papua New Guinea

Published by:

Department of Justice and Attorney General
P. O. Box 591
WAIGANI
National Capital District
Papua New Guinea

Telephone: + (675) 301 2980/2860

Website: www.justice.gov.pg

ISSN: 2221-934X

ISBN: 978 – 9980 – 925 – 15 - 2



Annual Management Report 2023

Waigani
January 2026

FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE



Hon. Pila Niningi, LLB, CMG, MP

As the Minister responsible, I am honoured to present Department of Justice and Attorney General's Annual Management Report for 2023 to the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea.

The portfolio of the Minister for Justice and the Attorney General is very distinct from other ministerial portfolios within our government system. It has significant responsibility and prominence given to it under the *Constitution*. Under the *Constitution*, the Principal Legal Adviser is the Attorney General which is also reflected in the *Attorney General's Act* 1989.

If the Minister is a lawyer by profession, he/she automatically becomes the Attorney General responsible for supervision and oversight of all legal matters for the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. However, if the Minister is not a lawyer by profession, the Secretary for Justice becomes the Attorney General.

As the Minister for Justice and the Attorney General, I am responsible for the National Justice Administration, I am accorded both political and statutory responsibilities under Section 148 of the *Constitution*. These responsibilities span the range of institutions and instrumentalities that make up the Justice system of Papua New Guinea. These functionalities included:

- a) Department of Justice and Attorney General¹;
- b) Judicial and Legal Services Commission;
- c) National and Supreme Courts;
- d) Magisterial Service;
- e) National Judicial Staff Services;
- f) Land Commission of PNG;
- g) Constitutional and Law Reform Commission;
- h) National Narcotics Bureau;
- i) Legal Training Institute;
- j) Office of Public Prosecutor;
- k) Office of Public Solicitor;
- l) Office of Public Trustee;
- m) The Parole Board;
- n) The Advisory Committee on the Power of Mercy and
- o) The National Oceans Office.

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) comes under my Ministerial Portfolio and has two main categories of functional mandates. These are: Justice Services; and Legal Services. The Department also provides Legal Policy Services to the Ministry and other support services including secretariat responsibilities to the Judicial and Legal Service Commission; being the Central Authority for Mutual Legal Assistance; and facilitating key legislative reviews under the Ministry for Justice portfolio.

¹ Includes the Office of State Solicitor and the Office of the Solicitor General

As the Minister for Justice, I am responsible for over 100 Acts² of Parliament which the Department through its Legal Policy and Governance Branch assists in providing legal policy advice on their implementation and administration in conjunction with the respective Constitutional Office Holders and other State Agencies.

It is a statutory requirement under the *Public Finance (Management) Act* 2005 and the *Public Services (Management) Act* 2005 that all government department and statutory organization will be presenting through their relevant Ministers their annual reports to government for the preceding year and therefore, this report complies with that statutory requirement.

This Annual Management Report gives an account of my department's 2023 Annual Work Plan implementation in accordance with the *Appropriation Act* 2023. The Report mirrors the Department's Legal and Justice functions performed through the use of public funds that have been appropriated in the year 2023 valued at over K172 million. It is also a reflection of the Department's performance through its current available human resources and assets.

The Report covers Justice Services provided respectively under statute which are the Probation, Parole, Juvenile Justice, Land Commission, Village Court Secretariat and Judicial and Legal Services Commission. These statutory organizations within the Department are also required to provide their annual statutory reports by the 30th March each year. These annual statutory reports will also be presented separately through my ministry.

Besides the various statutory responsibilities of the Department, this report also covers the Office of the State Solicitor, the Office the Solicitor General and the Office of Public Trustee which are deemed offices under the Department. These deemed offices report directly to me as the Attorney General for Legal Services to the State under the *Attorney General Act* 1989 and are supported administratively by the Department.

Being one of the central agencies of government, the Department plays a pivotal leadership role in the law and justice sector. It provides leadership and secretariat support to the National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM) of the Law and Justice Sector and the Social and Law and Order Sector (SLOS). These are strategic platforms by which the government's 'take back PNG' vision is maintained and coordinated amongst government departments and statutory organizations.

I wish to thank the Marape-Rosso government for providing strong support to the Ministry, the Department and the Law and Justice Sector. This strong commitment has helped us to complete another year successfully in delivery the Justice and Legal service to our people and the country.

I also want to thank the Secretary for Justice, Dr Eric Kwa, PhD and his strong management team and all the officers of the department for a tremendous effort in 2023.

Let me also extend my gratitude to our development partners that continue to support the Department and the Law and Justice Sector through the various aid programs. These aid programs include the Justice Services and Stability for Development (JSS4D), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), European Union (EU), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). I look forward to continue working with you all and others in 2024.

² A detail list of the statutory responsibilities of the Minister and Attorney General is included in annexed 2

I am satisfied that the 2023 Annual Management Report provides a true record of the Department's performance and it gives me great pleasure to present it to the government.

May God Bless us all!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pila Niningi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON. PILA NININGI, LLB, CMG, MP
Attorney General and Minister for Justice

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



Dr Eric Kwa, PhD
Secretary for Justice

I am delighted to present with the Minister for Justice and Attorney General the Department's Annual Management Report for 2023; encapsulating our performance under the Corporate Plan 2019-2023, this is the fifth report of the last corporate term.

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) holds a central and pivotal role within the Law and Justice Sector, entrusted with the critical task of providing Legal and Justice services to the government, its instrumentalities and the citizens.

I want to thank the Minister for Justice and Attorney General Hon. Pila Niningi, MP for his strong support to the Department and the Sector. In just a snap shot, I am pleased to share that the Department has achieved quite a significant milestone this year, and I extend my commendations to our management team and all the officers who have been instrumental in nurturing collaborative partnerships with our affiliated agencies. These partnerships have been influential in ensuring the provision of essential services to our people.

The Department continues to demonstrate its commitment to deliver quality Legal and Justice services to the State and the people as reflected below.

1. Implementation of the terms and conditions for the State lawyers approved by the NEC in 2022 which includes additional allowances for the purpose of incentivizing hard-working lawyers;
2. From the Office of the Solicitor General a total savings of K9.2 million was made to the State through the vetting process for the Brief out matters;
3. The Office of the State Solicitors had a total legal clearance on contracts to the value of K868.7 million.
4. The launch of the Child Nutrition and Social Protection Project (CNSP) in Kokopo, East New Britain was a historical accomplishment for both the government and the Sector. I wish to express my gratitude to the collaborative efforts of DFAT-Australia, World Bank and those implementing government agencies including the Department of Community Development and the National Department of Health and others that have played a pivotal role in making this pioneering project a resounding success in Kokopo.

As a Department we were able to deliver our services successfully this year within our financial and human capacity limits. We also have our challenges but like other government agencies, we continue to serve our people and the government with honesty and integrity.

I would like to acknowledge the unwavering support and commitment by all our officers and particularly the community-oriented services provided by the Village Courts and Land Mediation Officials and the Community Based Correction offices nationwide. The series of community services provided to our people is truly commendable. To our dedicated State lawyers, your steadfast commitment to serving and defending the State is immensely appreciated.

As the Head of the lead agency within the Social Law and Order Sector (SLOS) and the Law and Justice Sectors (LJS), it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the support of the leaders of the SLOS and LJS and their hard-working officers who have held hands together with the Department to support the government's efforts in delivering services to our people.

As we close another year, let us continue to strongly support the Marape-Rosso Government's fight against corruption and its ambition towards a zero-tolerance stance against corruption within the public service.

God Bless PNG.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Kwa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. ERIC KWA, PhD
Secretary for Justice

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department continued to uphold the rule of law in its central role within the Law and Justice Sector (LJS) and the wider Social Law and Order Sector (SLOS) throughout 2023, providing Legal and Justice Services through the government agencies and people of Papua New Guinea (PNG). This Annual Management Report, the fifth under the Corporate Plan 2019–2023 highlights the Department's key performance results and sector contributions over the fiscal reporting period. The department under the leadership of Secretary, Dr. Eric Kwa continue to provide excellent leadership within the SLOS, LJS and the Central Agency Coordinating Committee (CACC), whilst maintaining its mandate *'to provide Quality, Reliable, Timely and Accessible Legal and Justice Services to the State and the People of Papua New Guinea' which will result 'A safe, Secure and Peacefull Society for All'*.

SOME KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Strengthened Legal Services

The NEC approved improvements to terms and conditions for State Lawyers, including new allowances to attract and retain high performing legal professionals. These improvements to State Lawyers' employment conditions are already yielding results by improving retention and attracting skilled legal professionals. This is expected to reduce brief out costs to private law firms and retain and also attract top-notch State lawyers to ensure continuity in State legal service delivery.

The Office of the Solicitor General secured K9.2 million in State savings through its vetting of brief-out matters, while the Office of the State Solicitor completed legal clearances on contracts totalling K868.7 million. This is reflective of having an effective business systems and processes of governance in place that have improved fiscal discipline and reduced legal risk to the State, reinforcing public sector accountability and governance. The impacts are vivid on two fronts:

- ✓ Reduced legal expenditure and improved State litigation success rates and
- ✓ Strengthened confidence in public legal services and procurement processes.

The Department's attendance at the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia Pacific for International Corporation on Crimes and Offender Treatment and Rehabilitation in Tokyo, Japan, opened a window of opportunity for PNG to partner with other countries and development partners to strengthen mutual legal assistance capacity and rehabilitation of offenders. This is expected to build capacity to deal with more complex cases that involve organized crime, multiple countries with different legal systems, transnational crime, corruption and other matters involving electronic and virtual evidences.

Judicial and Legal Sector Reforms

A major achievement was the NEC's approval of the Higher Court Restructure Program, which introduces a three-tiered court system, including a new Court of Appeal, to improve access to justice and address court backlogs. This highlight marks a transformational reform under the legislative reform program for the Department towards creating a more efficient court system by introducing a dedicated Court of Appeal. This is expected to reduce case backlogs and provide more timely justice.

Through the Department's effective secretariat support role (in efforts to support improvement on judicial capacity), the Judicial & Legal Service Commission (JLSC) appointed new Judges and Magistrates. The JLSC support the expansion of the Magisterial service across the country addresses long-standing capacity gaps, particularly in underserved provinces. This intervention will improve law and justice service delivery, impacting directly on:

- ✓ Structural reform to increase efficiency and reduce judicial delays; and
- ✓ Expanded judicial presence in rural and regional areas.

The Department successful launch the PNG Marine Scientific Research Guideline (MSRG) 2020-2030 and the National Oceans Policy 2020-2030. These policies ensure that Marine Scientific Research in PNG is properly regulated and monitored ensuring PNG's Sovereignty is respected and also for sustainable development and management of the country's marine resources through an integrated ocean management system within and beyond PNG's national jurisdiction. In the space of Ocean governance, these are significant milestones for the department in its efforts towards strengthening legislative frameworks relating to ocean governance, regulatory improvements and organizational implementations related to marine and coastal resources management.

Community-Based Justice and Restorative Programs

Through the work of Parole, Probation and Juvenile Justice, numerous success stories were recorded:

- ✓ Former parolee Hank Tonte's transformation into a small business owner providing employment opportunities to others.
- ✓ Restorative justice was applied in Big Mushu Village of the East Sepik Province, where reconciliation and compensation resolved a serious land dispute, reflecting effective community-based dispute resolution.
- ✓ Probation Officers provided reintegration support to young offenders from the University of Technology, ensuring education continuity while addressing accountability.
- ✓ In a National Court Circuit held conveniently in Angoram district, East Sepik Province, maximizing the Department's intent of constructing Community Justice Service Centres (CJSC) to improve access to justice, a juvenile murder case was successfully resolved through a community conferencing ordered by the Court.

These stories highlight the impact of the Department's commitment and dedication towards delivering timely, accessible and quality justice services for our people. These examples also highlight the critical role of restorative justice in cementing peace in our communities. These outcomes reduce reoffending, build community trust and promote reconciliation.

The Probation Services tailored support to youth offenders also shows that justice can be both accountable and compassionate, helping students resume education without undermining disciplinary integrity. These are incredible impacts that shed light on the Department's role in:

- ✓ Increased public confidence in community-based justice and
- ✓ Reduction in reoffending and enhanced youth reintegration.

Social Protection and Cross-Sector Collaboration

As the lead agency in the SLOS and LJS, the launch of the Child Nutrition and Social Protection Project (CNSP) in Kokopo marked a ground-breaking collaboration and first major entry into a cross-sector social protection platform. By contributing to multisector collaboration with the Department for Community Development, Youth and Religion, the Department of Health, DFAT-Australia and the World Bank, we are targeting child malnutrition and social vulnerability. To address root causes of social vulnerability, such as malnutrition and poverty, this achievement impacts on:

- ✓ Strengthened interagency collaboration with international visibility, and
- ✓ Foundations laid for integrated social protection law and justice responses.

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development

In terms of Institutional Strengthening and Leadership Capacity development, a total of 36 sector leaders graduated from the Law and Justice Sector Leadership Foundations Program, building a new generation of ethical and capable leaders with shared values and skills in ethical governance to serve both government and communities.

Meanwhile, within the department, internal information seminars were introduced to educate Department staff on both existing and new Departmental functions, enhancing internal awareness and cohesion. This internal capacity building, along with Department-wide information seminars, has improved cohesion, staff motivation and institutional identity that has directly impacted:

- ✓ Strengthened leadership pipeline and sector coordination, and
- ✓ Improved internal staff knowledge, communication and morale.

More than 40 staff attended an inhouse procurement training facilitated by the Finance Management branch of the department. This internal capacity building was initiated to boost understanding amongst key admin staff on procurement processes that are in place to diligently comply with the *Public Finance (Management) Act* 1995 when procuring for goods and services. Such inhouse trainings shows DJAG's commitment to systems strengthening approaches towards improving internal business systems and processes for effective Legal and Justice service delivery.

Anti-Corruption and Governance Commitment

The Department continued to support broader government anti-corruption initiatives, aligning with Prime Minister Marape's policy direction. This has reflected in several disciplinary terminations of officers for misconduct. The Department's alignment with national anti-corruption priorities demonstrates its leadership role in modelling accountability that impacts on:

- ✓ Reinforced public trust in DJAG and rule-of-law institutions and
- ✓ Contribution to whole-of-government anti-corruption momentum.

Law Reform and Electoral Support

The Department actively participated in the Special Election Review Committee convened at the APEC Haus to review the 2022 National Elections and recommend reforms for the 2027 elections. The Department also progressed implementation of the *Land Commission Act* 2022 supporting land dispute resolution and governance.

Through participation in the Special Election Review Committee and implementation of the *Land Commission Act 2022*, the Department demonstrated its central role in advancing legal reform and post-election institutional strengthening. These efforts address critical issues such as electoral violence, land disputes and dispute resolution that impacts on:

- ✓ Strengthened electoral integrity and preparedness for 2027 Elections, and
- ✓ Improved legal framework for land governance and customary dispute resolution.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Human Resource and Manpower Capacity across the department

The 2022 recruitment exercise is trailing at a snail's pace due to administrative delays going back and forth with the Department of Personnel Management, capacity gap has greatly impacted negatively on our program/project(s) timely implementation against national budget allocations and donor support funds.

Consequently, in 2023, DJAG maintained a total of 1,182 established positions across its 22 branches. However, only 332 positions were substantively filled, with a further 285 officers classified as unattached. The Department recorded 851 vacancies, reflecting a 72% vacancy rate and highlighting the critical need for a robust recruitment and workforce planning strategy.

A total of 271 acting appointments were made to sustain service delivery, though reliance on temporary arrangements remains a concern for continuity and institutional stability. Key support branches such as Executive Management, HR Management, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation, and Assets and Facilities Management including ICT were heavily impacted by vacancies and acting roles.

Gender balance across DJAG was moderately equitable, with 56% male and 44% female representation among active staff. However, gender disparities remain evident in technical roles, underscoring the need for gender-responsive recruitment and retention policies.

Funding Constraint

Delayed warranting of funds was another significant factor that greatly impacted the departments implementation of its planned activities, because most development funding was not released on time, this affected 5 Public Investment Program (PIP) for the year:

1. Infrastructure Capital Works Program
2. Juvenile Justice Rehabilitation Program
3. Furthering Human Rights Program
4. National Land Tenure Conversion and Establishment and
5. Child Nutrition and Social Protection Project

Despite the funding constraints and workforce gaps and operational inefficiencies DJAG successfully delivered a broad and complex range of justice services, combining legal excellence, restorative justice practices, sector leadership and strong governance standards. The Department remains committed to its missions of ensuring '*A Safe, Secure and Peaceful Society for All.*' Therefore, it has produced a number of high-impact outcomes that not only contributed to policy and institutional reforms but also improved access to justice, strengthen legal systems, and promote public confidence in governance. These impacts reflect real progress under the

Department's strategic objectives and priorities that are well aligned with the sectoral and national development priorities.

Addressing funding constraints workforce gaps, and operational inefficiencies remains a priority. , with Emphasis is also placed on leveraging funding support from sector partnerships and collaborative arrangements; In completing the 2022 recruitment exercise we intend to reduce unattached status and regularising acting appointments, to achieving an optimal staff – to – establishment ratio in 2024.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Department demonstrated sound financial stewardship across both recurrent and development programs. DJAG received a total of K181.2 million in appropriated funds, following an initial appropriation of K158.8 million revised upward during the year. Actual expenditure totalled K169.9 million, comprising K160.9 million for recurrent programs and K9 million for development initiatives, including critical investments in crime prevention, juvenile justice rehabilitation, human rights, and child protection.

The Department effectively managed its Drawing Account, with a reconciled year-end bank and cash book balance of K12.76 million, representing unrepresented cheques. This alignment indicates strong internal controls and compliance with financial reporting obligations.

DJAG also maintained three active Trust Accounts the Library Trust, Legal Fees and Brief-Outs Trust, and General Trust Account with a combined positive balance of over K2.36 million. These accounts remain compliant with public finance regulations and continue to support targeted program delivery.

While the Department reported K2.19 million in office equipment assets, the fixed asset register requires further updates to fully reflect disposals, transfers, and depreciation in line with accounting standards.

Overall, DJAG adhered to its financial responsibilities under the *Public Finance Management Act, 1995* ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of public funds.

CONTENTS

<i>Foreword By The Minister For Justice</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Secretary's Message</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>Executive Summary</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>Acronyms</i>	<i>xii</i>
1 Introduction And Overview	1
1.1 Our Department	1
1.2 Our Core Values	2
1.3 Program Logic	3
1.4 Organization Structure	4
2 Our Performance	5
2.1 Deliver Timely, Accessible And Quality Legal Services To The State	7
2.1.1 State Legal Advising and Clearance Services.....	7
2.1.2 State Litigation and Cost Recovery	11
2.2 Deliver Timely, Accessible and Quality Legal Policy and Quasi-Judicial Services	13
2.2.1 Legal Policy and Governance	13
2.2.2 Judicial and Legal Services.....	18
2.2.3 Deceased Estate Administration and Public Trustee Services	20
2.2.4 Customary Landownership Dispute and National Land Settlement	22
2.2.5 Oceans Affairs	25
2.2.6 National Narcotics Bureau Administration.....	27
2.3 Prevent, Reduce and Manage Crime through Legislation, Policies, Program Coordination and Partnership Arrangements	28
2.3.1 National, Provincial Coordination and Partnership.	28
2.3.2 Crime Prevention	31
2.3.3 Research and Development	34
2.3.4 Human Rights Secretariat	35
2.4 Deliver Timely, Accessible and Quality Justice Services to the State and the People of Papua New Guinea	36
2.4.1 Village Courts Services Improvement Program	36
2.4.2 Probation and Restorative Justice Services.....	39
2.4.3 Parole Support Services	43
2.4.4 Juvenile Justice Services.....	47
2.5 Improve Governance and Accessibility, Professional Capability, Business Systems and Accountability through Sound Corporate Governance and Ethical Leadership	53
2.5.1 Information and Communication Technology	53
2.5.2 Infrastructure and Capital Works	54
2.5.3 Human Resource Management	58
2.5.4 Executive Management Branch	61
3. DJAG Manpower Summary	63
4. Financial Report	65
5 Supplementary Information	77
5.1 Annexure 1: Other Statutory Annual Reports	77
5.2 Annexure 2: Statutory Responsibilities Of The Minister For Justice And Attorney General	78

ACRONYMS

ARoB	Autonomous Region of Bougainville
CACC	Central Agency Coordinating Committee
CBC	Community Based Corrections
CJSC	Community Justice Services Centre
CLE	Client Legal Education
CNSP	Child Nutrition and Social Protection Project
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australia
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney General
DNPM	Department of National Planning and Monitoring
DoF	Department of Finance
DoT	Department of Treasury
DPM	Department of Personal Management
EU	European Union
FSVAC	Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HRM	Human Resource Management
HRS	Human Rights Secretariat
ICCSD	Integrated Criminal Case System and Database
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
JICA	Japan International Cooperation agency
JJ	Juvenile Justice or Juvenile Justice Services
JJO	Juvenile Justice Officer
JLSC	Judicial and Legal Services Commission
JSS4D	Justice Services and Stability for Development
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
KRA	Key Result Areas
LJSS	Law and Justice Sector Secretariat
LPG	Legal Policy and Governance
LTC	Land Titles Commission
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSRG	Marine Scientific Research Guideline
NCC-AML/CTF	National Coordination Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing
NCCP	National Coordination and Crime Prevention Division
NCD	National Capital District
NCM	National Coordination Mechanism
NCOBA	National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs
NCPIP	National Criminal Process Improvement Project
NEC	National Executive Council
NJSS	National Judicial Staff Services
NLC	National Land Commission
NNB	National Narcotics Bureau
NSP	National Strategic Plan for the NCC-AML/CTF
OPT	Office of Public Curator
OSG	Office of the Solicitor General

OSS	Office of the State Solicitor
PIP	Public Investment Program
PJJC	Provincial Juvenile Justice Committee
PMNEC	Prime Minister and National Executive Council
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RoL	Release on Licence
RPNGC	Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary
SARV	Sorcery Accusation Related Violence
SLOS	Social, Law and Order Sector
TFECS	Technical and Financial Evaluation Committees
UNAFEI	United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VCLMS	Village Court and Land Mediation Secretariat

1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1.1 OUR DEPARTMENT

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) is one of the central agencies of the government. It is responsible for the delivery, administration, coordination and oversight of legal and justice services to the State and the People to strengthen and support national stability, rule of law and safe communities. Its work directly enables social and economic development, while safeguarding the rights and freedoms of individuals, communities and the State.

DJAG operates under the leadership of the Minister for Justice and Attorney General and serves both legal and justice service mandates. Through its legal services, the Department provides legal advice, representation, contract review and legislative drafting for government through the State Solicitor's Office (OSS), while also managing litigation on behalf of the State through the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG). The Legal Policy and Governance Branch provide further support legal policy development, legislative reform and national legal cooperation.

Justice administration services are delivered through a broad range of statutory functions, including Village Courts and Land Mediation, Probation, Parole and Juvenile Justice, DJAG operates across both national and subnational levels, ensuring justice services are accessible, community-responsive and aligned with PNG's legal frameworks.

The Department currently administers over 100 pieces of legislation (*refer annexure 2*), and provides national leadership across a range of cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms including the Law and Justice Sector (LJS) coordination, Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC), Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC), National Juvenile Justice Committee, National Anti-Money Laundering Committee (NCC), and various other governance committees and other whole-of-government coordination bodies.

Since 2013, DJAG has undergone important reforms to strengthen institutional capacity, create specialized functional divisions, enhance coordination across the justice sector, and respond to emerging national priorities such as human rights, restorative justice, crime prevention, and governance accountability. These reforms include the establishment of the Deputy Secretary for Justice Administration, creation of the Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice Coordination Branch, institutional strengthening of Village Courts and Land Mediation Secretariat, and the operational revitalization of the National Narcotics Bureau. Under the Department's current leadership and management's strategic focus envisioned in the Corporate Plan 2019-2023, priorities remain focused on:

- Strengthening community-based justice systems;
- Expanding crime prevention and restorative justice programs;
- Enhancing legal policy development and legislative reform;
- Modernizing infrastructure and ICT systems;
- Supporting professional development and institutional governance;
- Promoting human rights;
- Promoting and strengthening the Rule of Law; and
- Promoting access to justice for all Papua New Guineans.

