



Action Plan 2016-2017

Supreme Court of the Maldives
Male', Maldives

Action Plan 2016-2017

1. Measures to Enhance Access to Justice

Activities and Measures	Priority	Responsible agency	Commencing / Starting Date	Cost	Outcome
1. Enhance Public Confidence in the Judiciary and the Public's understanding of the Judicial Process and System					
a) Mount a public enlightenment campaign including the production of basic information materials for court users. (Pamphlets, Handbills) Posters, Leaflets, TV and Radio Spots	High	DJA	Ongoing To be continued from 1 st quarter 2016 (Preliminary works such as collecting information, draft design of leaflets are in progress. Decided to outsource making of TV spots)	US \$ 20,430.00	Information materials produced and disseminated to all courts, court users and the general public
b) Design and conduct social media and broadcast media campaigns on justice related issues regarding general interests and answering the questions of the public	High	Supreme Court and DJA	Ongoing To be continued from 1 st quarter 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meezan Program TVM; 46 programs aired • "Qaanoony Lafaa" Program, 	US \$ 4,900.00	Radio and TV talk show designed and 12 shows both for radio and TV broadcasted on a pilot basis Increase public awareness about judicial sector Facebook campaigns to create public awareness on

			<p>broadcasted by the Voice of Maldives since 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vfm Radio Program “Qanoonuge Hiyalugai” commenced on 21 November 2015, 10 programs aired.• Meezan Program Voice of Maldives will be commenced within this week.• Tv and Radio programs are planned to on air one program per week on each channel.• Tv Programs are uploaded to Meezan channel of Youtube and Radio programs are uploaded to DJA Maldives account on Sound Cloud. Both accounts are	<p>judicial process.</p> <p>Use YouTube channel to create awareness on court procedures.</p>
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			<p>linked to www.judiciary.gov.mv</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Twitter account of DJA (handle; @djajudiciary) launched on 31st August 2015. • Active in Instagram since December 2015 as the handle Judiciarymv 		
<p>c) Conduct periodic public enlightenment events providing a platform of dialogue for court users and legal practitioners, such as community meetings, enlightenment workshops and theatrical presentations aimed to demystify the justice system, involving citizens and religious scholars, NGOs, and other opinion makers</p>	High	<p>DJA</p> <p>In collaboration with Local Councils Criminal Justice Committee, assigned by the Multi-Stakeholders' Committee</p>	<p>1st quarter 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (An open day is planned for the first quarter of this year. • Website Dialogue box activated for Q & A from the public) 	US \$ 4.669.00	<p>court user forum conducted per year per zone</p> <p>Increase public awareness about judicial sector</p>

2. Enhance Access to Legal Representation for Prisoners awaiting Trial					
<p>a) Enlighten courts users, in particular the general public and prisoners awaiting trial, on their rights (for example, right to appeal, right to legal representation, right to bail including the legal requirements and procedures for the granting of bail)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Judiciary</p> <p>In collaboration with NGOs, AGO, Prisons, MOHA, Parole Board</p>	<p>2nd quarter of 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlightening court users via Meezan Program and Qaanoonuge Hiyalugai. • Establishment of Legal Clinic under Access to Justice Project at DJA is underway and its work has already been started informally. 	<p>Existing resources are to be used.</p>	<p>Increased knowledge of court users concerning their rights, enabling access to justice for all</p>
3. Enhance the effectiveness and use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)					
<p>a) Creation of Pre-Trial Mediation and Conciliation Mechanism and establish physical and administrative structures for its implementation.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA & Courts</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>To be continued from 1st quarter 2016</p> <p>Pre-Trial Mediation and Conciliation established at the Civil Court under Supreme Court Circulars Number 2015/02/SC and Number 2015/04/SC under article</p>	<p>US \$ 100,000.00</p>	<p>Speedier dispensation of justice and decongestion of courts.</p>

			pre-trial family conciliation under family law		
b) Provide training on ADR for judges and staffs of judiciary	High	Supreme Court/ DJA	2 nd quarter 2016 Training for Civil Court Judges.	US \$ 15,000.00	Speedier dispensation of justice and decongestion of courts. Printed material on ADR Translated books on ADR for system users.
c) Publication of Handbook on Mediation for Judges and Staff of the Judiciary	Medium	Supreme Court/ DJA/ Maldives Judicial Academy	1 st quarter of 2016		Judges of the Civil Courts' ADR Division would be able to use the Handbook to enhance their skills in conducting pre-trial mediation

2. Measures to improve timeliness and quality of Justice delivery

Activities and Measures	Priority	Responsible agency	Commencing / Starting Date	Cost	Outcome
1. Improve welfare and condition of service for Judges and court staff					
a) Review salaries, allowances and other benefits of Judges and court staffs.	High	DJA/JSC Report on salary scales issued, including recommendations for salary increases	Ongoing To be continued from the 1 st quarter 2016 • Living Allowance	US \$ 2,595,000.00 for living allowance. US \$ 130,000.00 for Salary increment.	Settle of judicial allowances. Better treatment of judges.