DJAG remains committed to delivering quality, reliable, timely and accessible Legal and Justice services that contribute to national development and peaceful communities across Papua New Guinea.

1.2 OUR CORE VALUES

Our values reflect the services we provide, our position in Government and the relationship among ourselves individually, collectively and with others. Our values are inherited, translated

and intended to apply in our families, work environment and everywhere we go. We make special mention of the National Goals and Directive Principles and Basic Rights and Social Obligations of our Constitution in this respect. Our values are at the core of our personality, character and reflected in our work. We therefore adopt and apply the following values:



Figure 1. Core values

1.3 PROGRAM LOGIC

This is a Program Logic Model that explains how the Department's high-level mission flows through multiple levels of planning and operations illustration on a dashboard view of how the Department aligns its mission to deliver legal and justice services into operational programs that contribute to national law and justice outcomes.

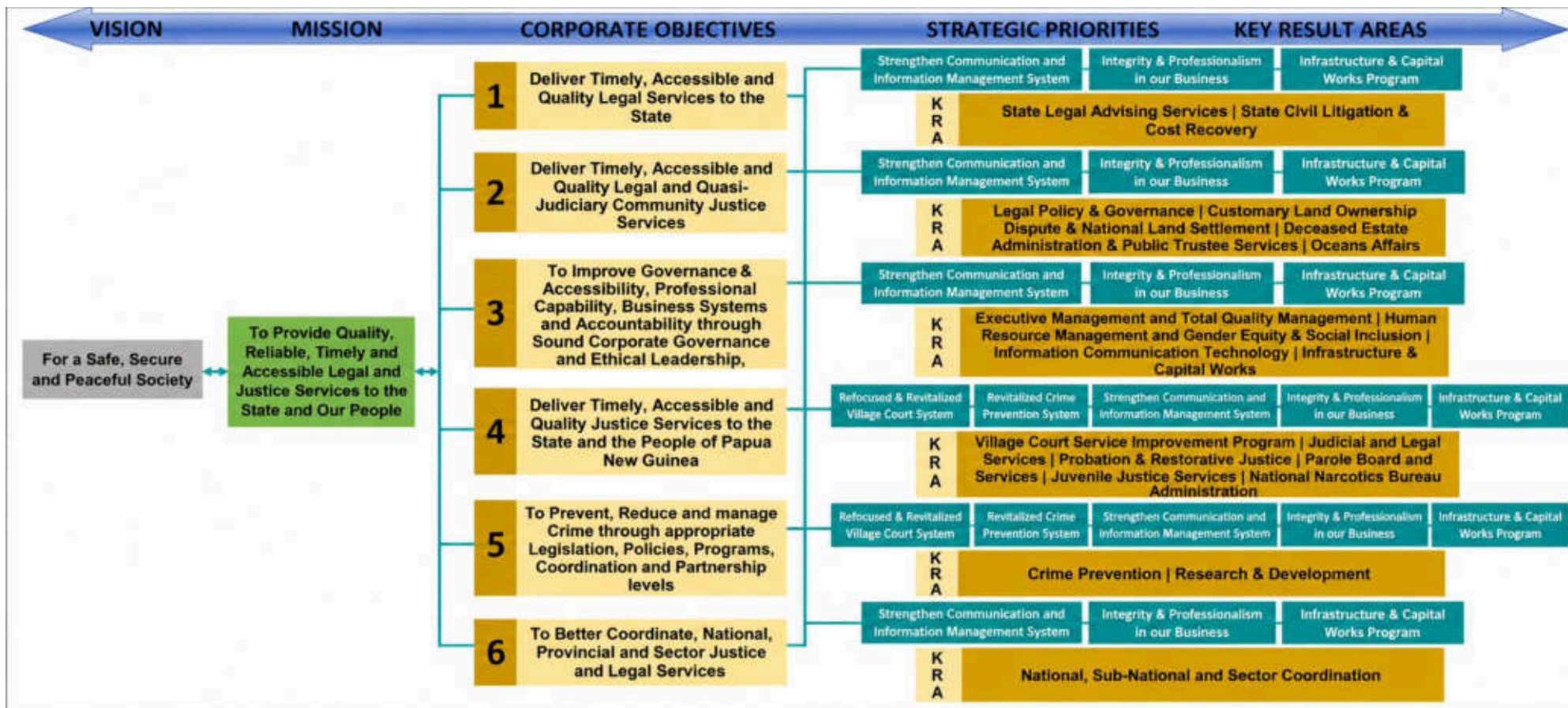


Figure 2. Illustrates whole of Department's Program Logic Model that explains how the Department's high-level mission flows down through multiple levels of planning and operations translating its mission to deliver legal and justice services into operational programs that contribute to national law and justice outcomes by cascading vision → mission → objectives → strategic priorities → KRAs and back.

1.4 ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

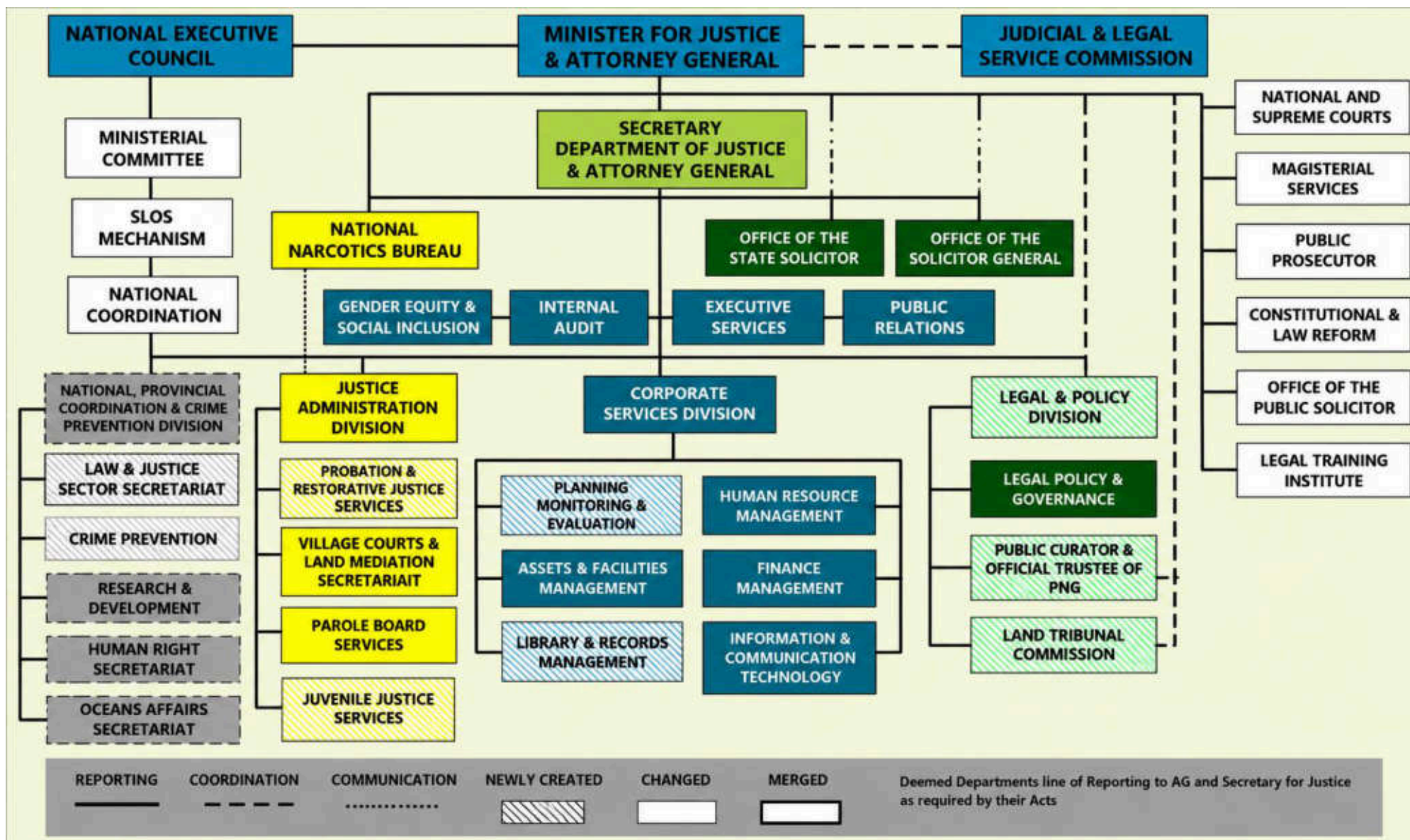


Figure 3 2019-2023 Organization Structure

2 OUR PERFORMANCE



In 2023, the Department planned to deliver over 621 activities across its 24 program areas, aligned broadly with the Key Result Areas of the Department's Corporate Plan. Through DJAG's well-established Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems supported by routine quarterly reviews, 306 activities were reported during the year and are covered by this performance report. This reflects a reporting coverage of approximately 49%, suggesting a persistent gap in program reporting and highlighting the need for strengthened accountability mechanisms across operational units.

Contribution to SLOS Outcomes

DJAG's work contributes directly to the national Social Law and Order Sector (SLOS) outcomes outlined in the 2019 framework. From the 306 activities reported, our performance contribution was higher on Protection and Empowerment Opportunities and lesser on Sub-national social service delivery outcome areas.

SLOS Outcome Area	Program Activities	% Contribution
Protection and Empowerment Opportunities	189 of 306 reported activities	61%
Organisational and Functional Excellence	72 of 306 reported activities	24%
Sub-National Social Service Delivery	45 of 306 reported activities	15%
Total	306	100%

Table 1 Percentages reflect the share of total activities reported during the year that align with each SLOS Outcome Area.

Contribution to Law and Justice Sector Outcomes

In 2023, Law and Justice Sector (LJS) priorities emphasised infrastructure development, training and community-led initiatives to reduce crime. DJAG aligned most strongly with community-based justice mechanisms, especially through the Village Courts and community corrections programs under Justice Administration.

Sector Outcome Area	Program Activities	% Contribution
Community Approaches	87	28.4%
Non-LJSS Priority	81	26.5%
Crime Prevention	52	17.0%
CIM Systems	26	8.5%
Effective Training	21	6.9%
Partnerships	21	6.9%
Offices and Facilities	18	5.9%
Total	306	100%

Table 2 Percentages reflect the share of total activities reported during the year that align with each LJS Sector Outcome Area

Contribution to DJAG Corporate Objectives

The 2019 -2023 Corporate Plan identified five core objectives. Analysis of reported activities indicates the following:

Corporate Objective	Program Activities	% Contribution
Justice Administration Services	93	30.4%
Legal Policy and Quasi-Judicial Work	86	28.1%
Corporate Governance and Leadership	53	17.3%
National Sector Coordination	52	17.0%
State Legal Services	22	7.2%
Total	306	100%

Table 3 Percentages reflect the share of total activities reported during the year that align with 5 Corporate Objectives

Contribution to Strategic Priority Areas

The Department's strategic focus in 2023 was on improving internal systems and capacity building. Much of the reported work involved training, policy review, and program reporting. Legal work not fitting within declared priorities was recorded under non-priority.

Strategic Priority Area	Program Activities	% Contribution
Business Systems	132	43.1%
Crime Prevention	77	25.2%
Non-Priority	41	13.4%
ICT	26	8.5%
Infrastructure	19	6.2%
Village Courts	11	3.6%
Total	306	100%

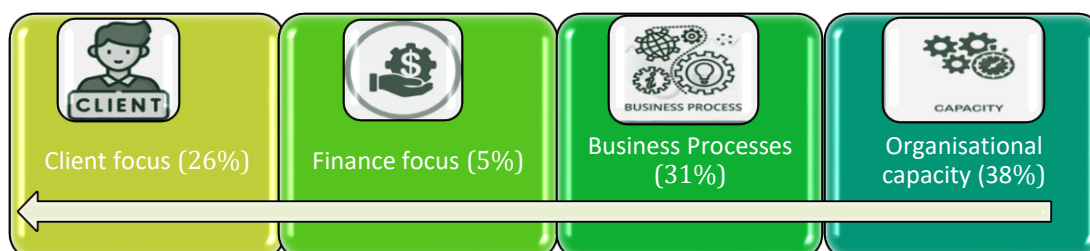
Table 4 Percentages reflect the share of total activities reported during the year that align with 5 Strategic Priority Areas

Organisational Domain Performance (Balanced Scorecard)

The Department performance was also analysed using the Balanced Scorecard framework, which evaluates organisational health across four domains: Organisational Capacity, Business Processes, Financial Management, and Client Service Delivery.

The Department performed well in capacity building, systems/process strengthening, and client service delivery.

However, Financial Management remains an area of concern, with limited performance indicators at the divisional level despite macro-level reporting by the Finance and Management Branch (FMB).



Risk Mitigation and Management

A persistent institutional risk, is the slow and inconsistent reporting to core funders, including the Government of PNG and development partners. This delays feedback loops and weakens confidence in program execution and financial accountability. Strengthening real-time data capture and compliance with reporting timelines is essential to mitigate this risk and to support adaptive planning and funding continuity.

2.1 DELIVER TIMELY, ACCESSIBLE AND QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES TO THE STATE

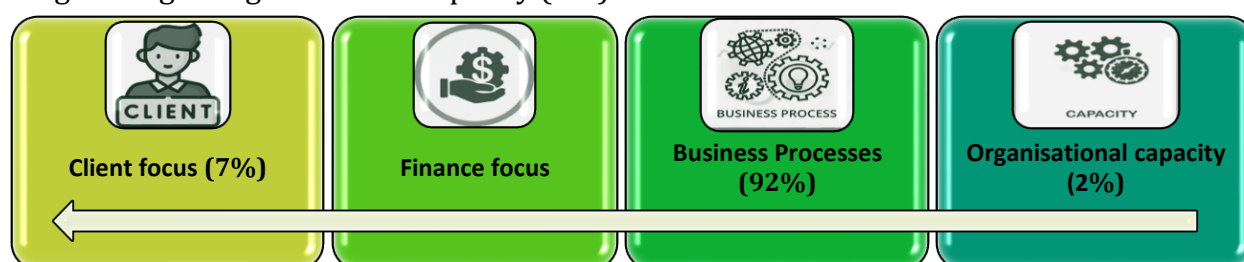
2.1.1 State Legal Advising and Clearance Services

The Office of State Solicitor is mandated under the *Attorney General's Act* 1989 to provides legal advice and clearance and technical assistance to the State and reports directly to the Attorney General (AG).

Being responsible for State legal advising and clearance services to government departments, state owned entities, and the NEC on contracts, agreements, and legal compliance. the Office strives to protect the interests of the State through timely and sound legal advice, clearance services and technical legal assistance to the State.

This year, the office completed a total of 10 out of 43 main program activities. A completion rate of 23% as reported and expended on a budget of almost K6 million, which is 13% of the overall DJAG budget.

The Office performance generated about 60 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on the OSS business process regarding legal advice, on client service (7%) and strengthening of organisational capacity (2%)



Performance Highlights

- ❑ The Office has developed a contract of employment template. Prior to the development of this template, there was no standard guide used to quickly process clearance matters that were received from Department of Personnel Management (DPM). The template will definitely improve and speed-up the contract clearance process.
- ❑ The work on the constitutional regulations for Bougainville Post-Referendum process is about 75% complete. Currently, awaiting further instructions from PMNEC and National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA) on the confirmed dates for presentation.
- ❑ Procurement Law Division providing legal assistance and guidance on five (5) significant projects;

- (i) Alesco/Ascendar Payroll System upgrade through review of Agreement with the Department of Finance (DoF).
 - (ii) Drafted three (3) MOAs for e-receipt for the DoF's online payment System for public monies:
 - Managed Services Agreement;
 - Software Licensing Agreement and
 - Software Development Agreement
 All three Agreements were issued legal clearance in 4th Quarter of 2023.
 - (iii) Consultation on the Implementation of the *Non-Tax Revenue Administration Act* 2022 with the Department of Finance and Department of Treasury which saw the raising of K500 million from fees and charges for 2024 budget-support.
 - (iv) Consultation on the Review of Fees and Charges.
 - (v) Conducted procurement training for Milne Bay Provincial Procurement Committee
- ❑ Procurement Law Division provided Legal Clearance on Contracts in the fourth quarter of 2023 with total Contract value of K868,715,204.21 (K868 million).
 - ❑ Procurement Law Divisions sits in 11 Procurement and Project Committees and provides ongoing technical legal assistance on State contract awards. Procurement Lawyers for 2023 alone participated in 39 Technical and Financial Evaluation Committees (TFECS) and provided ongoing technical legal advice and assistance to these Tender Evaluation Committees.

Operational Data

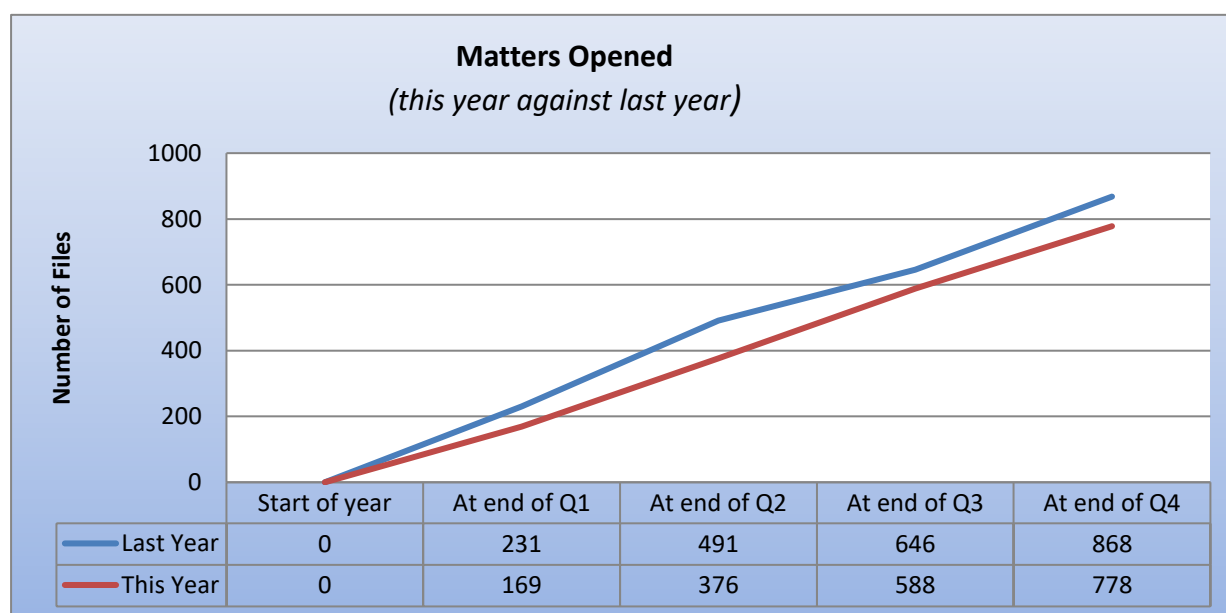


Figure 4: New matters opened quarterly in 2022 and 2023

The graph shows a decrease in the number of matters opened at the end of 2023 compared to the same time in 2022. This culminates in a 10 % drop in the number of new matters opened in Q4 2023 compared to Q4 2022.

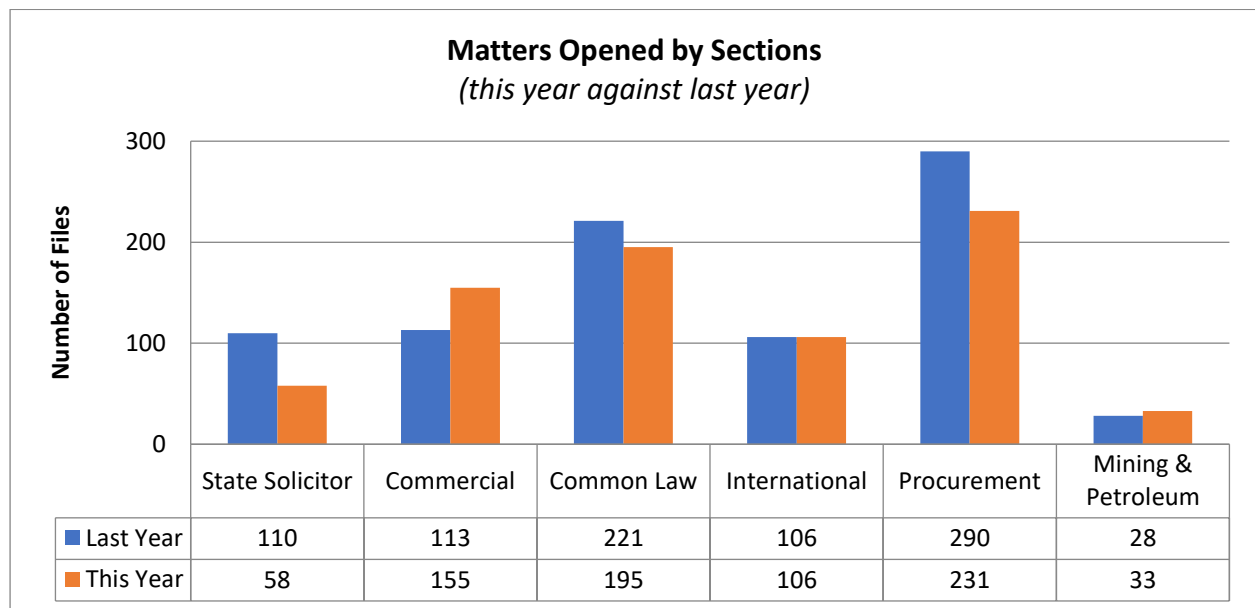


Figure 5: New matters opened by each section in 2022 and 2023

The graph shows a noticeable drop in the number of matters opened by State Solicitor, Common Law, and Procurement Law Divisions in Q4 of 2022 compared to Q4 of 2023. Commercial Law and Mining and Petroleum Law Division have opened more matters in Q4 2022 compared to Q4 2023. International Law Division, on the other hand, opened the same number of matters in the two years.

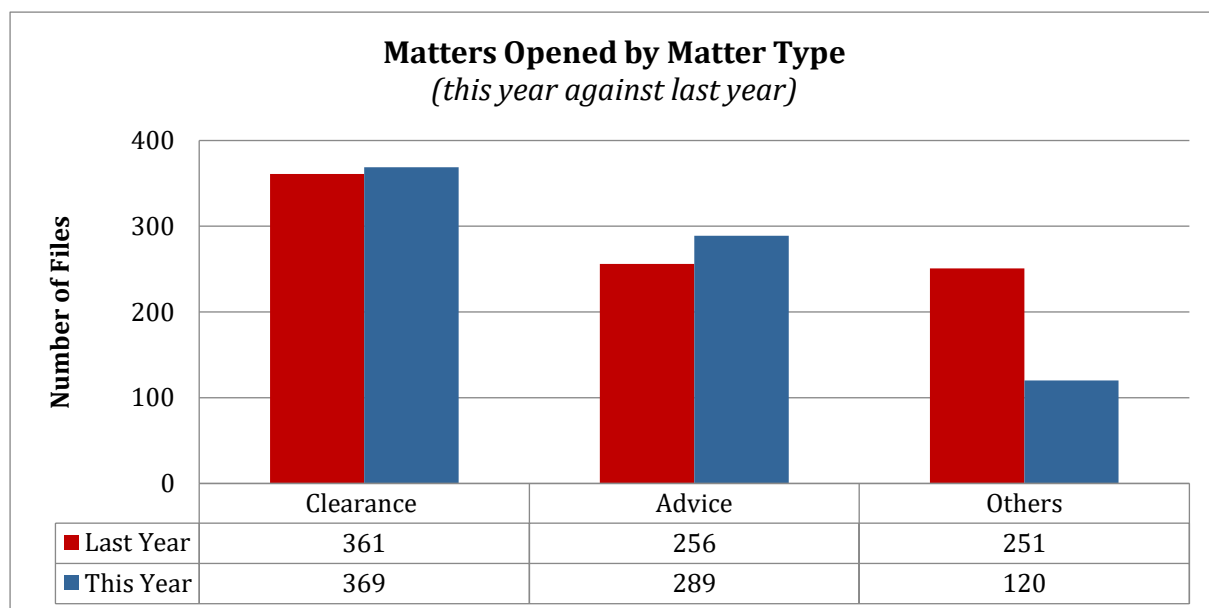


Figure 6: New matters opened by matter type in 2022 and 2023

There has been a slight increase in Clearance and Advice matters opened in Q4/2022 compared to Q4/2023. The “Others” matter type indicates a 52% drop by end of Q4 2023 compared to Q4 of 2022.

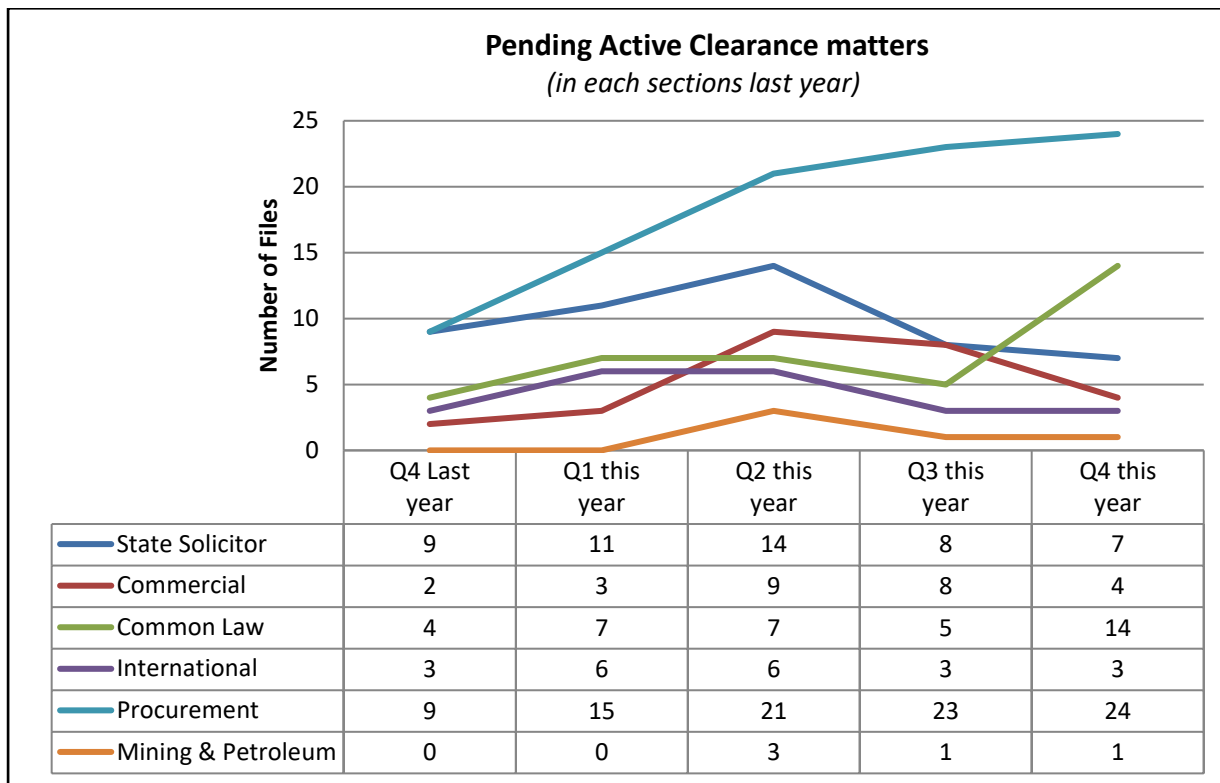


Figure 7: Clearance done by each section in 2023.

The graph indicates the number of Active Clearance matters pending in Q4/2022 compared to Q4/2023 by Divisions. Commercial Law, Common Law, Mining and Petroleum Law and Procurement Law Division have an increase in the number of Active Clearance matters pending at the end of the Q4 2023 indicated on the graph except for International Law Division which has no change.

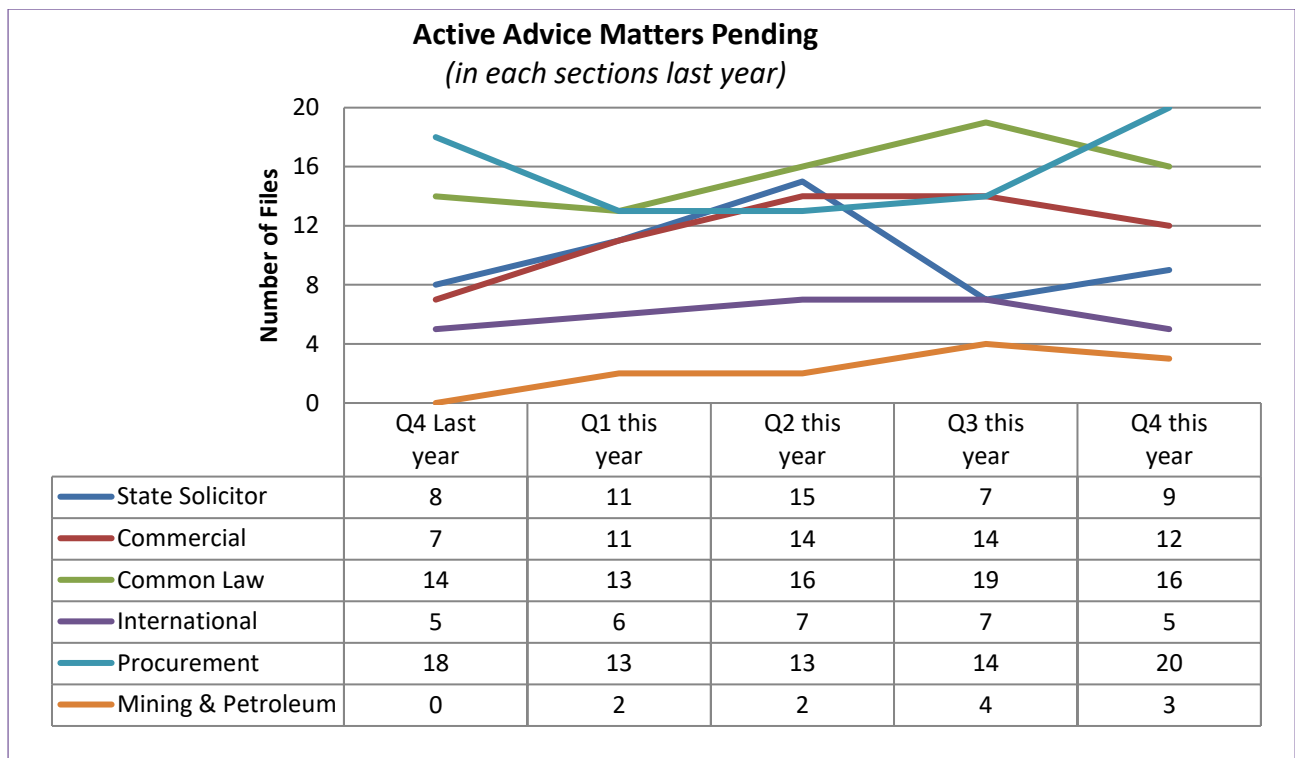


Figure 8: Active Advice matters pending under each section

The graph indicates the number of Active Advice matters pending from Q4/ 2022 compared to Q4/2023. Overall, pending Advice matters across all Divisions except for International Law Division remain the same from Q4 2022 in the same quarter this year.

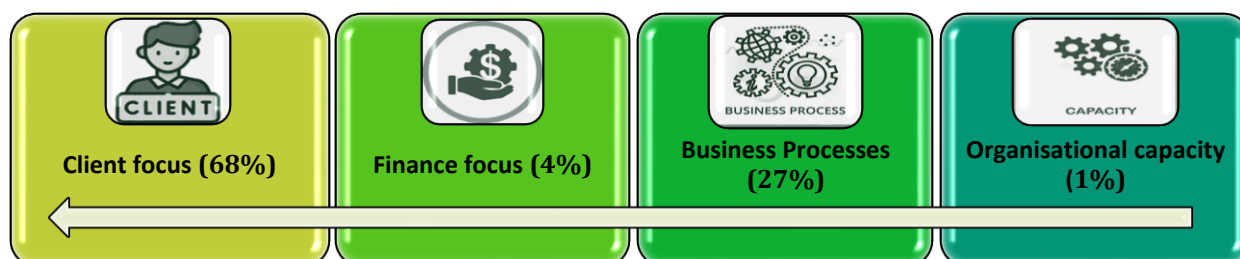
2.1.2 State Litigation and Cost Recovery

The Office of Solicitor General is mandated under the *Attorney General Act* 1989 and the *Claims By and Against the State Act* 1992 to ensure that the State and its instrumentalities are legally and professionally represented in Court. The Office is responsible for representing the State in civil litigation and reports to the Attorney General. The Office appears in court to defend the State in legal matters, including claims against the government and provides reports on major cases involving the State and their legal implications.

The Office has five Teams – the General Tort and Employment, the Police and Human Rights, the Judicial Review and Commercial, the Cost and Recovery and the Regional Offices.

The Office of Solicitor General (OSG) completed a total of 12 out of 51 program activities a budget appropriate of K962 ,000.00. The brief-out component expended almost K11 million.

The OSG performance generated about 2463 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on client service regarding court appearances for legal cases, followed by improvement of business processes and organisational capacity building where office establishment and trainings were conducted.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Kimbe and Goroka regional offices re-settled into secured office establishments.
- ❑ OSG conducted three internal Client Legal Education trainings, where lawyers from different teams educated a total of 33 lawyer from the other OSG teams including other lawyers within the department about new development within their teams. The four main teams are: General Torts and Employment, Police and Human Rights, Judicial Review and Commercial and Cost Recovery and Taxation.
- ❑ OSG Highlands Region conducted Client Outreach Program in Imbonggu District for 269 interested clients.
- ❑ The existing Case Management System has been further supported through the creation of WS Register with 47 Writ of Summons and 57 Originating Summons
- ❑ OSG saved the State a sum of K2, 433, 264.40, from potential liability against the State.
- ❑ OSG lawyers made a total of 1320 court appearances for the state filing 563 court documents and closed/dismissed 78 matters (as indicated in Figure 8)

- ❑ 20 OSG lawyers participated in one Intense Advocacy Skills (a Victorian Bar Course) Workshop, hosted at the Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby.
- ❑ A total of 92 matters were briefed out to several reputable private law firms with information on the approved Standard State Legal Rates. The Cost Recovery and Taxation Team, whilst vetting the brief out bills, received a total bill claimed at K26, 603,458.38. However, using the Standard State Legal Rates the claims were brought down to K17, 364,305.73 through a successful vetting of K9, 239,152.65.

Operational Data

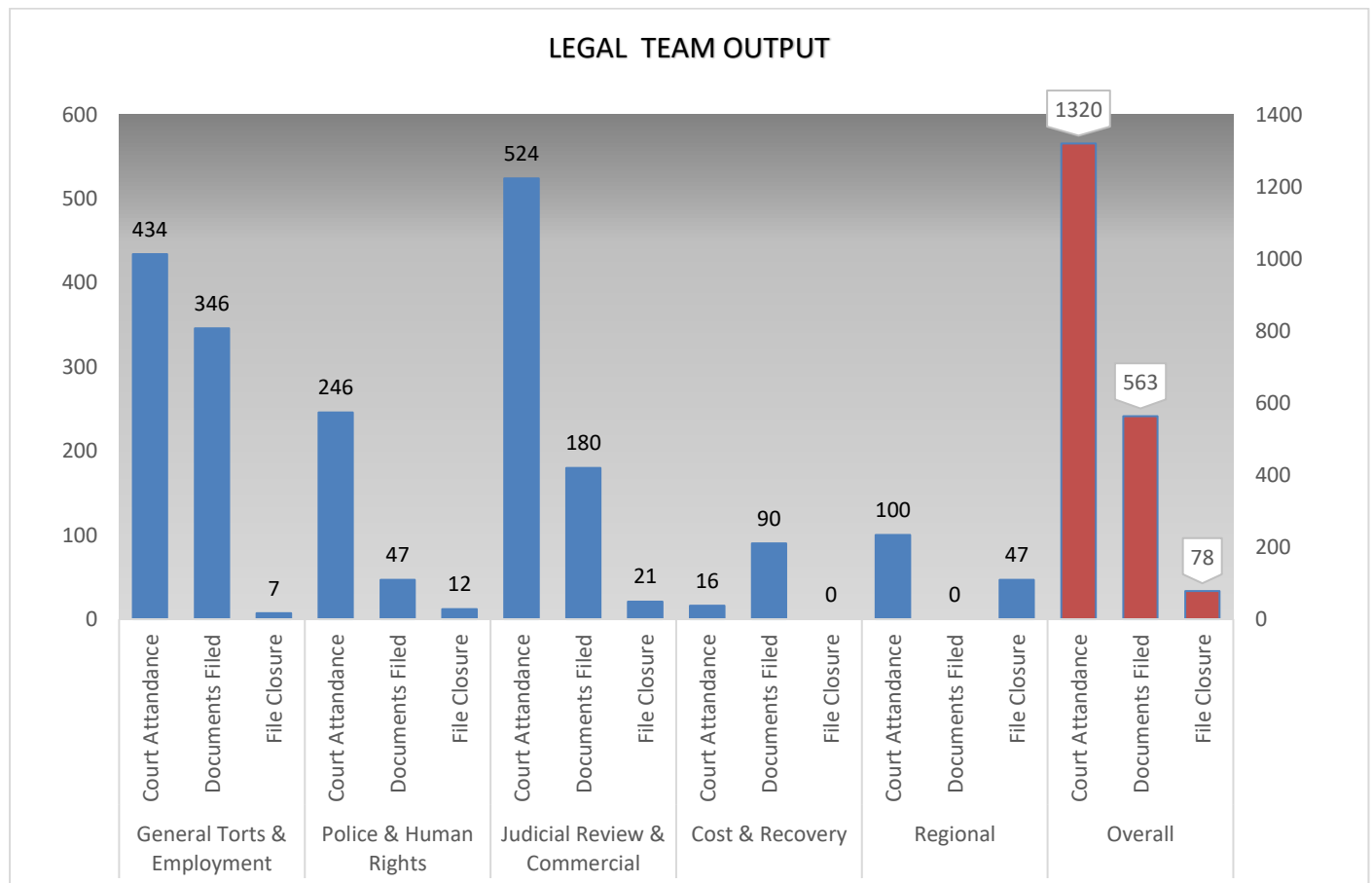


Figure 9: Amount of court work undertaken by OSG Legal Team

The graph briefly shows the amount of court work done by lawyers from the Office of Solicitor General in 2023 whilst representing the State. The Judicial Review and Commercial team made the highest court attendance with 524 appearances and followed by the General Torts and Employment with 434 attendance and Police and Human Rights with 246 attendances. The regional offices made a combined 100 court attendance.

Whilst attending court matters, team: General Torts and Employment filed 346 documents and closed 7 files, Judicial Review and Commercial filed 180 documents and closed 21 files, and Police and Human Rights filed 47 documents and closed 12 files.

In general, OSG lawyers made a total of 1320 court appearances for the state, filing 563 court documents and closed/dismissed 78 matters

2.2 DELIVER TIMELY, ACCESSIBLE AND QUALITY LEGAL POLICY AND QUASI-JUDICIAL SERVICES

2.2.1 Legal Policy and Governance

The Legal Policy and Governance (LPG) Branch is responsible for providing legal policy advice and formulation of legal policy documents for the Ministry of Justice through the Secretary. It also oversees a number of justice program areas both domestic and international and supports the Secretary in attending meetings and conferences, prepares NEC submissions and instruments.

The Branch completed a total of 21 out of 41 program activities on a budget appropriation of 1% less than the requested budget.

The Branch performance generated about 529 activities, where bulk of the work was focused on client service, followed by improvement of business processes and organisational capacity building (less than 1%) on anti-money laundering activities.



Figure 10: Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Financing Terrorism (AML/CFT) Mutual Evaluation – Asis Pacific Group (APG) assessment on the Country's Money Laundering: The APG assesses the levels of compliance by its member jurisdictions with the global AML/CFT standards through a mutual evaluation (peer review) programme. This is the second Evaluation held at the APC House on the 2nd October, 2023.

Performance Highlights

- ❑ LPG Branch has developed a Five (5) Year Law Reform Workplan to effectively deliver the Justice Minister's Legislative Program, which consists of 44 law reform projects (see figure 11).
- ❑ A total of six (6) law reforms has been progressed to the endorsement/gazettal stage, which is stage 4 and 5 of the legislative process.
- ❑ Under the *Lawyers Act* 1986, LPG processed a total of 169 domestic requests and 6 foreign requests.
- ❑ LPG successfully hosted two lead-up mutual evaluation (ME) consultations across 8 agencies prior to the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) team's visit to conduct PNG ME for the second time this year (2023). The first ME was done in 2010, after PNG became a member of Asia Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering in 2008.
- ❑ Launching of the National Coordination Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing (NCC-AML/CTF) National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2023-2027;
- ❑ Completion of Central Authority Handbook on Processes and Procedures and the uploading of Central Authority Guidance Notes onto DJAG website.
- ❑ DJAG as lead facilitator successfully delivered SARV Training on the new amendments to the Criminal Code in relation to Glassman/meri provision for Police officials in Lae, Morobe Province. This led to several arrests being made in Bulolo District of the province.
- ❑ Conducted 3x Regional Inter-Governmental Financial Arrangement Review
- ❑ Establishment of Trust Account for Asset Recovery and Confiscation.
- ❑ Developed a total of 41 legal documents supporting partnerships and programs for DJAG, Sector and Government
- ❑ LPG has provided legal and policy support to 11 DJAG offices (internal client) and 19 other Government (external clients) Agencies.
- ❑ In carrying out the Accreditations and Coordination Functions a total of 169 applications were process through the *Lawyers Act* 1986. No work was done in other areas except for 1 Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.



Figure 11 show SARV-NAP consultation workshop

Operational Data

Types of Legislative Reforms

Types of Law Reforms	
Review Law	Review of an existing Law which will result in Amendments
Review Regulation	Review of an existing regulation which will result in Amendments
Review Repeal and Replace	Review of an existing Law which will result in Repeal and Replacement of an Act or Regulation
New Bill	The development of a new Law through a Bill; there is no law for the subject matter which exist
New Regulation	The development of a new Regulation; there is no regulation for the subject matter which exist
Constitutional Review	The review of a Constitutional Law (Constitution or Organic Law) which may result in Amendment (either insertion of sections or repeal of sections)
Subordinate Legislation	The development of a new Rule, review of an existing Rule or repeal of an existing Rule
Consequential Amendment	The Amendment made to a Law or Principal Act

Table 5 Shows types of Legislative reforms LPG dose.

Legislative Reform Support

No.	Internal DJAG Offices	No.	External Agencies		
1	Land Commission (26x Tenure Conversion Applications, 2x law reforms)	1	CLRC Constitutional Directive No. 4	11	NLDP
2	Office of Public Trustee (1x manual, 1x law reform)	2	ICAC Interim Committee	12	National Land Development Program
3	VCLMS (1x strategy, 2x law reforms)	3	RPNGC	13	JLSC
4	NNB (2x law reforms, x1 strategy)	4	OPP-POCA	14	DFAIT and OSS
5	Human Resource Management Branch (1x policy)	5	FSVAC	15	CACC-SUB COMMITTEE ON REFORMS
6	Probation Services (1x law reform)	6	MS-FSV/GBV	16	Office of the Chief Censor
7	Juvenile Justice Services (1x law reform)	7	DPMNEC-SANCTIONS	17	Intergovernmental Financing Review
8	Parole (1x law reform)	8	FASU-BPNG	18	Health Law Reviews
9	Office of Oceans Affairs (1x policy)	9	PNGCJE	19	IGFAR TWG SLOS
10	JLSC	10	DICT		
11	CPRJ (x1 policy)				

Table 6 shows the list of clients that sought legal policy and governance support from LPG in 2023 to progress various legislative reforms

Table 6 shows that, a total of 30 requests for LPG support of which 11 legislative reform work requests were progressed for Statutory Offices/Branches within the department and 19 from external agencies.

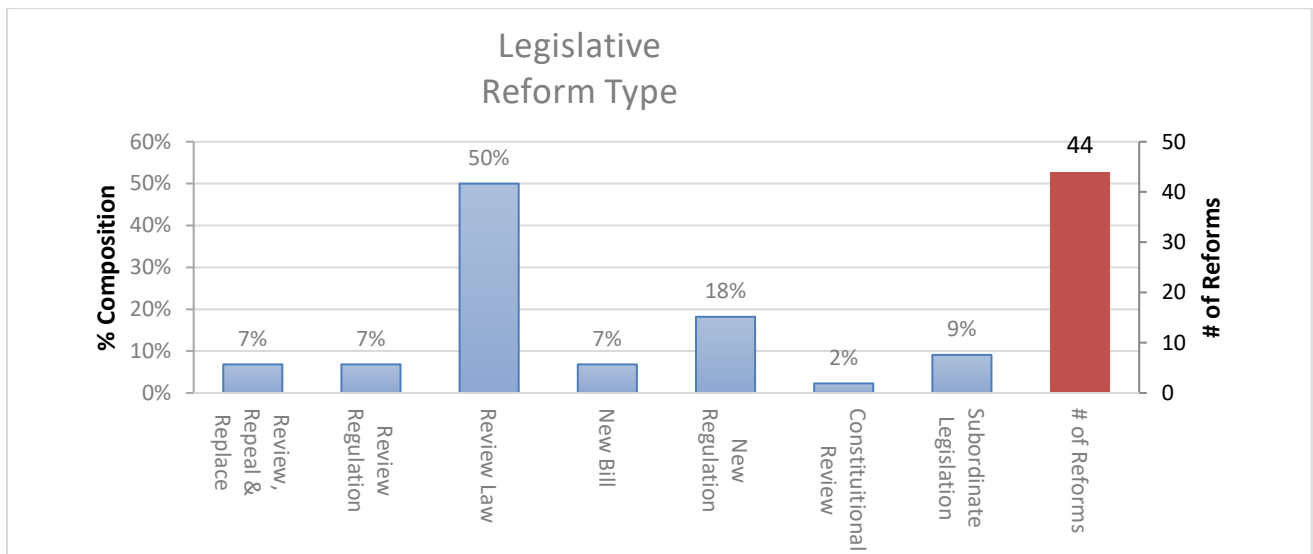


Figure 12: The types of reforms progressed

Figure 12 illustrates 44 types of legislative reforms progressed from the 30 requests received. Fifty percent (50%) of the reform requests involved reviewing of existing laws followed by development of new regulations at 18%. To date there are no constitutional amendments requests.