			<p>increase in 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary increment based on performance appraisal for the staff in progress. 		
2. Enhance the performance of judges of the higher and lower bench as well as other legal practitioners.					
a) Conduct regular training for Judges and court staffs on relevant skills and capacities for better performance.	High	DJA/ Judicial Academy	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>To be continued in 2016</p> <p>Administrative works completed already. New Penal Code Training planned. Orientation programs underway.</p>	US \$ 15,144,513.00	<p>Improved professional skills of judges and court staffs</p> <p>2016 training calendar</p>
b) A special orientation program for newly sworn-in lawyers, and compulsory and continuing legal education for lawyers	High	Supreme Court/DJA/Maldives Judicial Academy	1 st quarter of 2016		<p>Improved professional skills for lawyers</p> <p>Improved technical skills for court staff</p>
c) Compulsory legal terminology training for court staff			Preliminary works in progress.		

<p>d) Maldives Judicial Academy</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Supreme Court/DJA</p>	<p>To be continued in 2016 Curriculum developed in collaboration with UNDP in affiliation with ICELL</p>		<p>Enhanced institutional capacity of the Maldives Judicial Academy</p>
<p>e) Start E- learning Courses.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA/ Judicial Academy</p>	<p>Preliminary discussions in progress. To be continued in 2016</p>	<p>US \$ 97,270.00</p>	
<p>3. Provide appropriate infrastructure to the courts.</p>					
<p>a) Conduct SWOT analysis of courts.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>To be continued in 2016</p>		<p>SWOT analysis report of courts.</p>
<p>b) Provision of sufficient funding to address needs identified.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Government Authorities</p>	<p>2016 budget To be continued in 2016</p>	<p>US \$ 5,188,000.00</p>	<p>Budget for infrastructure upgrading assigned</p>

<p>c) IT infrastructure and solution for courts</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>On going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 101 Courts are to be connected via WAN. • Proposal evaluation in progress. 		<p>IT capacity of judicial offices enhanced resulting in more efficient workflow management</p>
<p>d) Provide digital court recording machines to courts, including the training of staff on the operation of these machines.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>To be continued from 1st quarter of 2016</p> <p>Video Conferencing systems established in 22 major islands.</p>	<p>US \$ 189,300.00</p>	<p>Modernized method of court recording. Basic IT infrastructure provided to courts</p>
<p>e) Provide computer based legal research tools (lexis nexis) for Judges & Legal Staff</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2016</p> <p>Heads of Terms signed and preliminary works are in progress.</p>	<p>US \$ 48,000.00</p>	<p>Legal research tools available and utilized</p>
<p>f) Refresher IT courses for judicial officers</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2016</p>	<p>US \$ 100,000.00</p>	<p>Judicial officers, court judges and court staff trained on IT skills</p>

4. Improve case and case -flow management					
<p>a) Strengthen the capacity of the Differential Case Management system</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>To be continued in the 1st quarter of 2016</p> <p>Development of Case Management System ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All modules except 4 modules are in use at Drug Court. • 4 modules are in use at Family Court. • 8 modules are at testing phase in Civil Court 		<p>Better case management systems in place.</p>
<p>b) Implement IT case management tools for effective court management system.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>To be continued in 2016</p>		<p>Improved case flow management tools</p>
<p>c) Specialized training on the use of the case flow management software to all judges and Court staffs.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>To be continued in 2016</p>		<p>Improved case flow management tools available.</p>

5. Enhance the effectiveness of civil, criminal and other procedure laws, as well as the Judicature Act and other related Laws, regulations and directions.					
a) Prepare revised draft legislation of civil and commercial procedure rules, for the subordinate courts	High	Multi-Stakeholder judicial sector Law reform Committee and Rules Revision Subcommittee DJA implementing agency, in collaboration with supreme court	On going To be continued from 1 st quarter 2016		Improved laws and better rules of procedure
b) Prepare revised draft legislation of criminal procedure rules for the subordinate courts	High	Multi-Stakeholder Committee and Rules Revision Subcommittee	On going To be continued from 1 st quarter		Improved laws and better rules of procedure

<p>c) Revise and draft rules of the courts.</p> <p>Prepare, and revise the drafts of procedural rules and regulation to be submitted to Supreme Court.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>To be continued in 2016</p>		<p>Uniformity for the structure, workings, and procedures of the same level Courts achieved</p> <p>Publicly provided a ready reference on how the Courts would function</p> <p>A case management system for the Courts provided</p>
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3. Measures to Enhance Accountability, Independence, Integrity and Oversight