Legislative Reforms Status

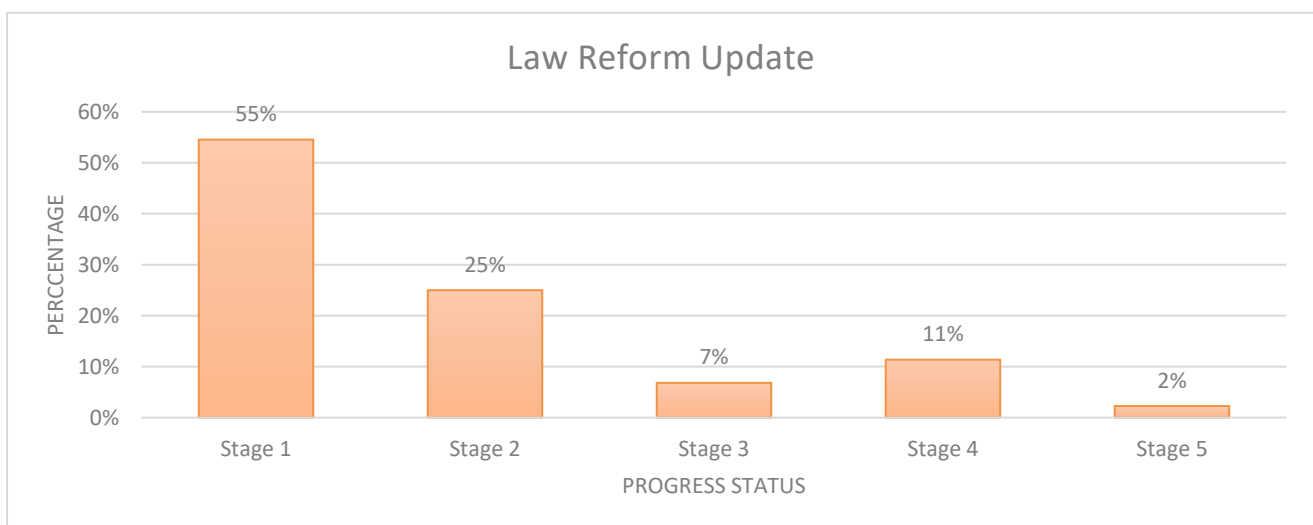


Figure 13: Law Reform progress update as at 2023.

Figure 13 shows the various stages of the 44 legislative reforms recorded from the 30 requested LPG registered (10 DJAG internal and 19 External agencies) in the year. Of the 44 reform projects, 11% at stage 4 (NEC Endorsement process) while only 2% at stage 5 (Operationalization). Much of the reforms, consisting of 55%, are still at Stage 1 (the initial or development stage).

NEC Submissions

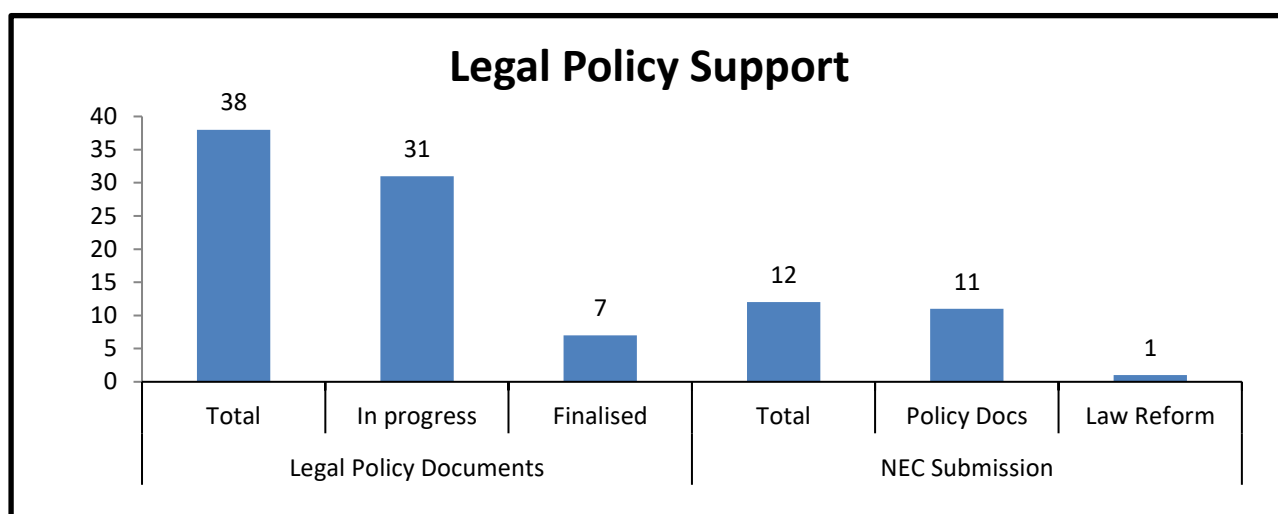


Figure 14: Brief update of legal and policy support provided to DJAG, LJS and Government in 2023

In providing legal policy support to 30 clients as requested both internal and external, LPG developed a total of 38 policy documents and prepared 12 NEC submissions.

As shown on the graph above; of the 38 policy documents, 31 are at the progressive stage whilst 7 have been finalized. Meanwhile, of the 12 NEC submissions made, 11 are for policy documents and 1 for law reform.

Accreditations and Coordination Functions

Function and Legislation	Data on Casework	Instructing Authority
<i>Extradition Act 2005</i>	Active File- 1x	Central Authority – Justice Minister
<i>Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 2005</i>	Outgoing file- 1x Active File- 1x	Central Authority – Justice Minister
<i>Coroners Act 1953 and Coroners Regulation 1955</i>	Nil requests received since 2019	Justice Minister
<i>Lawyers Act 1986</i>	Domestic Applicants – 169x requests processed Foreign Applicants – 6x request processed 1x pending exams and 2 pending interviews 3x unsuccessful – Not compliant with Lawyers Act	Attorney General
<i>Oaths, Affirmations and Statutory Declarations Act 1962</i>	Administrative Moratorium in Place – All matters pending A/Secretary and AG's endorsement of new processes	Justice Minister

Table 7 shows Accreditations and Coordination Functions Data

2.2.2 Judicial and Legal Services

The Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC) is a constitutional office set up under Section 183 of the *Constitution* vested with powers to Appoint and Discipline, recommend or remove Judicial Officers (Judges and Magistrates), certain Constitutional Office Holders (Chief Magistrate, Public Solicitor and Public Prosecutor) and senior administrative staff of the Judiciary (Registrar and NJSS Secretary). It is also responsible to ensure the Magisterial Services delivers justice to the people of Papua New Guinea. Given the Minister for Justice is the Chairman of JLSC, the Department of Justice and Attorney General provides the secretariat to the JLSC.

The Judicial and Legal Services Commission Secretariat completed a total of 11 out of 6 planned program activities on a budget appropriation of K 227,000.00.

The Judicial and Legal Services Commission Branch performance generated about 107 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on implementation of business process, followed by client service, followed by organisational capacity building (1%).



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Approval of office set up for JLSC
- ❑ Passage of the National Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill that increases the minimum number of judges to 60 and the maximum to 200.
- ❑ JLSC Annual Reports 2020 and 2021 approved by NEC and were tabled in the October Parliament sitting. This was a highlight, because from 1982 to 2018 the commission never produced annual reports. The first report, after more than three decades, was the 2019 Annual Report.
- ❑ Published Policy Decision on reserved judgments, which calls for judgements to be handed down within 12 months or constitutes disciplinary action if exceeded.
- ❑ A total of 62 judicial appointments were done. The appointments consisted of 55 magistrates and 7 permanent judges.
- ❑ Working on appointment and disciplinary mechanism for Judges, Magistrates and Law Officers that JLSC appoints.
- ❑ Conducted investigations into 20 complaints laid against Judicial Officers.

Operational Data

In general, a total of 62 judicial appointments were made in 2023, consisting of 55 magistrates and 7 permanent judges.

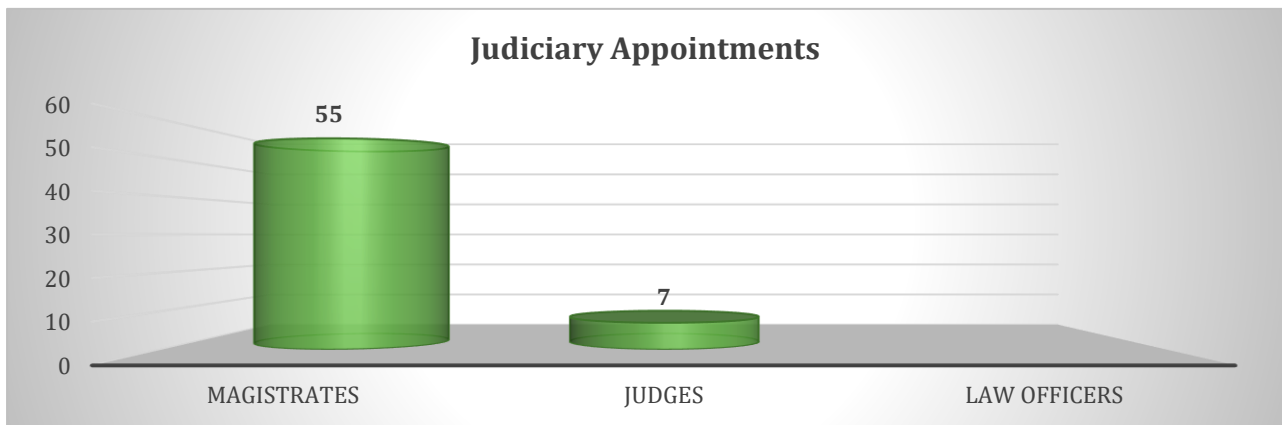


Figure 15 Judicial and Law officers appointment summary for 2023

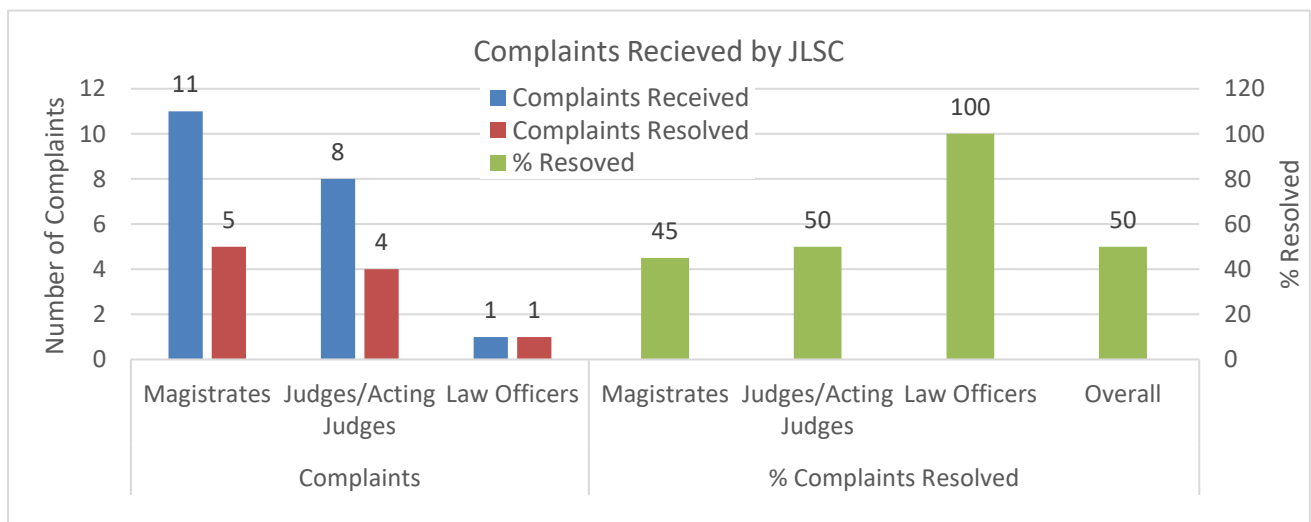


Figure 16 Response to complaints received in 2023

A total of 20 complaints were received against judicial and law officers in 2023. Of these, 11 complaints related to Magistrates, eight (8) related to Judges/Acting Judges, and one (1) related to a Law Officer. JLSC resolved five (5) of the 11 complaints involving Magistrates, four (4) of the eight complaints involving Judges/Acting Judges and the single complaint involving a Law Officer.

This represents resolution rates of approximately 45% for complaints involving Magistrates, 50% for complaints involving Judges/Acting Judges, and 100% for the complaint involving a Law Officer. Overall, 10 of the 20 complaints received were resolved, resulting in an overall resolution rate of 50%.

2.2.3 Deceased Estate Administration and Public Trustee Services

The Office of the Public Trustee was formally known as the Office of the Public Curator. In 2020, an amendment to the *Public Curator Act* 1951 under the *Public Curator (Amendment) Act* 2020 resulted in the Public Curator being renamed as the Public Trustee. All functions and powers of the Public Curator continue unaffected and the amendments added further clarity on the functions and responsibilities. The highlight would be the establishment of the Public Trustee Investment Advisory Board to provide advice on investment in relation to deceased estates or especially minors' property. The Public Trustee is also regarded as a State Law Office that provides legal services under the Wills, Probate and Administration jurisdiction.

The Office of Public Trustee Branch completed a total of 6 out of 32 program activities. On a budget appropriation of 3% more than the requested budget.

The Office of Public Trustee Branch performance generated about 292 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on client service regarding properties and wills, followed by improvement on organisational capacity building where recruitment and partnerships agreements were negotiated.



Performance Highlights

- ☐ 75 Letter of Administration (LA) Granted for Deceased Properties under the project, Kimbe Oil Palm Blocks.
- ☐ OPT commenced the year with 350 Court Matters. As at June the number was reduced to 270 cases.
- ☐ Reduced abeyance matters from 80 to less than 50 matters. The target is to further reduce the amount to less than 30 by end of the year.
- ☐ Closure of two other lengthy litigation matters that spanned over 6 years. One was resolved through consent and the other through the court process.
- ☐ More than 80 employees of PNG Customs have signed their Wills. This was the outcome of the Wills Awareness Program (2018-19) and the contacts established during that period.
- ☐ Recruitment of 4x new officers to OPT in capacity of 2x senior Finance Officers for the southern region and 2x Legal Officers

❑ OPT signed MoU with the Autonomous Region of Bougainville on the 30th March, 2023



Figure 17 OPT receptionist attending to clients



Figure 18 Public Trustee signs MOU with ABG 30 /03/23

2.2.4 Customary Landownership Dispute and National Land Settlement

The Land Commission is responsible for customary landownership dispute resolution and national land settlement. Its goal is to resolve land ownership disputes involving customary land and provide effective and efficient Land Tenure Conversion services, and efficient and effective National Land administration and settlements for National Land. Under the *Land Commission Act 2022*, the Lands Commission has been created which merges the Land Titles Commission and the National Land Commission. The head of the Land Commission, the Chief Commissioner, will now be appointed by the JLSC and the Lands Commission is subject to the *Regulatory Statutory Authorities Act 2014*.

Land Commission function is performed in conjunction with other stakeholders that have a responsibility in customary land dispute and administration which include the District Courts, Provincial Land Dispute Committee, the Lands Department and Provincial Governments.

The budget appropriation for the Land Commission was 15% less than the requested budget of K2.8 million. However, its performance generated about 8,955 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on client service regarding land tenure matters and the declaration of national land matters. The branch needs to do more to improve organisational capacity, the internal business process and financial management.



Performance Highlights

Focus for the PNG Land Commission for 2023 was the establishment of Land Commission Office. Some of the outcomes towards this are highlighted below.

- ☐ From Treasury, the issuance of Agency Code (302) to Land Commission of PNG
- ☐ Commencement Notice on the operationalization of *Land Commission Act 2022*, set as at 2nd September, 2022, repeals the *Land Titles Commission Act 1969* and the *National Land Registration Act 1979*.
- ☐ Progression of Draft Regulation with LPG.
- ☐ The powers to appoint Commissioners is now with JLSC under the new *Land Commission Act 2022*.
- ☐ Three official vehicles purchased for Commissioners.
- ☐ Corporate Plan 2023-2028 launched on 11th October 2023 by DPM, Hon. John Rosso, MP
- ☐ The Commission was issued an official office stamp, which should verify authenticity of its documents and correspondences.
- ☐ Engaged a third year, Information Technology and Business, student from the University of Technology on a 6-months on the job work experience, to assist the commission with its ICT needs and support business process.
- ☐ Ten new computers purchased and fitted with IFMS enabler applications.

- ❑ Baseline information on outstanding matters for both Land Tenure Conversion and National Land matters established 2,477 matters at an estimated value at K3, 168,441 across 22 Provinces. Other land records include
 - 261 land nationally declared and registered;
 - 1652 land tenure matters registered as new applications;
 - 7000 matters closed.
 - ❑ Commission's Transcription Project, designed very much similar to the one used by the Courts, is expected to be a state-of-the-art transcription service. In the interim, equipment has been paid for and 1st Phase of Implementation should commence soon.
- Apart from focusing on the priority for the year, which was office establishment, the commission also attended to few operational matters.
- ❑ Concluded Kainantu Gold Mine Project Stakeholders workshop with a Budget Submission made to MRA for support whilst names of two Special Commissioners was submitted to JLSC for appointment early 2024.
 - ❑ Hearing over Oro Bay Township conducted. Whilst there a matter opened which was closed (Ioma) on principles of natural justice.
 - ❑ Buiebi Correctional Service land hearing done with Orders/Decisions finalized but pending applicable rates to be addressed given the repeal of previous rates under the repealed law.
 - ❑ Attended Shaping Bougainville Justice Meeting in Arawa whilst conducting hearings and had the opportunity to provide technical advice on two important proposed court bills for AROB.
 - ❑ Referral of Lombrum matter to SPM, making the matter a subject of the Local Land Court through the Provincial Land Dispute Committee (PLDC).
 - ❑ Whilst conducting its business, the commission supported other partners.
 1. Assisted PNG Power settle landownership issue with former landowner for new Solar Power projects at in Gagidu Government Station, Morobe Province.
 2. Accompany Department of Trade and Investment to attend PNG-Asia Investment Conference in Hong Kong, after participating at the PNG's Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Summit and SEZ Policy Workshop.
 3. Conducted client outreach with Office of Solicitor General
 4. Provided letters of advice to OSG and signed Affidavits in supporting numerous court proceedings.
 5. Assisted Manus Provincial Government address land issues relating to Lorengau township, Lombrum Naval Base, and new township.
 - ❑ Attended PNG CORE Resources and Energy Conference in Sydney Australia, following the Hong Kong (PNG-Asia) Investment Conference. Through these international engagements, contacts were established with Canberra National Archives and German National Archives into sharing/accessing colonial land records from the former Territory of Papua and German New Guinea



Figure 19 Launching of Lands Commission's Corporate Plan 2023-2027 11 Oct 23



Figure 20 Land Commission Management Team

2.2.5 Oceans Affairs

The Oceans Office is established by NEC Decision No. 03/2015, having the responsibility of providing legal, scientific and technical advice on matters relating to the seas and maritime boundaries of Papua New Guinea with reference to Legislation, International Conventions (UN Law of the Sea Convention 1982), and applicable technology and scientific research. The aim of the Secretariat is to provide efficient and effective advice and strategic guidance to government agencies on Papua New Guinea's oceans and maritime boundaries.

The Oceans Office completed a total of 14 out of 22 program activities on a budget appropriation of 29% less than the requested budget K424,000.00

The Office performance generated about 40 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on improvement of business process followed by organisational capacity building and client focus where committees, policies and reports were progressed.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Bougainville Baseline and Coastal Waters mapping/survey completed and deposits of charts submitted to UN Secretary-General for recognition/notification through the release of “maritime zones notification”. Similar work will be done for the rest of PNG, commencing with the Bismark (New Ireland, Manus and New Britain) Areas.
- ❑ Hosted Ocean Law and Policy Review consultation workshop with other stakeholders wherein 22 recommendations put forth were accepted and an Implementation Plan was then put forth together with Workshop Report for National Oceans Committee’s endorsement.
- ❑ With the establishment of a technical working committee, a working team was put together to develop Marine Protected Area Guidelines for PNG. The team comprised of members from; UPNG, DNPM, DJAG, STC, CEPA, DFA and NMSA.
- ❑ Oceans Office participated in various international engagements relating to the seas and maritime environment/boundary. More notable was;
 - i) BBNJ³ negotiations
 - ii) Trilateral engagement (PNG) with Solomon Islands and FSM relating to the Commission on the limits of the Continental shelf (CLCS) on the Ontong Java Plateau
 - iii) FAO/NFA Conference on Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)⁴

³ BBNJ is an international legally binding instrument (Treaty of the High Seas) under UNCLOS for sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction - United Nations Headquarters -NY

⁴ The Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) is the first binding international agreement that specifically target illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Its objective is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by preventing vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches.

- ❑ A PNG scientist was engaged in Marine Research (on board German vessel - RV SON Ecuador).
- ❑ One officer attended “Deposit of Charts” UN Training, covering: Treaty and Registration, Pacific Maritime Boundaries Status and Maritime Boundaries Dashboard, Legal Process and Regional priorities, Experience sharing from previous deposit procedures, and Integrated Marine Management and Ocean Governance.
- ❑ National Oceans Policy (NOP) Momase Regional Stakeholder Consultation Awareness on the 25th of April, 2023 at the Madang Resort in Madang Province. This is the first awareness conducted since launching the Oceans Policy in 2020.
- ❑ GEF-8 is currently in pre-design phase, where UNDP led the development of the PNG proposal to the global “Blue and Green Islands” GEF integrated program. Oceans Office/Affairs was being drafted into the Outcomes of the Project Document under outcome 3: Governance.
- ❑ Legal and Policy Reviewing of the Integrated Ocean Management
- ❑ Six (6) vacancies have been filled in the recent recruitment drive. The positions include 2x GIS, 2x Marine Biologists, 2x Environmental Scientists.



Figure 21 Senior Officials from PNG, Solomon Is. and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in Port Moresby, in one of the trilateral meetings.



Figure 22 Bonaventure Hasola with other participants, after the UN Training on Deposit of Charts.



Figure 23 Hon. Kessy Sawang (middle), DJAG staff, Madang Provincial Authorities and stakeholders during the NOP Regional Awareness in Madang Province



Figure 24 A Papua New Guinean scientist on board vessel RV SON Ecuador to Australia

2.2.6 National Narcotics Bureau Administration

The National Narcotics Bureau (NNB) is established under the *National Narcotics Control Board Act* 1992. In 2022, the Bureau and the National Narcotics Control Board were given added functions and powers, under the *Controlled Substance Act* 2021, in relation to the regulation of precursor chemicals. The role of the office is to prevent and reduce the unlawful and harmful use of drugs, and substance abuse for Integral human development and community safety.

The National Narcotics Bureau completed a total of 6 out of 33 program activities on a budget appropriation of 10% less than the requested budget of K276,000.00.

The National Narcotics Bureau performance generated about 6 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on organisational capacity building, followed by client service.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Establishment of the National Narcotics Control Board and the subsequent appointment of an acting Director General both have been significant achievements this year for NNB, which finally brings to an end its restoration process under the Department of Justice and Attorney General, and eventual separation as a statutory body.
- ❑ The National Narcotics Control Board continues to work alongside RPNGC in the fight against drug trafficking. It has facilitated in dispatching samples of confiscated Methamphetamine (worth K36.5 million) to Australia for Testing and Forensic Analysis for Court purposes in Papua New Guinea.
- ❑ NNB being part of the enforcement agencies in the Joint Agencies Group, Joint Intelligence Group and Joint Organizations Group (JAG, JIG, and JOG) facilitated AML/CTF team put together PNG's FTAF Mutual Evaluation Report for the Asia/Pacific Group (APG) Assessors that visited the country this year.
- ❑ NNB maintained its national efforts towards awareness on the use and misuse of alcohol, prescription medications and illicit drugs, and managing their production and consumption. More recently being the combined awareness with Directorate for Social Change and Mental Health Services in Arawa Town and the nearby areas in ARoB.
- ❑ NNB's Arawa Awareness also resulted in ABG dialoguing with DJAG for the establishment of an NNB office in Bougainville.



Figure 25 NNB Drug Education Awareness 21 to 28 Oct 2023

2.3 PREVENT, REDUCE AND MANAGE CRIME THROUGH LEGISLATION, POLICIES, PROGRAM COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

2.3.1 National, Provincial Coordination and Partnership.

The Law and Justice Sector Secretariat provide secretariat services to the National Coordinating Mechanism of the Law and Justice Sector. It is also responsible for facilitating the Law and Justice Sector Working Group, and coordinating cross-sectoral programs, development partner activities in the sector and provincial governments. It is also a secretariat to the recently established Social Law and Order Sector.

The Law and Justice Sector Secretariat completed a total of 16 out of 60 program activities on a budget appropriation of 9% less than the requested budget of K1.9 million.

The Law and Justice Sector Secretariat performance generated about 878 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on improvement of business process covered the work of committees, policy and the work on AROB, followed by organisational capacity building where trainings were conducted.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ NCM endorsed the new Law and Justice Sector Policy. Also being finalized is the Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF) and Sector Strategic Framework (SSF).

- ❑ Bougainville Police commenced using electronic “register system” alongside the commonly used Occurrence Book which Law and Justice Sector (LJSS) assisted in developing in 2022.
- ❑ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Department of Justice and Attorney General, the Magisterial Services of PNG, Department of Personnel Management and the Department of Justice and Legal Services of the Autonomous Bougainville Government transferring a total of 655 personnel/positions and the budget components (PE and GS) to the Bougainville Public Service.
- ❑ Two (2) local consultants have been engaged on short-term arrangements to oversee Sector (LJSS) programs funded by EU and JSS4D funded provincial engagements respectively.
- ❑ LJSS received 2 new vehicles (a bus and an SUV) from DJAG management.
- ❑ MoU signed between DJAG, NDOH, Community Development and ENB to start the implementation of the Child Nutrition and Social Protection (CNSP) Project.



Figure 26 Child Nutrition and Social Protection Project-CNSP launching in the ENB province in 2023

- ❑ A total of 69 public servants from the Law and Justice Sector agencies graduated from the JSS4D sponsored Learning and Development (LLD) Training Program, i.e. 36 from the first batch and 33 from the second batch.
- ❑ Provided technical support towards improving information management systems for the CBC Branches and the Village Court Services using cloud technology. The data collection tools for each branch were assimilated into the cloud-based database systems and were being trialled out in NCD and Central Province.
- ❑ Supported VCLMS run training, in 3 Village Court Areas in Morobe, on how to use of newly developed data collection system
- ❑ LJS as the secretariat continues to coordinate meetings/workshops for; NCM, LJSWG, AMTs, SLOS Deputies, SLOS Heads, and SLOS Ministerial
- ❑ Donor (international) Supporting the sector:
 - JSS4D - DFAT
 - P4GG - EU
 - CNSP – GoPNG/World Bank
- ❑ LJS facilitated trainings for the sector agencies;
 - 1 x M&E training for Middle Managers conducted – 19 trained
 - 1 x M&E training for Executive Leaders conducted – 8 trained
 - 1 x Tailored M&E and Leadership Training for Office of Public Solicitors – 42 managers trained



Figure 27 The Law & Justice Sector Members of NCM

2.3.2 Crime Prevention

The Branch is responsible for conducting assessments on the trend and prevalence of crime and community perception on safety and its main function is to monitor, coordinate and initiate and/or supporting crime prevention interventions through strategic guidance and partnership arrangements to prevent, reduce and manage crime

The Branch completed a total of 22 out of 27 program activities on a budget appropriation of less than the requested budget. Crime Prevention performance generated about 4115 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on client service where the distribution of materials to partners and stakeholders featured, followed by organisational capacity building via training and the strengthening of business processes.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Safe School Crime Prevention Program inception in 2020 was to instil a culture of lawfulness through reading books. Under this program a total of 2,980 cartons of books have so far been distributed to 84 schools and institutions in crime hotspot areas. In 2023, a total of 657 cartons of books, along with 11 cartons of solar kits, 17 cartons of Lap Desks and sporting gears were distributed to 30 sites.
- ❑ The Badili Second Hand clothing mart had donated 10 bales of clothing to the Department. This is part of the partnership between DJAG and the Community First PNG (CFPNG) organisation to support crime prevention initiatives with youths in crime hotspot areas in Port Moresby and other centres.
- ❑ Participated in the 20 Days Human Rights Activism and Instilling Culture of Lawfulness awareness campaigns. The important dates were observed with various awareness activities
 - International Children's Day – distributed books at Doura and Hisiu and Vanuamai Primary Schools in Central Province
 - Women's Human Rights Defenders' Day – conducted awareness on drugs and alcohol at Jubilee Secondary Schools



Department Crime Prevention Officer Mr. Jessie Ikio and CFPNG rep receiving the bails from the Badili Second Hand Clothing Mart

Figure 28 shows bales of donated second hand clothes from Badili Second Hand Mart

- International Day of Elimination of all forms of violence against Women – visited Lady Carol Kidu’s place, Tutu Beach and presented books
- World’s AIDS Day – Observed the day at WNB Haus with other DJAG staff with screening a documentary in HIV/AIDS,
- ❑ The team continues to oversee Community Justice Service Centre (CJSC) Coordinators in the 5 operational CJSCs in: Lumi, Angoram, Pangia, Rabaul and Pomio. Currently court sittings, meetings, trainings and other congregational activities have been run in the centres. Crime reports, mainly the village courts reports, have also been brought to the centres, in particular CJSC Angoram. Establishment of CJSCs in the district is the implementation of NEC Decision 161/2016.
- ❑ CJSC assessments and inspections continue to be done. The recent one was conducted at the Ijivitari CJSC in Northern Province.
- ❑ CJSC Operational Plan has been developed and submitted for Executive Management Team approval. The operational plan is to ensure that CJSCs are fully functional and better coordinated. Furthermore, Community Justice Service Strategy have also been drafted after DJAG Internation Consultation workshop.
- ❑ Branch Communication Strategy was developed and used to reviewed 6 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials including 4 brochures, 1 poster and 1 puller banner. The strategy does not only cover the dissemination of information but also its production.



Figure 29 CPCB M&R team coordinated the design and development of 4 new brochures and completed with assistance from external graphic artist and from DJAG Media & Publication Unit which was the implementation of crime prevention communication strategy. These were printed and currently on display & distribution. K90,000.00 of the CJSC Development Budget was used to print these brochures and currently on display & distribution

- ❑ A total of 54 youths, from crime hotspot areas in and around Port Moresby, were given the opportunity to undergo business literacy training facilitated by Brave Hearts Vision. The participants consist of 7 parolees, 3 probationers and 44 crime prevention youth.



Figure 30 The youths were from various suburbs in Port Moresby and came from Morata, Tunabay, Sabama, 6 Mile Dogura, Erima, 9mile and 14mile. These youths and parolees were the ones who heavily involved in the crime prevention chicken projects. They are now venture into next phase of the program which is the crime prevention youths training facilitated by BHV in partnership with DJAG.

- ❑ The crime prevention program called the Kairak Integrated Agricultural Training Program (IATP), run under the Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment in East New Britain Province and continues to support the community. This year, over 280 youths were supported through the program:
 - 200 youths were provided with a total 16, 000 Balsa seedlings by PNG-UNRE.
 - 40 received Baking Training including 3 males.
 - 42 undergo Cooking and Baking Training including 2 males.



Department Secretary Dr. Eric Kwa (center), alongside Zenag partner representative (middle right) and ELCPNG partner representatives (middle left), joined Crime Prevention Director Mr. Terry Lui (third right) and his staff at the Lae International Hotel in Lae, Morobe Province, where they proudly posed with the signed MoU.

Figure 31 shows the MoU signing ceremony between DJAG and ELCPNG for Crime Prevention Initiatives

- ❑ During the year, DJAG presented a cheque of K227,000.00 to PNGUNRE in support of the IATP program.

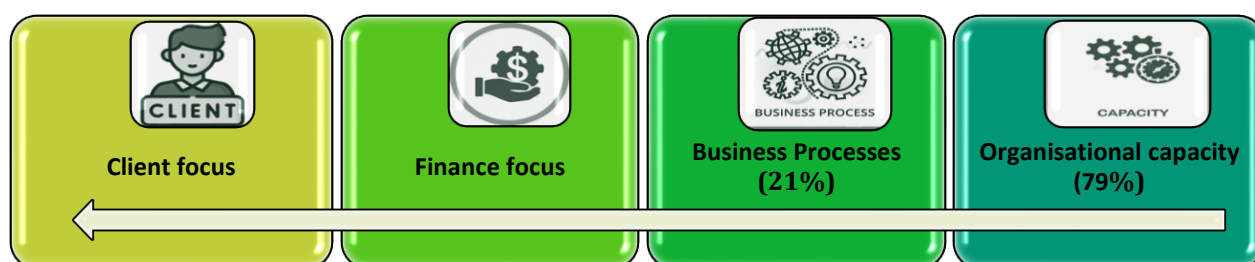
- ❑ Signing of MOU between DJAG and Crime Prevention partners; Highlands Product Ltd (Zenag Chicken) and Lutheran Development Services in Lae, Morobe Province.

2.3.3 Research and Development

The Research and Development Branch is responsible for research on the development of policy or strategies on crime and related matters. It is to undertake research on trends, fads and prevalence of criminal or unlawful behaviour and its effects on society and the global community as it relates to PNG, to analyse and produce reports, maintain a database on crime, community profiling and demographics and related matters. Its key focus is to recruit suitably qualified researchers and staff, develop a modern research facility that is well accredited, and can start on reviewing existing research or reports on crime and analysing them.

The Research and Development branch completed a total of 6 out of 2 program activities on a budget appropriation of 14% less than the requested budget of K145,000.00.

The Research and Development branch performance generated about 14 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on organisational capacity building covering office establishment including training; and the improvement of business process regarding policy.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Research and Development is a new branch established by the department recently, and has started operating in September this year (2023) with first recruitment of three personnel; Executive Manager, a Driver, and Liaison Officer. Appointments on other support and research officer positions have been put on hold due to low number of applicants. However, appointments will be made in the next advertisement to fill its vacant positions.
- ❑ The branch is located at Level 11, WNB Haus, and equipped with necessary operational equipment, including 5 heavy duty computers.
- ❑ The officers have undertaken the formulation of guiding instruments for the office including:
 - Drafting of the Research Policy Framework.
 - Drafting of the Institutional Research Protocols including data collection and use.
 - Drafting of the Branch Business Process.
- ❑ The quest for attracting suitably qualified research personnel has commenced this year and would continue into the future. Initial contacts have already been established with researchers and expert statisticians to join the branch.

- ❑ Training and Capacity Building:
 - 1 staff attended the Gender Dimensions workshop based on Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey conducted by NSO team in partnership with UNFPA in 2022.
 - 1 staff attended first 'National Statistical Convention' aimed at realizing the potential of data and statistics toward National Development.
 - 1 staff attended workshop on MEL and Evidence-Informed Decision Making for Executives in the Law and Justice Sector.

2.3.4 Human Rights Secretariat

The Human Rights Secretariat (HRS) main role is to coordinate, initiate and report on human rights programs and initiatives. It is also responsible for monitoring compliance to human rights conventions and the Constitution on Basic Rights and Social Obligations. It is also required to maintain data on human rights concerns and violations as well as refer human rights matters to appropriate authorities. The conduct of awareness programs is a priority area.

The Human Rights Secretariat completed a total of 7 out of 18 program activities on a budget appropriation of 9% less than the requested budget of K238,000.00. HRS also received project funding to the value of K911 thousand kina.

The Human Rights Secretariat performance generated about 9 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on organisational capacity, followed by improvement of business process and client services.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Human Rights Secretariat (HRS) office set up has been completed following the recruitment of a director, whose is the head, and 2x officers. Interviews for two more position have also been completed.
- ❑ Since the Secretariat's establishment in 2023, the Technical Working Committee was revived through dedicated efforts to bring it into operation. This re-establishment involved mobilizing key members and resources to provide essential guidance and support, enabling effective engagement with stakeholders and partners through meetings and regular communications.
- ❑ The Secretariat actively involved in advancing the draft Human Rights Defenders Policy, supporting the lead agency, the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission (CLRC).
- ❑ Initiated a Desktop Review on stakeholder mapping for both national and international stakeholders; and on Human Rights issues, which DJAG Library Services also supported.

- ❑ HRS actively participated in the 20 Days of Human Rights Activism events and concluded its involvement with the hosting Human Rights Advocacy and Awareness Day involving the Department at the West New Britain Haus, on the 8th of December, 2023.
- ❑ Study tours were taken to Philippines and Malaysia to learn from the human rights institutions in the two countries, especially understanding the institutional:
 - ✓ Functions;
 - ✓ governance structures and
 - ✓ historical backgrounds.
 The other country of interest is New Zealand.
- ❑ Hosted a workshop to discuss on National Human Rights Policy with key stakeholders in December, 2023.

2.4 DELIVER TIMELY, ACCESSIBLE AND QUALITY JUSTICE SERVICES TO THE STATE AND THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

2.4.1 Village Courts Services Improvement Program

The Village Court and Land Mediation Secretariat is responsible for the Village Courts Services Improvement Program. The Village Court and Land Mediation Secretariat is established under the *Village Courts Act*.

It is responsible for facilitating appointments of Village Court Officials and Land Mediators as well as training, supervision, inspection and allowances for the Village Court officials and Land Mediators. This is done in partnership with the Provincial and District Administrations. The priority areas (as set in 2022) are monitoring and evaluation, payment of outstanding Village Court Officials and Land Mediators allowances, support the construction of Village Court houses in strategic areas and improving clerical support.

The Village Courts and Land Mediation Services completed a total of 17 out of 17 program activities on a budget appropriation of 56% less than the requested budget of K731,000.00

The Village Courts and Land Mediation Services performance generated about 3226 program output where bulk of the work was client focus and the improvement of business process.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ DJAG legal team should start drafting the *Village Court Act* and Regulation once 4 regional legislative review workshops are completed. The first two workshops have been conducted consecutively in New Guinea Islands and Highlands regions from October to November, 2023. The other two regions would be covered in 2024.

- ❑ Five (5) Village Court House Building projects have been either completed or at the completion stage. These village courts include:
 - i) Bootless Bay, in Central Province. (Completed, pending opening)
 - ii) Mutzing, in Morobe (Completed, pending opening)
 - iii) Wampar, Morobe (Completed and commissioned)
 - iv) Pari, in NCD (>80% complete) and
 - v) Balanataman/Bitapaka, in ENB (80% complete)



Figure 32 Wampar Village Court House Opening 4th Dec 2023

- ❑ The first to be completed and commissioned was Wampar Village Court House which was done in December, 2023. The village court buildings completed but awaiting commissioning were Bootless Bay and Mutzing.
- ❑ Having observed prolonged land issues and the threat to community peace in the Wafi Golpu Area, the Morobe Provincial Land Dispute Committee intervened to resolve the ongoing land disputes. Through the local land mediators, the committee registered a total of 52 land disputes among 23 clans which it has prioritize to settle.
- ❑ More than 300 youths surrendered to the authority, through the combined efforts between village court services and more so the United Church in Esa'ala District of Milne Bay Province.
- ❑ From the partnerships established by the Crime Prevention Branch through the Crime Prevention Intervention programs in the 8 Mile Community, the 8 Mile Village Court Services have been encouraged to contribute to community safety by engaging in community policing work.
- ❑ Maintained nationwide Village Court Strategy 2020-2030 promotional awareness this year with nine (9) Socialization workshops held in: Milne Bay, Northern, West New Britain, NCD, Central, Eastern Highlands and Jiwaka. The aim of the socialization workshop was to sensitized provinces and to establish partnership with subnational level

through MoU to collaborate to implement. Crime Prevention through revitalization of VC system. One MOU was signed between DJAG and WNB Provincial Administration.

❑ Training and Capacity Building

- ❖ VCLMS coordinated two IPO trainings for 81 Village Court Officials (VCO)s in AROB and Western Province.
- ❖ Land Mediation Trainings conducted for 25 Land Mediators (LM)s in Lae Morobe Province and 48 Land Mediators in Manus.
- ❖ One fully functional courts training for Village Court officials in Morobe (Nadzab and Gama/Zu Village Court area) on case management, Family Protection and VC Processes and Procedures. The officials were issued order books, case registers, uniforms and tablets.
- ❖ Five officers from VCLMS attended capacity building training programs:
 - 1x Officer – Leadership, Learning and Development (LLD)
 - 2x Officer – Monitoring and Evaluation Training
 - 2x Senior Officers – Administrative Investigation on Anti-Corruption.

- ❑ The secretariat has been promoting the culture of savings to VCOs and LMs, especially through Choice Super contributions. From the total of the 13,520 VCOs and 1,144 LMs that were put on payroll, 2,405 VCOs and 325 LMs have signed up with Choice Supa.



Figure 33 Shows Conflicting parties attending Peace Ceremony at Kabwum in Morobe Province

2.4.2 Probation and Restorative Justice Services

The Probation and Restorative Justice Services is provided by the Probation Services under the *Probation Act*. This responsibility includes the production of Pre-Sentence Reports to Courts, the supervision of probationers and the prosecution of breaches to the Probation Orders. The Branch also refers to the *Criminal Compensation Act* and other related legislation in their work. The restorative justice responsibility concerns the reintegration of Probationers into their communities as well as the support and coordination of other restorative justice programs conducted by partners and stakeholders.

The Probation and Restorative Justice Services Branch completed a total of 24 out of 49 program activities on a budget appropriation of 6% more than the requested budget of K750,000.00

The Probation and Restorative Justice Services Branch performance generated about 1194 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on improvement of business process, followed by client service, and organisational capacity building covering training.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ In consultation with HRM, Probation Service developed 3-Year Training Plan and a Career Development Plan for the branch. The documents would be presented to EMT, HRC and HRM for review. In the interim, initial work has been commenced on the Succession Plan for the branch.
- ❑ LJSS assisted Probation Services improve its data management system and tools through the:
 - Development of electronic Probation Tracker Forms for provincial offices which should improve turnaround time
 - Formatting of MIS Reporting Template befitting database design and in alignment to the branch Monitoring and Evaluation Tools.
 - Training of Probation officers on Monitoring Evaluation and Learning and the new tools
- ❑ Training and Capacity Building
 - 4x officers underwent M&E and Learning Training
 - 1x officer graduated from Leadership and Management Training at PILAG
 - 1 x officer undergoing Master's program through JICA Scholarship
 - 1x Officer-In-Charge (OIC) Refresher Workshop/Conference held in Lae for all OICs across the country, in November.
 - 1x officer undergoing Master's Program through JICA Scholarship and
 - 1x officer's Master's Program under Australian Awards Program approved for 2024.

- One female officer successfully completed Legal Training at Legal Training Institute in January 2023 and got admitted to practice at the National and Supreme Court of Justice in PNG.
- ❑ Probation Service Conducted a weeklong Officer in Charge (OIC) Refresher Training in October 2023 – Lae International Hotel. A total of 19 Senior Probation Officers, 4 District Probation Officers and 2 potential Senior Probation Officers to a total of 25 OICs were trained. The training aimed to upskills officers on their roles and responsibilities for achieve efficient and competent officers placed at our provincial and district.
- ❑ Provincial Probation officers engaged themselves in conducting awareness whilst supporting the Esa’ala District Youths Surrender Program, facilitated by United Church’s Papua Islands Region, in the Fergusson Islands of Milne Bay province.
- ❑ A senior Probation officer in the district facilitated a surrender of drugs and steam production materials from the Amahup youths from the Maprik district of East Sepik province.
- ❑ A CBC officer from the Goroka office participated in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG event. She was part of the Women’s District conference where a total of over 400 women participated. This event provided a platform to provide awareness on the work of DJAG through the Probation, Parole and Juvenile Justice services.
- ❑ Representation of Probation Service in international programs in Japan and Australia (February and May respectively).
- ❑ Offender Rehabilitation and Reintegration Policy completed and submitted to management for comments. Looking forward to launching the policy soon.
- ❑ Probation Services conducted a Court User Forum at Waigani where more than 22 National and Supreme Court Judges attended. The forum was to clarify Probation Officers role in the courts and highlight instances of ambiguous practice and procedural oversights in Breach and Review Proceedings.
- ❑ CBC Wewak allocated an office space in the recently opened Wewak National and Supreme Court House. Over the years, the office was operating in a cramped-up environment from a secluded location.
- ❑ A total of 4 CFI conducted to offices CBC Daru, CBC NCD and Central, CBC Wewak and CBC Maprik. Reports provided and recommendation forwarded management for further action.
- ❑ Provincial Officers were supplied with Court Attire – Funding Support by Deputy Secretary Justice Admin
- ❑ Probation Services provided support to:
 - i) Juvenile Justice Services – A/CPO and PO facilitating the Training of Trainers on Basic Counselling Skills to Volunteer Juvenile Justice Officers in Kokopo, East New Britain Province.
 - ii) NJSS (National Criminal Process Improvement Project - NCPIP) – Senior Probation Officer in Madang saw the successful roll out of the Integrated Criminal Case System and Database (ICCSDB) where implementation of equipment installed and

participating in a sector wide training workshop for the Law and Justice Agencies from 5th-9th June.

- iii) LJSS (Shaping Bougainville Justice Activity Management Team (SBJ-AMT)) – A/CPO attending two meetings and providing comments to the two bills provided by ABG Department Justice and Legal Services.
- iv) Parole Services – A/Deputy Chief Probation Officer conducted the Parole Training in Manus in May 2023.



Figure 34 Secretary Dr. Eric Kwa talking to participants during the SPO/OIC Training Session



Figure 35 Amahup youths surrendered drugs and steam production materials to Mr. Jonah Linus, a senior Probation officer in the district



Figure 36 DJAG HQ Staff posing with SPO/OIC Trainees at Lae International Hotel, Morobe province

Operational Data

In the year 2023, a total of **646 Probation Orders** were supervised from the provinces that reported. The table summarizes the data.

Region	Province	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Southern	NCD	18	1	19
	Central	9	4	13
	Popondetta	13	2	15
	Kerema	4	0	4
	Alotau	18	1	19
	Daru	0	0	0
	Kiunga	0	0	0
Highlands	Kundiawa	0	0	0
	Goroka	34	5	39
	Mendi	3	4	7
	Mt Hagen	6	6	12
	Kainantu	24	7	31
	Wabag	0	0	0
	Tari	0	0	0
Momase	Minj-Banz	0	0	0
	Lae	43	4	47
	Bulolo	0	0	0
	Madang	63	5	68
	Wewak	32	9	41
	Maprik	10	6	16
	Vanimo	50	4	54

NGI	Kimbe	131	2	133
	Manus	35	3	38
	Buka	16	0	16
	Kavieng	15	2	17
	Kokopo	47	10	57
TOTAL		571	75	646

Table 8 Number of active volunteer probation officers for Probation offices that a doing monthly reporting

OFFICE	MALE	FEMALE
Popondetta		2
Alotau	8	1
Mt Hagen		
Madang	4	0
Maprik	1	
Buka	4	6
Kimbe	15	1
Manus	10	1
TOTAL	53 VPOs	

Table 9 Probation supervision summary

2.4.3 Parole Support Services

The Parole Service is to provide quality and timely Parole, Release on Licence and Power of Mercy Services to the Parole Board, Release on Licence Committee and Advisory Committee of Power of Mercy in accordance with *Parole Act 1991*, Section 615 of the *Criminal Code Act 1974* and Section 151 and 152 of the *National Constitution*.

The Parole Services is responsible for the administration of the Parole Board under the *Parole Act 1991*. The Parole Services includes supervision of parolees and providing quality and timely Pre-Parole Reports and facilitating Detainee Assessment Reports for the Parole Board.

The Parole Services Branch completed a total of 20 out of 17 program activities on a budget appropriation of 26% less than the requested budget of K53,000.00.

The Parole Services Branch performance generated about 293 program output where bulk of the work was focused on improvement of business process, followed by building of organisational capacity and client service activities.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Parole Board had 3 Parole Board meetings and 1 Release-On-License sitting in 2023. A total of 40 application was granted. They include 36 parole applications.

- ❑ Parole Annual Reports for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 have been printed and delivered to the Minister for the parliamentary process. Draft 2022 annual report had been completed but pending review.
- ❑ Parole Regulation Draft has been completed but its review had to be delayed pending completion of the Parole Act review to be undertaken by professional legal consultant.
- ❑ Both Power of Mercy and Release-On-License Guidelines have been completed and are ready to be printed.
- ❑ Successfully conducted 2 Awareness campaigns in Vanimo and Morobe province supported by Juvenile Justice Services.
- ❑ Work has commenced Parole Service and CS collaboration Parole Web Database and Video Conferencing Infrastructure project in CS Bomana with civil works and database system survey, following the issuance of Certificate of Compliance by PNGDICT on the project.
- ❑ DJAG has also signed a contract with Niu Learning Systems and Hyge International Developers to develop the said infrastructure.
- ❑ Parole Services have established close working relationship with Probation and Community Corrections Officers' Association (PACCOA), an Australian-based non-profit group, that promotes understanding and discussions on community-based offender management issues.