Activities and Measures	Priority	Responsible agency	Commencing / Starting Date	Cost	Outcome
1. Enhance integrity and professionalism of Judicial Officers, Legal Practitioners and other Justice System Stakeholders					
<p>a) Publicize Rules of Professional Conduct for Legal Practitioners, including wide dissemination of the rules to all Legal Practitioners, Judges and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Judicial Academy, AGO, and Law Society</p> <p>Committee established under section 5 of the Regulation on admission to the bar in the Maldives</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>To be continued in 2016</p> <p>Regulation on Admission to the bar in the Maldives</p>		<p>Greater awareness of, and compliance with rules by Legal Practitioners</p>

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<p>b) Institutionalize and provide training on professional ethics to all categories of judicial officers, lawyers, prosecutors, police and staff, including the training of trainers</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Multi-Stakeholder Committee</p>	<p>3rd quarter 2016</p>		<p>Training courses on professional ethics developed</p>
<p>c) Translate and disseminate the relevant codes of professional conduct to each professional group within the multi stakeholder</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Multi-Stakeholder Committee</p>	<p>4th quarter 2016</p>		<p>Awareness and availability of Codes of Conduct to all law enforcement officers</p>

2. Increase Oversight and Accountability in the Justice Sector					
<p>a) Enhance the capacity of judiciary to respond promptly to the public complaints, manage the Public Complaints System through developing and installing software at Courts to register, analyze, manage and report on complaints received and disposed, under the supervisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Supreme Court/DJA</p>	<p>On going To be continued in 2016</p>		<p>Speedy consideration of complaints. Complaints software developed and distributed</p>
<p>b) Train staffs on the use of the complaint software</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>DJA</p>	<p>To be continued in 2016</p>		<p>Three court staff(at least) in each judicial division trained on the use of the software</p>

3. Increase Independence of the Judiciary					
Activities and Measures	Priority	Responsible agency	Commencing / Starting Date	Cost	Outcome
a) Advocate for fiscal independence and capacity of the judiciary through direct remittances of allocation of the budget at the country level in accordance with the constitutional provisions	High	Government Authorities	On going Proposal to be continued in 2016		Improved fiscal independence for the judiciary. Direct allocations received by the Judiciary
4. Increase Coordination in the Criminal Justice System					
1. Effectively decongest the prisons					
a) Establish clear practice directions for all courts concerning court procedures and requirements for bail and other issues of importance for the criminal justice system	High	Multi stakeholders judicial sector Law reform committee/ DJA implementing agency	To be continued in 2016		Prison congestion minimized Human Rights Standards upheld

Judicial Sector

<p>b) Establish clear guidelines on the use of available alternatives under the Penal Code and Criminal Procedures as well as sentencing guidelines for incarceration with a view to increasing their use by the higher and lower bench</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Multi-Stakeholder judicial sector law reform committee</p>	<p>To be continued in 3rd quarter of 2016</p>		<p>Prison congestion minimized</p> <p>Human Rights Standards and Rule of Law upheld</p>
<p>c) Proper classification and appropriate classified handling in summary trials and indictable offences</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Multi-Stakeholder Committee/ DJA implementing agency</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2016</p>		<p>Simpler procedural track for summary offences</p> <p>Saves time and lowers cost</p>

<p>d) Conduct a two days seminar on restorative justice and alternatives to imprisonment to judicial officers, lawyers, prosecutors and other stakeholders in the administration of Justice.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Supreme Court/Multi-Stakeholder Committee</p>	<p>1st quarter 2016</p>		<p>Increased awareness of stakeholders concerning alternatives to imprisonment</p>
<p>2. Ensure the appearance of witnesses in court</p>					
<p>a) Review the regulation and procedures regarding the costs of serving witnesses and covering their expenses. For that purpose, prepare budget proposal</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Judiciary, In collaboration with PG</p>	<p>4th quarter 2016</p>		<p>Speedy dispensation of justice</p>
<p>3. Strengthen the effectiveness of the criminal justice committee to enhance its use to all stakeholders</p>					
<p>a) Conduct quarterly meetings of the <u>Criminal Justice Sub-committee under the</u></p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Judiciary AG PG MOHA</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2016</p>		<p>Increased cooperation across criminal justice institutions</p>

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<u>Multi-Stakeholder Committee</u>		Police			
b) Revising the Draft of Evidence Act	High	Supreme Court/Multi-Stakeholder Committee	1 st quarter 2016		speedy dispensation of justice

- ❖ DJA- Department of judicial administration
- ❖ Multi Stakeholder Judicial Sector Law Reform Committee: Minister of home affairs
Attorney General
Prosecutor General
Commissioner of police
Minister of Finance and Treasury