Figure 37 DJAG staff from the Parole services branch with the Radio Talk-back show- Morobe province conducting awareness on the significance of parole system

❑ **Training and Capacity Building**

Five Officers interchangeably attended various short-term capacity enhancement trainings/programs on

- Prison and Rehabilitation Management Skills Training in Japan,
- Digital Prison Program held in Adelaide, Australia
- Mutual Legal Assistance and Offender Rehabilitation and Reintegration Seminar in Japan,
- Executive Assistant training in Kokopo, East New Britain province and
- Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning including leadership training in National Capital District.

Operational Data

Supervision location	Male	Female	TOTAL
Kundiawa	18	4	22
Goroka	9	1	10
Buka	1	-	1
NCD	59	8	67
Central	31	2	33
Lae	-	-	-
Mt Hagen	4	5	9
Mendi	5	-	5
Kainantu	13	3	16
Popondetta	7	-	7
Maprik	-	-	-
Wewak	8	-	8
Kerema	2	-	2
Daru	-	-	-
Madang	10	-	10
Manus	2	-	2
Jiwaka	-	1	1
Kiunga	-	-	-
Kavieng	1	-	1
Alotau	12	-	12
Bulolo	-	-	-
Vanimo	12	-	12
Kimbe	31	1	22
Kokopo	4	-	4
TOTAL	29	25	254

Table 10 Number of parolees under supervision as at October 2023

Parole supervision statistics as at fourth quarter, 2024 was 254. Most supervision was done in NCD, followed by Central province. During the year 7 parolees successfully completed their term. There was no parole breach recorded.

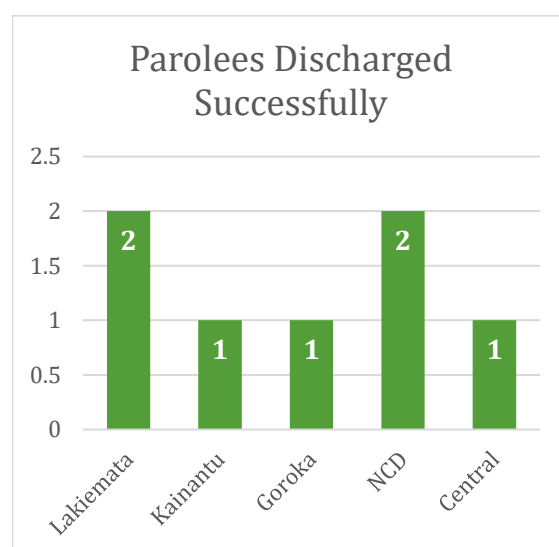


Figure 38 Parolees discharged successfully

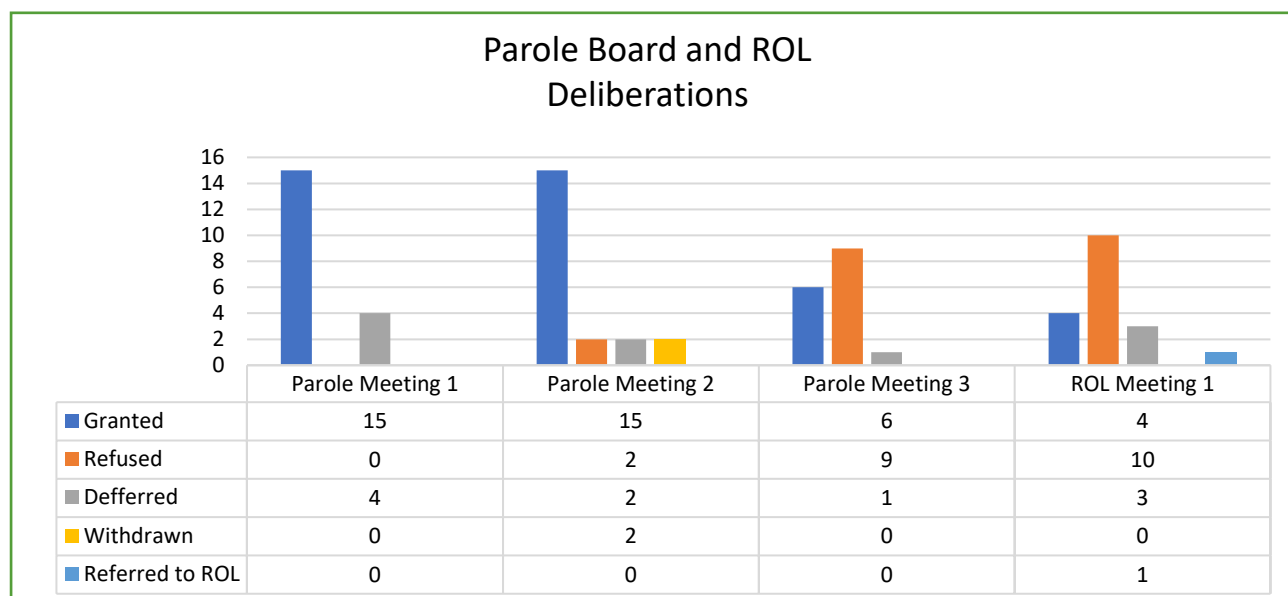


Figure 39 Parole Board and ROL Meeting outcomes



Figure 40 From Left to Right) Then a/Secretary Mr. Nichodemus Mosoro, Deputy Chief Parole Officer, Mr. John Loko, Minister for Justice, Hon Pila Niningi, a/Chief Probation Officer, Ms. Linda Dentana, and Legal Officer, Mr. John Laule during the Asia-Pacific Criminal Justice Forum in Tokyo, Japan



Figure 41 CBC Staffs attending Correctional Technology Conference hosted by ICPA. Adelaide Australia 23 – 25 May, 2023

2.4.4 Juvenile Justice Services

The Juvenile Justice Service provide effective juvenile justice services for better protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles.

Juvenile Justice Services is provided under the *Juvenile Justice Act* 2014. The Juvenile Justice Services works in partnership with other key stakeholders such as the Judiciary, Magisterial Services, RPNGC, National Department of Health, National Department of Education, Public Solicitors Office, Department of Community Development, Youth and Religion, Churches, Civil Society and Development Partner. Together they administer and implement the reforms in the delivery of juvenile justice services at the national and sub-national level, especially to provide protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law. This function promotes the use of restorative justice, Melanesian tradition and contemporary juvenile justice practices and is premised on the interest of young people who come into conflict with the law.

The Juvenile Justice Services Branch completed a total of 22 out of 18 program activities on a budget appropriation of about K433,000.

The Juvenile Justice Services Branch performance generated about 634 pieces of program output where bulk of the work was focused on client service, followed by organisational capacity building and the improvement of business process.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ A sub-committee of the National Juvenile Justice Committee was formed to oversee the works on the proposed Bomana Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre. The members comprised of DJAG (Juvenile Justice Service), Correction Services, Village Court and Land Mediation, Probation Service, Assets and Facility, Department of Education, Department of Health, and Office of Child and Family Service. The scope of works on land survey has been conducted by New Horizon Survey company. The survey works remain pending.
- ❑ National Conference on Justice for Children with its theme Promoting Justice for Children through Collaboration and Partnership was hosted at the Gateway Hotel, National Capital District from 13-15 November 2023. Juvenile Justice Officers and the selected Probation Officers who assumed the role of the JJP, Volunteer Juvenile Justice Officers and all relevant stakeholders in NCD/Central attended the conference. The conference concluded with Call to Actions on activities to better improve the juvenile justice service at the national and sub-national.
- ❑ PNG Government through DJAG, UNICEF with the support of Australian Government as part of the PNG-Australia Partnership Launched the Justice for Children Report: Improving

Access to Justice for Children and Women Project (June 2023). The Project covered the enabling environment and service provision for children in conflict with the law-the independent evaluation. The Project was supported by the National Juvenile Justice Committee to further strengthened evidence-based programming for children in conflict with the law in Papua New Guinea.

- ❑ National Juvenile Justice Committee has endorsed the Deep Dive Study on Diversion that was conducted in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, National Capital District, West Sepik Province, Eastern Highlands Province and Western Province. UNICEF with the support of the Australian Government as part of the PNG-Australia Partnership, hired the Coram International Research team to conduct the research. The research was completed awaiting formal endorsement for publication by the National Juvenile Justice Committee in 2024.
- ❑ DJAG purchased 15-seater Toyota Hiace Bus for Erap Boys Town and was officially handed over to the Erap Boys Town management by Secretary of Justice, Dr. Eric Kwa. DJAG purchased materials for the set up of the commercial nursery of hybrid cocoa and purchased 10,000 hybrid cocoa seedlings to be delivered in 2024.
- ❑ DJAG purchased 10-Seater Toyota Landcruiser for the Mabiri Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The vehicle to be delivered to the centre in 2024.
- ❑ DJAG signed the Contract Agreement between the Bernard Narakobi (Yawasoro) Vocational School and St. Joseph (Wirui) Technical Vocational Centre to utilize the On-the-Job-Training students to refurbish and do maintenance works at the Wewak Boys Town. The signing of the Contract Agreement was held at the Wewak Provincial Office by the Managers of the two vocational schools and was witnessed by Mr. Jimmy Tapat-Senior Provincial Magistrate and the Chairman of the East Sepik Provincial Juvenile Justice Committee. The refurbishment and maintenance work are schedule to commence in 2024.
- ❑ A total of 10 Volunteer Juvenile Justice Officers (members of the SDA Church) in Kokopo, East New Britain province were trained on the Training of Trainers on Basic Counselling Skills. The Chief Probation Officer, Mrs. Linda Dentana and the Probation Officer of NCD, Mr. James Gopave, facilitated the training. The training was co-sponsored by DJAG and Digicel Foundation through the Community Grant that was awarded to the New Britain New Ireland Mission of Seventh Day Adventist.
- ❑ A total of 32 Volunteer Juvenile Justice Officers were trained in two separate training arrangements in Kokopo and in the National Capital District. In Kokopo, a total of 10 new volunteers were trained who all members of Seventh Day Adventist Church. A total of 22 Volunteer Juvenile Justice Officers were trained in the National Capital District. The trainees are all members of the Salvation Army Church of NCD and Central province.
- ❑ Juvenile institutions in the Correction Service Institutions were inspected in Kerevat, Baisu, Bihute. Similar visits were also made to Kokopo and Rabaul Police Stations. The inspection was to ensure the detention facilities are in compliance with the Minimum Standards of Juvenile Institutions and Juvenile in Detention.

- ❑ A total of 5 Juvenile Justice Officers were trained on how to use the Cloud Data Base Management System. This system was set up with the support of the Law and Justice Sector technical officer who developed the system for Juvenile Justice Service. The Cloud Data Base Management System will be piloted in NCD and Central Juvenile Justice Service operation and later to be rolled out into other provincial operations.
- ❑ The Adventist Children's Justice Advocate (ACJA) is an extended ministry of the Children's Ministry of the Seventh Day Adventist Church to accommodate the work of the Volunteer Juvenile Justice Officers. These volunteers have covered a total of 30 awareness campaigns in schools and ward levels covering approximately 4700 population of youths, children, elderly members of the community, students, teachers etc.
- ❑ DJAG has been represented by Juvenile Justice Service and the Office of the State Solicitor as the member of the Government Tasks Force Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a committee that was endorsed and established by the National Executive Counsel. The comprehensive State Party Report on CRC in PNG was completed by the committee and was submitted to the National Executive Council for subsequent submission to the United Nation Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, New York.
- ❑ Monitoring and Evaluation was conducted on the functions and operations of the following Provincial Juvenile Justice Committee; Eastern Highlands Provincial Juvenile Justice Committee, Western Highlands Provincial Juvenile Justice Committee, East New Britain Provincial Juvenile Justice Committee and the Madang Provincial Juvenile Justice Committee.
- ❑ Thirty-five (35) Juveniles were supported into undergoing various Rehabilitation and Reintegration programs
- ❑ A total of 20 Juvenile Justice Officers and 125 Volunteer Juvenile Justice officers undertook various capacity building trainings.



Figure 42 Mr. Collin Sakap, Executive Director of Juvenile Justice Service, delivering his official remarks at the National Conference on Justice for Children.



Figure 43 Signing of the Contract Agreement for the refurbishment and maintenance work at Wewak Boys Town.



Figure 44 Juvenile Justice Service officers both at the national and sub-national level including the Probation Officers attended the training on Juvenile Justice Officers Handbook.



Figure 45 Juvenile Justice Service in collaboration with the National Narcotics Bureau conducting awareness in schools in NCD including the commemoration of the International Children's Day.



Figure 46 Volunteer Juvenile Justice Officers who are members from New Britain New Ireland Mission in East New Britain Province

Operational Data

No.	Juvenile Rehabilitation and Reintegration Initiative/Program	Juvenile Participants	
1.	Bomana Tyre Ministry, where participants are trained (certified) to transform tyres into other products such as slippers, sandals, flower pots, etc.	15	CS Bomana
2.	Enhancing Literacy through Bible Class, coordinated by CS Welfare and rehabilitation officer.	7	CS Beon
3.	Psychiatric rehabilitation at Laloki Psychiatric Hospital.	1	CS Bomana
4.	Attending City Mission Rehabilitation programs.	2	CS Bomana
5.	Juveniles attending schools after school spaces were secured through the NCD Office	4	Hohola Rehabilitation Centre
6.	A juvenile in West New Britain attended Grade 8 Education.	1	Lakiemata
7.	Juveniles in Manus attending school	3	Manus
8.	Juveniles in Erap Boys attended Grade 8 Education	2	Erap Boys Town

Table 11: Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Juveniles

No.	Training/Workshop	Participants	
1.	Volunteer Juvenile Justice Officer (VJJO) Training	10	New VJJOs of SDA Congregation of ENB – New Britain New Island Mission (NBNIM)
2.	Basic Counselling Training of Trainers for VJJO	10	VJJO from SDA Congregation ENB - NBNIM
3.	Community-Based Counsellors Training	83	VJJOs Across East New Britain Province
4.	Volunteer Juvenile Justice Officers Training	22	Members of Salvation Army NCD/Central
5.	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Training	5	JJ Officer – HQ
6.	Child Protection Training	2	JJ Officer – HQ
7.	Corrections Technology Conference in Adelaide	1	JJ Officer – HQ
8.	Training on Basic Research Skills.	1	JJ Officer – HQ
9.	Pacific Research Colloquium/Symposium	1	JJ Officer - HQ
10.	Workshop on Regional Gender Based Violence/ Domestic Violence Counselling Framework.	1	JJ Officer - HQ
11.	Certificate in Leadership and Governance at PILAG sponsored by SP Brewery	2	JJ Officer - Wewak/Madang
12.	Counselling Training	1	JJ Officer – Lae
13.	Analysis, Understanding and Communication of Data (MEL AUCD)	1	JJ Officer – HQ
14.	Cloud Based database management system Induction	5	JJ Officer – HQ

Table 12: Juvenile Justice Services Trainings and Capacity Building for officers and volunteers



Figure 47 (left) Orientation meeting with team from the Coram International

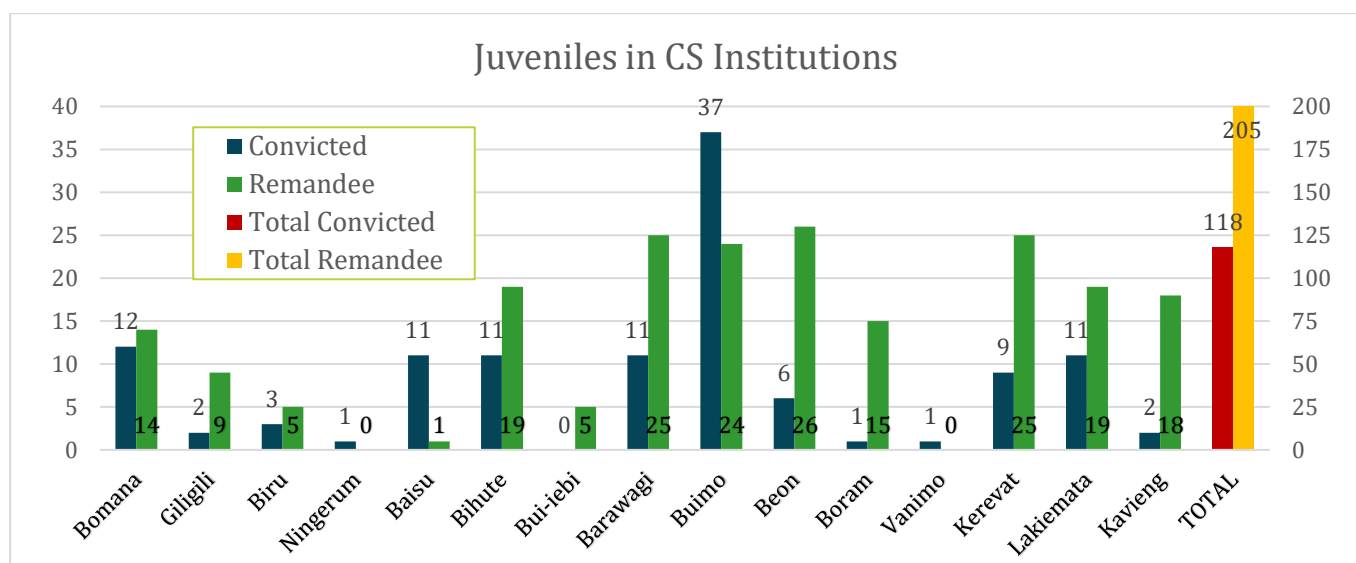


Figure 48 Juveniles held within CS Institutions

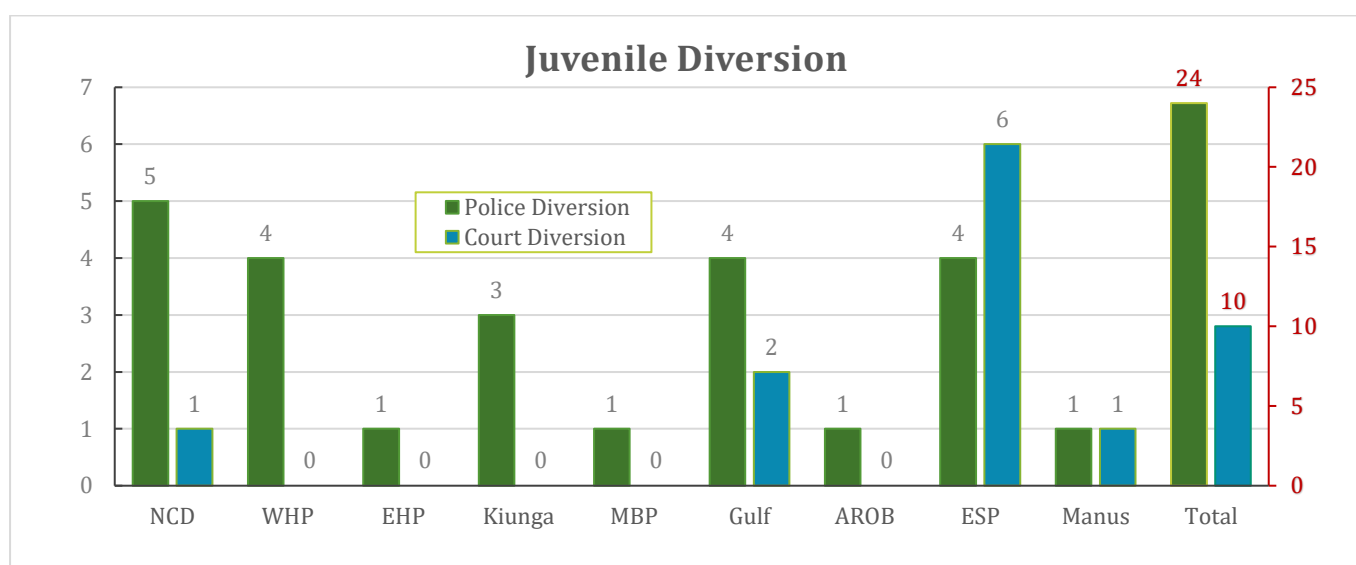


Figure 49 The number of juveniles diverted

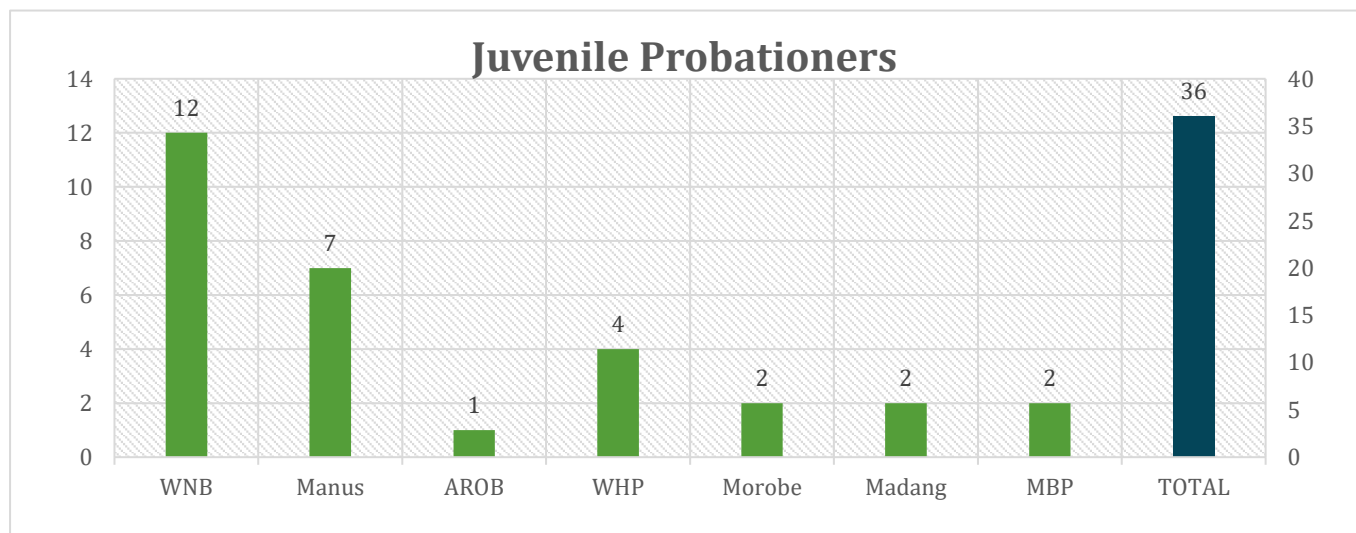


Figure 50 The number of juvenile probationers supervised

2.5 IMPROVE GOVERNANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY, PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITY, BUSINESS SYSTEMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH SOUND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

2.5.1 Information and Communication Technology

The objective is to provide efficient and effective Information Communication Technology (ICT) services for improved business systems, information management, communication, connectivity and security.

The Information Communication and Technology Branch is responsible for the provision of ICT services which include the establishment and maintenance of reliable and secured Network Infrastructures; establishment and maintenance of Server Infrastructure Systems; development and maintenance of Solution Applications. The focus is to improve connectivity and communication, database development and management, cyber-security software, ICT training and advanced research capabilities and software applications.

The ICT Branch completed a total of 12 out of 21 program activities on a budget appropriation of 12% less than the requested budget of K451 thousand. The same budget allocated is shared with the library and Records Management services within the department

The ICT Branch performance generated about 13 program output where bulk of the work was focused on organisational capacity building and followed by the improvement of business process client service.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ In response to the increased demand on DJAG ICT services at WNB, the ICT Branch, upgraded and/or installed the following critical ICT Infrastructure:
 - i) LAN Switches upgraded; – improving network condition and enabling data traffic management. For example, all VDI thin clients have been routed to a dedicated switch enabling efficient user connectivity
 - ii) DJAG website bandwidth upgraded from 20GB to 50GB; – improving data flow and internet speed.
 - iii) Installed new DJAG backup server (in Veeam VBR), licensed under Veeam Universal License which also was upgraded from Version 10 to 12.
 - iv) DJAG Exchange Mail Server upgraded following a 3-day downtime on the DJAG Justice Email Service.
 - v) Installed new Split Air Conditioners within the Data Centre/Room improving operational environment for all servers to run continuously for 24 hours including weekends.

- ❑ Successful partnership with NJSS in facilitating Integrated Criminal Case System Database (ICCSDB) access for CBC users. NCD training implemented.
- ❑ Partnered with NJSS in rolling out a Data Management System for VCandLMS
- ❑ Direct recruitment of 1 x EA and 1 x support officer to boost manpower
- ❑ Successful completion of draft OSS DTS Web Application.
- ❑ Attended few Public Service ICT Steering Committee with the Department of ICT and participated in the drafting (proposed) standards and guidelines in compliance with the PNG Government Digital Act 2022:
 - Domain Name Standards and Guidelines
 - Website Standards and Guidelines
 - Email Standards and Guidelines
 - Cyber Security Standards and Guidelines
- ❑ Partnership with DICT and DataCo in establishing Government Private Network.



Figure 51 ICT Branch Staff working on the servers

2.5.2 Infrastructure and Capital Works

Goal is to provide accessibility to law and justice services through timely construction and maintenance of quality infrastructure buildings for office space, staff accommodation and community service centres.

The Department's Infrastructure and Capital Works Program is delivered through the Assets and Facilities Branch. The Branch is responsible for planning/designing and coordinating of infrastructural projects for the Department at the National, Provincial and District level. These include construction of office space, staff accommodation, Community Justice Service Centres and Village Court Houses. Additionally, it also conducts routine maintenance on institutional property, fleet coordination, maintaining an asset registry and providing security.

The Assets and Facilities Branch completed a total of 8 out of 12 program activities on a budget appropriation of 1% less than the requested budget.

The Assets and Facilities Branch performance generated about 27 program outputs where bulk of the work was focused on organisational capacity building followed by improvement of business processes and client service.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Thirteen Community Justice Service Centers (CJSC)s have been completed; five CJSCs are in operation and eight are yet to be commissioned.
- ❑ The accommodation for CJSC coordinators is as important as the centres. This project initiative has been initiated at CJSC Wasu and CJSC Pomio with Kit Homes materials being procured for the project sites.
- ❑ Three village court house projects have been completed in the village court areas of Bootless Bay, Mutzin and Wampar in Central and Morobe provinces respectively. The projects at the completion stages are Pari Village Court House in NCD and Balanataman/Bitapaka Village Court House, in ENB.
- ❑ Minister for Justice and Senior Executive Officers from the Department officiated the ground breaking ceremony for DJAG Home Ownership Scheme at Laloki last year. This was done after receiving land title from the Department of Lands. Excavation work has already commenced.
- ❑ Asset Audit conducted by Assets and Facilities recorded assets valued at K1.7 million from fifteen branches that submitted their asset registries.
- ❑ WNB Haus Ground floor client waiting area was moved from a confined area to the more spacious (Cafeteria) area installed with a large LED screen and chairs for over 100 clients.



Figure 52 Opening & Commissioning of Rabaul CJSC



Figure 53 Opening & Commissioning of Pomio CJSC

Operational Data

No	District CJs	Province	Status	Description
1	Lumi	West Sepik	Completed	Commissioned
2	Ambunti	East Sepik	Completed	Pending Commissioning
3	Angoram	East Sepik	Completed	Commissioned
4	Wosera/Gawi	East Sepik	Completed	Pending Commissioning
5	Bogia	Madang	In progress	Finishing Touch
6	Wasu	Morobe	In progress	Finishing Touch
7	Tewai/Siassi	Morobe	Completed	Pending Commissioning
8	Pomio	ENBP	Completed	Commissioned
9	Rabaul	ENBP	Completed	Commissioned
10	Torokina	ARoB	Completed	Commissioned
11	Ijivitari	Northern	In progress	Finishing Touch
12	Ialibu/Pangia	SHP	Completed	Commissioned
13	Imbongu	SHP	In progress	Finishing Touch
14	Tambul/Nebilyer	WHP	Completed	Pending Commissioning
15	Kandep	Enga	In progress	Under Construction
16	Obura/Wonenara	EHP	In progress	Under Construction
17	Yangoru	East Sepik	Land Secured and Fenced	Pending DDA counterpart funding
18	Wapenamanda	Enga	Pending Executive Decision	Land and Counterpart part funding available
19	Menyamya	Morobe	Pending DDA Response	DDA yet to respond
20	Wau/Waria	Morobe	EOI received	Expression of interest received
21	Goilala	Central	EOI received	Pending Executive Decision
22	Kiunga	Western	EOI received	Pending MOU and Executive Decision

Table 13 Status of Community Justice Service Centers

2.5.3 Human Resource Management

The objective is to improve capacity, capability, skills and quality of our human resource for integrity and professionalism in the delivery of law and justice services.

The Human Resource Management Branch is responsible for the recruitment, training, personnel matters and disciplinary processes. Its focus area includes the restructure of the Department, selecting qualified staff, reducing attachment and retiring staff, developing a training facility, monitoring staff performance and recommending incentives, adopting a modern human resource management capability and aligning staff wellbeing and performance with the GESI policy.

The Human Resource Management Branch completed a total of 7 out of 39 program activities on a budget appropriation of about K548,000.

The Human Resource Management Branch performance generated about 237 program outputs where bulk of the work was focused on organisational capacity building and less for client service.



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Guide Template submissions have been developed to help HR and DJAG representatives on PSC reinstatements and back payments. The template should guide representative to better argue or address error in the process, standard of evidence and proof, unjust enrichment, alternative orders to reinstatement and full back payments.
- ❑ Department's initial 784 vacancies have been reduced down to 553 through the following recruitment techniques: 77% internal recruitment, 8% of external recruitment and 15% direct recruitment and short-term contract.
- ❑ Our recent recruitment has seen most of senior contract positions filled.
- ❑ DPM has finally returned HR recruitment powers back to the Department. Department is now able to fast track most selections and administrative processes.
- ❑ All required OD forms and tables for 2024 PE budget estimates have been completed and submitted to DoT, DoF and DPM
- ❑ Capability Need Analysis: The HRD section has completed the capability need analysis for HQ and, starting this quarter, the team will focus on conducting the C.N.A for provincial staff
- ❑ HR Risk Management Plan: Developed HRM Branch risk management plan, identified the risks or gaps and develop the mitigation strategies
- ❑ HRM promotes DJAG at the UPNG Career Exposition

Operational Data

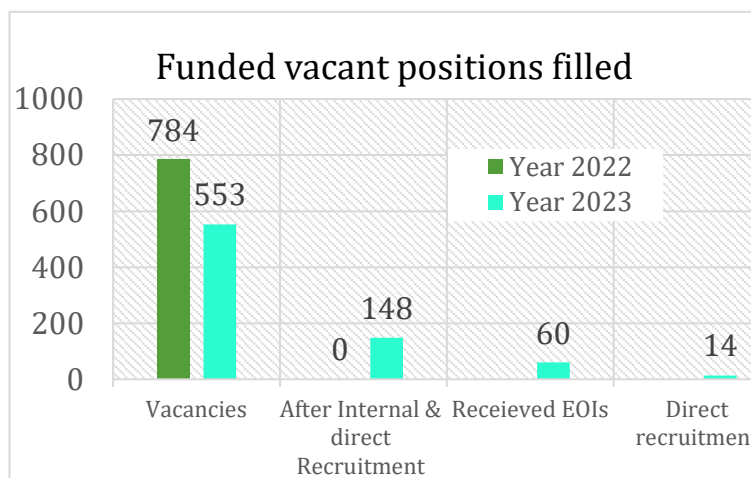


Figure 54 Manpower Reconciliation

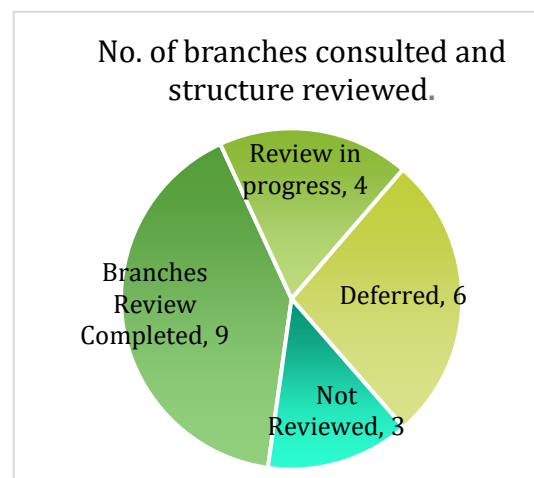


Figure 55 Review functional structures

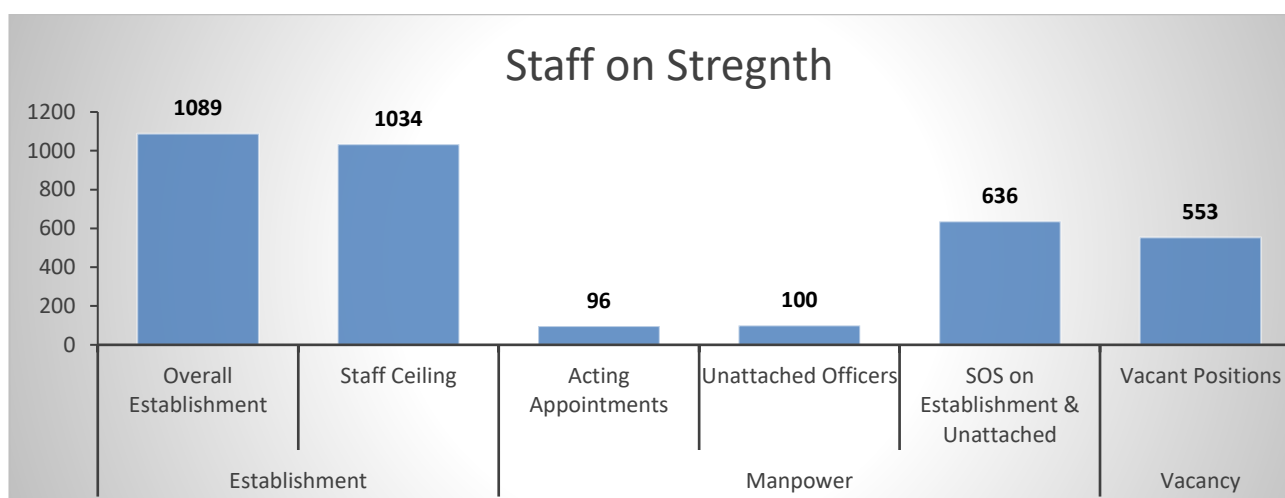


Figure 56 Manpower Information

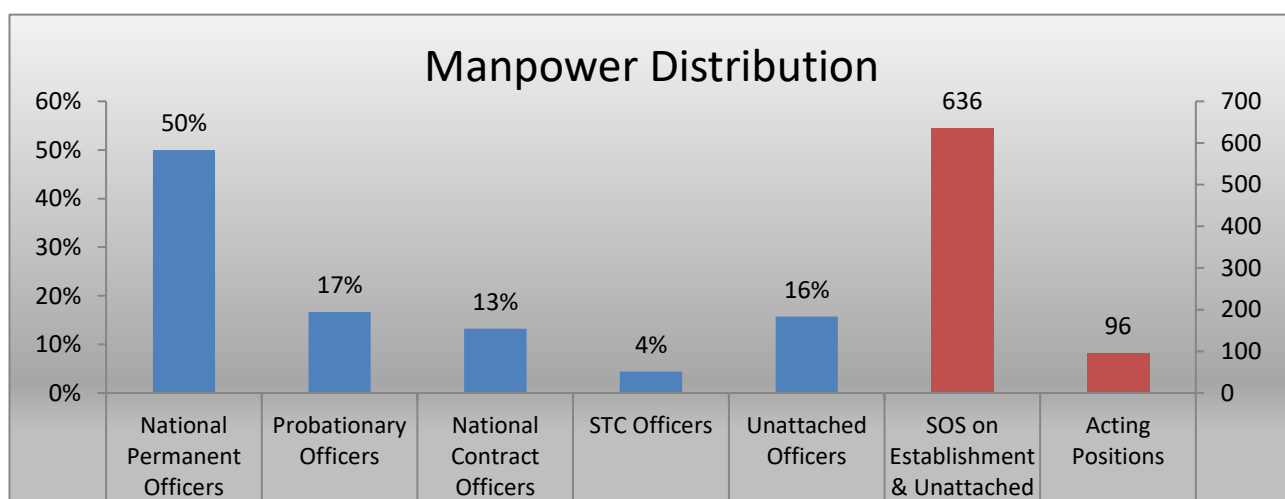


Figure 57 Manpower Distribution

Total Established Positions	1089
Staff Ceiling on Funded Positions	1034
Unfunded Positions	55
Funded Vacancies	498
Unfunded Vacancies	55
Total Vacancies	553
Senior Contract Positions (Legal + non-legal)	260
Senior Contract Positions (Legal)	166
Senior Contract Positions (Non-Legal)	94
Non-Contract Positions (Legal +non-legal)	829
Non-Contract Positions (Legal)	67
Non-Contract Positions (Non-Legal)	762
Officers within Retirement Age Range (Compulsory and Voluntary)	98
Officers within the Compulsory Retirement Age Range	46
Officers within the Voluntary/Discretionary Age Range	52
Total No. Acting Appointments (HDA/NRA/Same Grade)	96
Short-Term Contract (Legal)	1
Short-Term Contract (Non-Legal)	27
Total Short-Term Contract (Legal + non-legal)	28
National Permanent Officers	318
Probationary Officers	106
National Contract Officers	84
Total SOS on Established Positions	536
Unattached Officers	100
Total SOS including Unattached Officers	636
Male	353
Female	283

Table 14 Staff Establishment Summary (as at December, 2023)

2.5.4 Executive Management Branch

The Executive Management Branch comprises the Office of the Secretary and his Deputies Secretaries, and Executive Support services including Procurement, Internal Audits, Public relations and Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI).



Performance Highlights

- ❑ Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Branch (PME) continues to support Department's strategic planning and budgeting process, whilst guiding implementation through a stringent monitoring and evaluation work including:
 - ✓ Tabling of Department's 2022 AMR in Parliament;
 - ✓ Finalization of Draft Corporate Plan 2024 – 2027;
 - ✓ PME successfully ran 4 Quarterly Performance Review Workshops, from which Quarterly Budget Review Reports were furnished for Departments of Treasury and National Planning and Monitoring and
 - ✓ Information for DJAG's 2023 AMR was progressively gathered.
- ❑ The Library and Records Branch indexed/coded 8509 and scanned 10,065 PNG Acts/Regulations and 16,200 records from OSG, HRM, LPG and EMB. A total of 34,000 files (dating back to 1988-2023) were inputted into Records Management Database.
- ❑ Internal Audit Unit (IAU) conducted Regional Audits in Lae, Kokopo and Mt Hagen into:
 - The office of Public Trustee;
 - Community Based Correction;
 - Office of the Solicitor General; and
 - Village Court and Land Mediation Services.The consequent audit reports were endorsed by the Secretary distributed to the Auditees.
 - The Bank Reconciliation statements were reviewed for the DJAG Recurrent Bank account;
 - The DJAG Payroll for 2022 was also audited;
 - The BOS exercise was completed for the Kokopo provincial office;
 - Also assisted with the Estate Audit for the Office of Public Trustees office in Kokopo and
 - Also conducted some minor investigations where three reports were compiled.



Figure 58 Internal Audit Team

- ❑ The Media Unit continues to support the Office of the Minister, Secretary and DJAG as a whole through all Public Relations and Media related work. For example, coverage of 10 DJAG events, publishing of 10 press statements from the Office of Secretary and the Ministers Office, and releasing 4 Quarterly DJAG Newsletters.
- ❑ The Executive Management Branch through the Procurement Unit supports the Department with timely official travels and mobility through the management of DJAG Centralized Air Travel Account with Air Niugini and pre-paid Fuel Account with Lifu Holdings Limited.
- ❑ GEDSI Unit coordinated training for 10 DJAG Mentees to undergo at PILAG on Leadership and Management and supported Law and Justice Sector GEDSI COP successfully host National Women's Day panel discussion on the theme: Digit ALL; Innovation and Technology for gender equality.

3. DJAG MANPOWER SUMMARY

The Department is operating with significant workforce capacity gaps. As of December 2023, only 536 funded positions were filled against an establishment of 1,089 positions, representing a vacancy rate of approximately 50.7%. This situation presents immediate and longer-term risks to the department's operational effectiveness, service delivery, and reform implementation.

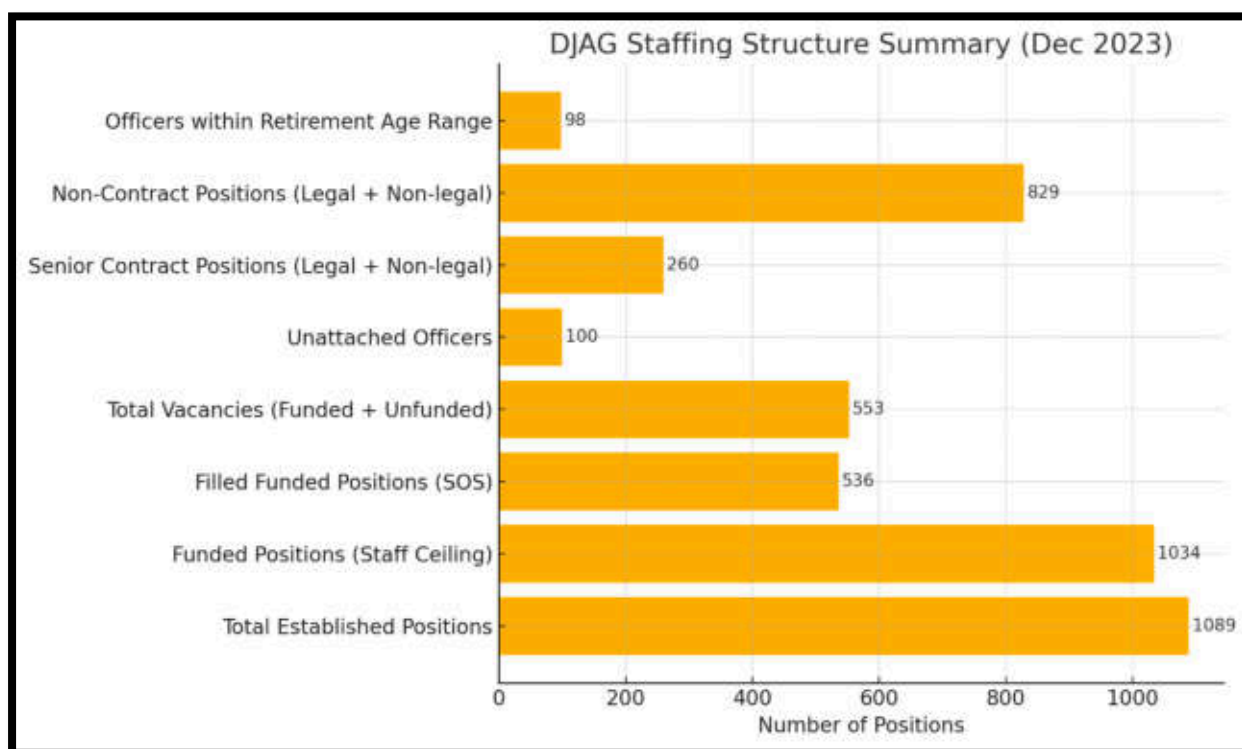


Figure 59 Manpower Summary

Workforce Composition

- Senior Contract Positions: 260 (Legal: 166; Non-legal: 94)
- Non-Contract Positions: 829 (Legal: 67; Non-legal: 762)
- Probationary Officers: 106
- Short-Term Contracts: 28
- Acting Appointments: 96

Workforce Risks and Issues

1. High Vacancy Levels
 - Over half of positions remain vacant, placing pressure on existing staff and limiting program delivery.
2. Heavy Reliance on Acting Appointments
 - 96 acting positions indicate delayed permanent appointments and potential for role instability.
3. Unattached Officers
 - 100 officers without formal deployment suggest ongoing challenges in position management and placement.
4. Succession Planning Concerns

- 98 officers within retirement age, including 46 compulsory retirements, highlight emerging replacement needs.
- 5. Legal Workforce Imbalance
 - Senior legal positions are heavily contract-based; non-legal staff dominate non-contract positions.

Gender Balance

- Male: 353 (55%)
- Female: 283 (45%)
- Gender distribution is generally balanced, supporting equity objectives.

Going Forward

- Immediate focus required on recruitment, workforce planning, and HR process efficiency.
- Review funding alignment with approved establishment to address unfunded positions.
- Succession planning and mentoring essential to address retirement pipeline.
- Strengthen workforce data management and reporting for better HR decision-making.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE and ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Principal Activities of the Department of Justice and Attorney General

The Principal Activities of the Department is to ensure the efficient, effective and expeditious settlement of disputes through the Justice System. The maintenance of social order according to the rule of law; to promote a social order according to the rule of law, to promote a just and caring society consistent with human rights and dignity and to support economic development.

2 The Approach

The Approach I have taken in the preparation and presentation of these reports and statements is with the specific intention to inject greater accountability and transparency into the Department's financial operation and management under my leadership. Hence, these financial report and financial statements present a full, fair and complete disclosure of all financial transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023. With the intention to account for every kina that was given to the Department for the period, as our budget for our custodianship and our expenditure, to achieve our functional roles and responsibilities and ultimately the mission and vision for which we stand — **TO ACHIEVE A JUST, SAFE AND SECURE SOCIETY.**

3 The Results

The operational result of my Department; unlike that of a trading enterprise, measured by a profit and loss statement and statement of assets and liabilities, on the accrual basis of accounting. Whereas, my department is like any other government department. The result of our operation, our ability and capability to effectively implement and manage our resources and affairs according to our national budget is measured by the outcome of our budget execution. Our results are reported and presented in the financial reports or accountability statements. as legally required under the provisions of the *Public Finance Management Act*. The main purpose of preparing and presenting these statements is to promote public accountability. These reports are given hereafter, providing for the basis of measuring the results of our operation for the period.

I therefore, have the pleasure to present the Department of Justice and Attorney General's Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023.



DR ERIC KWA, PhD
Secretary for Justice

Dated this 21st day of March, 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3.1 The Appropriation Statement

The Appropriation Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023 is a special form of accountability statement, a mirror image of the *Appropriation Act*. It is prepared by the Department to cover the initial funds approved for the Department by the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, the revised appropriation funds approved by the Department of Treasury during the year and the approved funds released to the Department, by the Department of Finance.

The initial appropriation for 2023 by the National Parliament of PNG was K 158,844,438. The final revised appropriation of K181,176,586 was allocated to the department.

The available funds released for the year ended 31st December 2023 by the Department of Finance is K181,176,586 against the department's actual expenditure of K169,932,647,

Out of the total funds released for the department, K172,176,586 was released for the recurrent budget and K9,000,000, was made available for the development budget.

The department expended K160,938,412 for its recurrent budget programs and K8,994,235 for its development budget programs.

The details for the recurrent and development budget program expenditure for the year ended is provided on pages 69 to 71.

3.2 The Drawing Account

Because the Account is defined as a drawing account, by definition the cash reimbursement must equal the total value of cheques drawn for a time, therefore in theory, when all cheques drawn are presented, the balance in the bank must be zero.

In practice, it may not be the case, due to the outstanding cash reimbursements, cheques drawn are not presented, direct debits and credits are yet to be cleared in the bank or vice versa in the cash book at end of balance date.

The total net income for the drawing account for the period is K35,013,675 comprising of an opening debit balance of K5,784,139 and total receipts of K40,797,814. The total expenditure for the drawing account for the period is K47,776,388. The net income matched against the net expenditure gives a debit balance of K12,762,713. This deficit represents the accounts 'un-presented cheques', which are yet to be presented to the bank as at 31st December 2023.

The Reconciliation of the Drawing Account with the Bank Account, shows that the Cash Book balance of K12,762,713 agrees with the Bank Account balance of K12,762,713 Indicating good stewardship.

The details to the drawing account are provided for on pages 71 to 72.

3.3 Trust Accounts

The Trust Accounts are established as directed by the Minister responsible for Finance or in other cases prescribed by any other law —

- (a) to receive moneys held by the State as trustee; or
- (b) to receive the proceeds of commercial or trading activities carried on by any arm, agents or instrumentality of the state; or
- (c) for such other purpose as may be approved by the Minister.

All monies appropriated, received from dealing with any articles purchased or produced, paid by any person for the purpose of the trust account must be paid to the credit of the Trust Account.

Moneys paid out of the Trust Account are, neither for the purpose of the Trust Account nor as authorized by law and if a sufficient credit is available in the account.

The Department Head of a Department responsible for the Trust Account shall ensure the management and operation of that account.

The Department manages and operates the trust accounts listed below:

- Library Trust Account,
- Legal Fees and Brief Out's Trust Account, and
- The DJAG General Trust Account.

The current status and the operational results of the trust accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023, giving details of income and expenditure are provided for in the report on pages 72 to 76.

The Net Results of the Library Trust Account is a credit balance of K709,702, Legal Fees and Brief Out's Trust Account is a credit balance of K620,688 and the DJAG General Trust Account is a credit balance of K1,029,332.

The financial statements for the trust accounts are provided for on pages 73 to 76 as well.

3.4 Development (PIP) Budget Expenditure

The summary of the development budget are as follows:

Code	Development Budget Program	2023
		K
23044	RJ Initiative Program (Crime Prevention)	3,000,000
23923	National Land Tenure Conversion Establishment	1,996,886
23953	Furthering Human Rights Program	999,991
23954	Juvenile Justice Rehabilitation Program	2,000,001
24182	Child Nutrition and Social Protection Project	997,357
		8,994,235

3.5 Fixed Assets

The Department Asset Register to date, has not been update and therefore, a register for 'office equipment' was only provided, as at 14 February 2024; and as that date the Department has 'office equipment' to a total value of K2,186,442. The details are as follows;

However, as per proper accounting reporting standards; the department does not take into account asset disposal, retirement, adjustment, transfers, at both cost and depreciation.

The summary of the office equipment, as at 14 February 2024, is provided for on page 77.

3.6 Other Disclosures

The Department of Justice and Attorney General operates as a function of the National Government and is required to comply with the requirements and other disclosures requirements under Section 3 (3) of the *Public Finance Management Act 2006* (as amended).

THE APPROPRIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Code	Vote	Initial	Current	Warrant	Expenditure
		2023	2023	2023	2023
		K	K	K	K
10248	State Solicitor	5,755,330	16,739,300	16,739,300	14,047,372
10250	Solicitor General	6,853,450	9,781,050	9,781,050	10,110,854
12002	Commercial Law	208,000	208,000	208,000	207,994
13223	Law and Justice Sector Secretariat	3,236,880	3,236,880	3,236,880	2,879,076
21761	Infra and Cptl Works	10,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	7,999,974
	Administration and Improvement of Laws and the Legal System	26,053,660	37,965,230	37,965,230	35,245,269
10242	Top Management	15,521,400	15,521,400	15,521,400	7,716,907
10243	Policy Planning and Co-ordination	1,341,240	1,341,240	1,341,240	1,285,098
10244	Financial Management and Planning	2,131,350	2,131,350	2,131,350	2,301,637
10245	Human Resource Management	10,262,307	10,373,485	10,373,485	3,603,201
10246	Information Management Systems	1,808,259	1,808,259	1,808,259	3,248,454
10247	Deceased Estates	3,735,480	4,044,880	4,044,880	5,138,332
11643	Legal Policy	1,994,931	1,994,931	1,994,931	2,376,632
11644	Brief Outs	2,044,000	12,044,000	12,044,000	12,043,999
11755	Internal Audit Services	267,000	267,000	267,000	253,938
11932	Properties and Security	3,219,000	3,219,000	3,219,000	4,290,184
11933	Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC)	227,000	227,000	227,000	226,997
	Top Management and General Administration	42,551,967	52,972,545	52,972,545	42,485,380
10758	ABG Land Mediators Allowances	442,980	442,980	442,980	451,881
10759	Central Province Land Mediators Allowances	248,375	248,375	248,375	165,037
10760	Enga Province Land Mediators Allowances	14,590	14,590	14,590	0
10761	East New Britain Province Land Mediators Allowances	214,240	214,240	214,240	237,930
10762	Eastern Highlands Province Land Mediators	277,070	277,070	277,070	277,375
10763	East Sepik Province Land Mediators Allowances	311,060	311,060	311,060	289,700
10764	Gulf Province Land Mediators Allowances	125,660	125,660	125,660	122,505
10765	Hela Province Land Mediators Allowances	176,130	176,130	176,130	170,855
10766	Jiwaka Province Land Mediators Allowances	116,463	116,463	116,463	69,730
10767	Madg Province Land Mediators Allowances	226,600	226,600	226,600	229,056
10768	Manus Province Land Mediators Allowances	151,410	151,410	151,410	145,902
10769	Milne Bay Province Land Mediators Allowances	201,880	201,880	201,880	193,409
10770	Morobe Province Land Mediators Allowances	418,120	418,120	418,120	293,307
10771	New Ireland Province Land Mediators Allowances	125,660	125,660	125,660	112,789

10772	Northern Province Land Mediators Allowances	113,300	113,300	113,300	112,941
10773	NCD Land Mediators Allowances	37,080	37,080	37,080	37,038
10774	Simbu Province Land Mediators Allowances	252,350	252,350	252,350	202,309
10775	Southern Highlands Province Land Mediators	286,804	286,804	286,804	243,967
10777	West New Britain Province Land Mediators	151,410	151,410	151,410	137,438
10778	Sandaun Province Land Mediation Allowances	203,880	203,880	203,880	181,149
10779	Western Province Land Mediators Allowances	253,525	253,525	253,525	169,520
13096	Western Highlands Province Land Mediators	158,693	158,693	158,693	124,396
	Land Mediators Allowance	4,507,280	4,507,280	4,507,280	3,968,234
10253	Community Based Corrections	4,527,990	4,527,990	4,527,990	5,488,075

Code	Vote	Initial	Current	Warrant	Expenditur
10254	Community Courts	3,563,599	3,563,599	3,563,599	3,728,062
10256	Land Mediation Division	364,999	364,999	364,999	364,992
11902	Office of Ocean Affairs	424,000	424,000	424,000	423,998
11935	Humans Rights Secretariat	238,000	238,000	238,000	238,000
11936	Parole Board Secretariat	1,176,530	1,176,530	1,176,530	1,374,026
11937	Juvenile Justice	1,938,590	1,938,590	1,938,590	2,751,849
11938	Restorative Justice	1,655,120	1,655,120	1,655,120	2,066,997
13058	National Narcotics Bureau	2,939,490	2,939,490	2,939,490	4,941,035
13446	Land Commission of PNG	3,049,290	3,049,290	3,049,290	893,999
13447	Research and Development	651,603	651,603	651,603	187,330
	Community Justice	20,529,211	20,529,211	20,529,211	22,458,363
13018	Bougainville Village Court Allowance	2,261,880	2,261,880	2,261,880	2,619,182
13019	Central Province Village Court Allowance	2,623,410	2,623,410	2,623,410	2,665,030
13020	Enga Province Village Court Allowance	6,004,900	6,004,900	6,004,900	6,449,034
13021	East New Britain Province Village Court Allowance	1,614,010	1,614,010	1,614,010	1,799,114
13022	Eastern Highlands Province Village Court Allowance	3,908,850	3,908,850	3,908,850	3,330,605
13023	East Sepik Province Village Court Allowance	3,822,330	3,822,330	3,822,330	3,218,123
13024	Gulf Province Village Court Allowance	1,892,110	1,892,110	1,892,110	1,985,873
13025	Hela Province Village Court Allowance	1,738,640	1,738,640	1,738,640	1,738,797
13026	Jiwaka Province Village Court Allowance	1,752,030	1,752,030	1,752,030	1,774,028
13027	Madang Province Village Court Allowance	3,179,610	3,179,610	3,179,610	3,423,991
13028	Manus Province Village Court Allowance	1,778,810	1,778,810	1,778,810	1,903,950
13029	Milne Bay Province Village Court Allowance	3,065,280	3,065,280	3,065,280	2,931,990
13030	Morobe Province Village Court Allowance	3,178,580	3,178,580	3,178,580	2,631,874
13031	New Ireland Province Village Court Allowance	1,538,820	1,538,820	1,538,820	1,424,447
13032	Northern Province Village Court Allowance	1,677,870	1,677,870	1,677,870	1,521,386
13033	NCD Village Court Allowance	1,102,100	1,102,100	1,102,100	1,138,297
13034	Simbu Province Village Court Allowance	3,485,520	3,485,520	3,485,520	4,081,999
13035	Southern Highlands Province Village Court	3,437,110	3,437,110	3,437,110	4,339,571
13036	West New Britain Province Village Court Allowance	1,714,950	1,714,950	1,714,950	1,630,259
13037	Western Highlands Province Village Court	2,649,160	2,649,160	2,649,160	3,040,296
13038	Sandaun province Village Court Allowance	1,740,700	1,740,700	1,740,700	1,302,179
13039	Western Province Village Court Allowance	1,561,480	1,561,480	1,561,480	1,397,148
	Village Court Allowances	55,728,150	55,728,150	55,728,150	56,347,170
10257	Minister's Admin Support Services	474,170	474,170	474,170	433,996
	Ministerial Services	474,170	474,170	474,170	433,996
	TOTAL RECURRENT BUDGET	149,844,438	172,176,586	172,176,586	160,938,412

23044	RJ Initiative Program (Crime Prevention)	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
23923	National Land Tenure Conversion Establishment	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,996,886
23953	Furthering Human Rights Program	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	999,991
23954	Juvenile Justice Rehabilitation Program	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,001
24182	Child Nutrition and Social Protection Project	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	997,357
	TOTAL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000	8,994,235
		158,844,438	181,176,586	181,176,586	169,932,647

THE DRAWING ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	Notes	2023
		K		K
Opening balance as at 1 January 2023			3.2	(5,784,139)
RECEIPTS				
Reimbursements		36,873,993		
Cancelled Cheques		3,923,821	3.2	40,797,814
			3.2	35,013,675
PAYMENTS				
January		23,363		
February		930,407		
March		1,281,622		
April		10,183,248		
May		3,669,098		
June		2,447,225		
July		4,422,651		
August		2,369,463		
September		2,452,995		
October		(690,839)		
November		1,456,668		
December		19,230,486	3.2	47,776,388
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)			3.2	(12,762,713)

THE DRAWING ACCOUNT BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	Notes	2023
		K		K
CASH BOOK				
Opening balance as at 1 January 2023			3.2	(5,784,139)
RECEIPTS				
Reimbursements		36,873,993		
Cancelled Cheques		3,923,821	3.2	40,797,814
			3.2	35,013,675
PAYMENTS				

January		23,363		
February		930,407		
March		1,281,622		
April		10,183,248		
May		3,669,098		
June		2,447,225		
July		4,422,651		
August		2,369,463		
September		2,452,995		
October		(690,839)		
November		1,456,668		
December		19,230,486	3.2	47,776,388
Cash Book Balance			3.2	(12,762,713)
BANK ACCOUNT				
Bank Statement balance as at 31 December 2023				
Bank Fees and Charges				
Unpresented Cheques				12,762,713
Bank Statement Balance as per Cash Book			3.2	(12,762,713)

THE LIBRARY TRUST ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	Notes	2023
		K		K
Opening balance as at 1 January 2023			3.2	629,460
RECEIPTS				
Institutional Housing Rental		194,340		
Other		26,879	3.2	221,219
			3.2	850,679
PAYMENTS				
January		21,186		
February		14,969		
March		57,987		
April				
May		9,994		
June				
July		-		
August		-		
September		-		
October				
November		-		
December		36,842		140,977
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)			3.2	709,702

THE LIBRARY TRUST ACCOUNT BANK RECOILIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	Notes	2023
		K		K
CASH BOOK				
Opening balance as at 1 January 2023			3.2	629,460
RECEIPTS				
Institutional Housing Rental		194,340		
Other		26,879	3.2	221,219
			3.2	850,679
PAYMENTS				
January		21,186		
February		14,969		
March		57,987		
April		-		
May		9,994		
June		-		
July		-		
August		-		
September		-		
October		-		
November		-		
December		36,842		140,977
Cash Book Balance			3.2	709,702
BANK ACCOUNT				
Bank Statement balance as at 31 December 2023				712,084
Bank Fees and Charges		736		736
				712,820
Credits in bank not in cash book		3,121		3,121
Bank Statement Balance as per Cash Book			3.2	709,699

THE LEGAL FEES TRUST ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	Notes	2023
		K		K
Opening balance as at 1 January 2023			3.2	198,549
RECEIPTS				
Legal Fees Income		2,000,000		
Cancelled Cheques		63,222		
Other Income		105,943	3.2	2,169,165
			3.2	2,367,714
PAYMENTS				
January				
February				
March		99,989		
April		3,479		
May		1,507,791		
June				
July				
August				
September				
October		119,230		
November		16,538		
December				1,747,026
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)			3.2	620,688

THE LEGAL FEES TRUST ACCOUNT BANK RECOILATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	Notes	2023
		K		K
CASH BOOK				
Opening balance as at 1 January 2023			3.2	198,549
RECEIPTS				
Legal Fees Income		2,000,000		
Cancelled Cheques		63,222		
Other Income		105,943	3.2	2,169,165
			3.2	2,367,714
PAYMENTS				
January		-		
February				
March		99,989		
April		3,479		
May		1,507,791		
June		-		
July		-		
August		-		
September		-		
October		119,230		

November		16,538		
December				1,747,026
Cash Book Balance			3.2	620,688
BANK ACCOUNT				
Bank Statement balance as at 31 December 2023				624,897
Bank Fees and Charges				2,601
				627,498
Credits in bank not in cash book				6,809
Bank Statement Balance as per Cash Book			3.2	620,688

THE DJAG GENERAL TRUST ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	Notes	2023
		K		K
Opening balance as at 1 January 2023			3.2	1,408,819
RECEIPTS				
Reimbursements		600,169		
Cancelled and Stale Cheques		93,011		
Other Income		806,563	3.2	1,499,743
			3.2	2,908,561
PAYMENTS				
January		-		
February		563,501		
March		63,267		
April		82,728		
May		750,649		
June		44,571		
July		2,264		
August		2,500		
September		-		
October		55,501		
November		149,384		
December		164,863		1,879,229
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)			3.2	1,029,332

**THE DJAG GENERAL TRUST ACCOUNT BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	2023	Notes	2023
		K		K
CASH BOOK				
Opening balance as at 1 January 2023			3.2	1,408,819
RECEIPTS				
Reimbursements		600,169		
Cancelled and Stale Cheques		93,011		
Other Income		806,563	3.2	1,499,743
			3.2	2,908,561
PAYMENTS				
January				
February		563,501		
March		63,267		
April		82,728		
May		750,649		
June		44,571		
July		2,264		
August		2,500		
September				
October		55,501		
November		149,384		
December		164,863		1,879,229
Cash Book Balance			3.2	1,029,332
BANK ACCOUNT				
Bank Statement balance as at 31 December 2023				1,041,299
Bank Fees and Charges				683
				1,041,983
Unreconciled balance		7,122		
Credits in bank not in cash book		5,528		12,650
Bank Statement Balance as per Cash Book			3.2	1,029,332

FIXED ASSETS OFFICE EQUIPMENT ASSET REGISTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

No.	Branch	Report Date	Asset Value	Depreciation @ 5%	Current Value
			2023	2023	2023
			K	K	K
1	National Narcotics Bureau	27/01/2022	381,398	19,070	362,328
2	Assets and Facilities	24/03/2023	62,206	3,110	59,095
3	Internal Audits	24/03/2023	77,492	3,875	73,617
4	Financial Management Branch	24/03/2023	14,187	709	13,478
5	Information Management Branch	24/03/2023	195,113	9,756	185,357
6	Crime Prevention	24/03/2023	20,472	1,024	19,448
7	Ocean Affairs	24/03/2023	6,406	320	6,086
8	Parole Board	09/08/2022	68,624	3,431	65,193
9	National Lands Commission	24/03/2023	142,527	7,126	135,400
10	Legal Policy	24/03/2023	269,517	13,476	256,041
11	Library and Records	24/03/2023	172,197	8,610	163,588
12	Media and Public Relations	24/03/2023	16,162	808	15,354
13	Juvenile Justice	24/03/2023	147,926	7,396	140,530
14	Village Court and Land Mediation Secretariat	24/03/2023	25,157	1,258	23,899
15	Office of State Solicitor	24/03/2023	428,679	21,434	407,245
16	Planning and Monitoring Evaluation Branch	24/03/2023	158,380	7,919	150,461
	Grand Total		2,186,442	109,322	2,077,120

Prepared by Rajule Limited, March 2024

5 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

5.1 ANNEXURE 1: OTHER STATUTORY ANNUAL REPORTS

It is a statutory requirement that government instrumentalities and semi-autonomous offices created under respective legislation furnish Annual Reports. The following are some of these government offices that will furnish their respective reports:

- Public Curator and Official Trustee's Report;
- Land Titles Commission's Report;
- National Lands Commission's Report;
- Juvenile Justice Report; and
- Parole Board's Report.

Through the Office of the Minister for Justice and Attorney General, the Department also has oversight responsibility to ensure that the following reports are prepared and submitted:

- National Judicial Staff Services' Report;
- Judicial and Legal Services Commission's Report;
- Magisterial Services' Report;
- Constitutional and Law Reform Commission's Report;
- Legal Training Institute's Report;
- National and Supreme Courts' Report;
- Public Solicitor's Report; and
- Public Prosecutor's Report.

The National Judicial Staff Services' and the Supreme and National Courts' reports are part and parcel of, and therefore, have always been presented under the Judges' Annual Report. The Chief Magistrate's Office presents the Magisterial Services' report, whilst the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission, Legal Training Institute, Public Solicitor's, and Public Prosecutor's Offices' have always prepared their Annual Reports. The Judicial and Legal Services Commission, Juvenile Justice, Parole Board, and Village Courts are preparing their respective Annual reports. The Office of the Public Trustee is also preparing its Annual Report.

5.2 ANNEXURE 2: STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Minister for Justice and Attorney General is responsible for the following 103 Acts of Parliament:

1. *Admiralty Act* 1987
2. *Adultery and Enticement Act* 1988
3. *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing Act* 2015
4. *Arbitration Act* (Chapter 46)
5. *Arrest Act* (Chapter 339)
6. *Attorney General Act* 1989
7. *Bail Act* (Chapter 34)
8. *Bodies Corporate (Joint Tenancy) Act* (Chapter 143)
9. *Civil Aviation (Crimes) Act* (Chapter 266)
10. *Claims By and Against the State Act* 1996
11. *Compensation (Prohibition of Foreign Legal Proceedings) Act* 1995
12. *Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Act* 2004 (all provisions except Part IV)
13. *Constitutional Documents (Manner of Proof) Act* (Chapter 5)
14. *Constitutional Office Holders Retirement Benefit Act* 1986
15. *Control Substance Act* 2021
16. *Coroners Act* (Chapter 32)
17. *Creditors Remedies (Papua) Act* (Chapter 47)
18. *Criminal Code Act* (Chapter 262)
19. *Criminal Code (Costs) Act* 1986
20. *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crime Against Children) Act* 2002
21. *Criminal Justice (Sentences) Act* 1986
22. *Criminal Law (Bail) Act* 1986
23. *Criminal Law (Compensation) Act* 1991
24. *Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act* (Chapter 263)
25. *Customs Recognition Act* (Chapter 19)
26. *Cybercrime Code Act* 2016
27. *Defamation Act* (Chapter 293)
28. *Defence (Visiting Forces) Act* (Chapter 77) (ss. 13, 16 (4) (b) and 27 only)
29. *Discriminatory Practices Act* (Chapter 269)
30. *District Courts Act* (Chapter 40)
31. *Enclosed Land Protection Act* (Chapter 294)
32. *Evidence Act* (Chapter 48)
33. *Extradition Act* 2005
34. *Fairness of Transaction Act* 1993
35. *Frauds and Limitations Act* 1988
36. *Goods Act* (Chapter 251)
37. *Hire-Purchase Act* (Chapter 252)
38. *Insolvency Act* (Chapter 253)
39. *Instruments Act* (Chapter 254)
40. *Inter-Group Fighting Act* (Chapter 344)
41. *Judges' Pension Act* 1997
42. *Judgment Enforcement (Reciprocal Arrangements) Act* 1976
43. *Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Act* (Chapter 51)
44. *Juvenile Justice Act* 2014
45. *Land (Corrected Titles) Act* 1986 (s.5 only)

46. *Land Disputes Settlement Act* (Chapter 45)
47. *Land (Tenure Conversion) Act* 1963
48. *Land Titles Commission Act* 1962
49. *Law of Property (Execution of Powers) Act* (Chapter 45)
50. *Lawyers Act* 1986
51. *Leadership Code (Alternative Penalties) Act* (Chapter 1A)
52. *Magisterial Service Act* (Chapter 43)
53. *Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act* (Chapter 279)
54. *Marketable Securities Act* (Chapter 259)
55. *Married Women's Property Act* (Chapter 281)
56. *Matrimonial Causes Act* (Chapter 282)
57. *Mercantile Act* (Chapter 260)
58. *Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act* 2005
59. *National Court Act* (Chapter 38)
60. *National Court Assessors (T.N.G) Act* (Chapter 42)
61. *National Court (Number of Judges) Act* (Chapter 404)
62. *National Judicial Service Act* 1987
63. *National Land Registration Act* (Chapter 357)
64. *National Narcotics Control Board Act* 1992
65. *Native Regulation (Papua) Act* (Chapter 316)
66. *Oaths, Affirmations and Statutory Declarations Act* (Chapter 317)
67. *Offences (Overseas) Act* 1984
68. *Organic Law on Certain Constitutional Office-Holders (Parts II and III only)*
69. *Organic Law on the Advisory Committee on the Power of Mercy*
70. *Organic Law on the Internment Tribunal*
71. *Organic Law on the Judicial and Legal Services Commission*
72. *Organic Law on the Terms and Conditions of Employment of Judges*
73. *Parole Act* 1991
74. *Partnership Act* (Chapter 148)
75. *Pawnbrokers Act* (Chapter 93)
76. *Peace and Goods Order Act* 1991
77. *Post-Graduate Legal Training Act* (Chapter 168) (except s.10)
78. *Probation Act* (Chapter 381)
79. *Proceeds of Crime Act* 2005
80. *Property Dealings (Validation) Act* (Chapter 356)
81. *Public Curator Act* (Chapter 81)
82. *Public Prosecutor (Office and Functions) Act* (Chapter 338)
83. *Public Solicitor (Changes) Act* (Chapter 337)
84. *Reciprocal Enforcement of Custody Orders Act* (Chapter 336)
85. *Sale of Stolen Cattle Prevention Act* (Chapter 223)
86. *Search Act* (Chapter 341)
87. *Sheriff Act* (Chapter 55)
88. *Simultaneous Deaths Act* (Chapter 332)
89. *Sorcery Act* (Chapter 274)
90. *Summary Ejectment Act* (Chapter 202)
91. *Summary Offences Act* 1977
92. *Supreme Court Act* (Chapter 37)
93. *Trust Accounts Act* (Chapter 287)
94. *Trustee Companies Act* (Chapter 288)
95. *Trustees and Executors Act* (Chapter 289)
96. *Unclaimed Goods Act* (Chapter 325)

97. *Underlying Law Act* 2000
98. *United Nations Financial Sanctions Act* 2015
99. *Vagrancy Act* (Chapter 268)
100. *Village Courts Act* 1989
101. *Wills, Probate and Administration Act* (Chapter 291)
102. *Wrongs (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act* (Chapter 297)
103. *Y2K Fairness in Litigation Act* 1999

