



European Union



## Newsletter Feb to May 2018 - Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC)

*RoLAC is a 4-year €23.3m EU funded programme that aims to enhance good governance in Nigeria by strengthening the rule of law, curbing corruption and reducing impunity. British Council is implementing the programme at federal level and in four focal states – Adamawa, Anambra, Kano and Lagos.*

**The RoLAC programme was formally launched on Tuesday 28 November 2017**

Key Activities - Feb to May 2018	
Administration of Criminal Justice (ACJ) Survey	Justice Sector Reform Coordination
Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee	Child Rights Act and Children Parliament
Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit	Anti-Corruption Strategy

### Awareness and Application of “Administration of Criminal Justice” (ACJ) Legislation in RoLAC States

Three RoLAC states have passed legislation to strengthen the administration of criminal justice (ACJ) over the past ten years. Lagos passed the first law in 2007 and has since made amendments including in 2015. Anambra State passed its ACJ law in 2010 and FCT passed the ACJ Act in 2015.

However, all three places have encountered significant difficulties in ensuring the legislation is applied effectively across the criminal justice sector. RoLAC is working in all three states with criminal justice actors from across the spectrum to raise awareness of the legislation and work towards ensuring it is applied in all cases.

Understanding current levels of awareness and application was an important first step for the programme, to understand key areas of both high and low levels of awareness and application and to set a baseline against which progress can be measured.

The programme commissioned surveys in all three states to gather information about the knowledge and application of the legislation from across the sector. The survey was targeted at a selection of investigators, prosecutors, defence lawyers, judicial officers and prison officers from all the locations. The main results of the survey are shown in the table below.

Respondent Group	Respondents that are 'Very Familiar' with ACJ legislation	Respondents that 'always' apply the provisions of ACJ legislation
Anambra	40%	42%
FCT	24%	40%
Lagos	40%	45%
All Combined	34%	42%
Defence Lawyers	30%	32%
Investigators	26%	33%
Judicial Officers	61%	78%
Prison Officers	20%	13%
Prosecutors	38%	55%
All Combined	34%	42%

Lagos State respondents showed the highest levels of awareness and application. FCT exhibited the lowest levels in both categories, not unexpectedly as ACJ legislation was passed in FCT most recently.

Levels of awareness and application were highest amongst judicial officers (judges and magistrates), whilst prison officers showed the lowest levels.

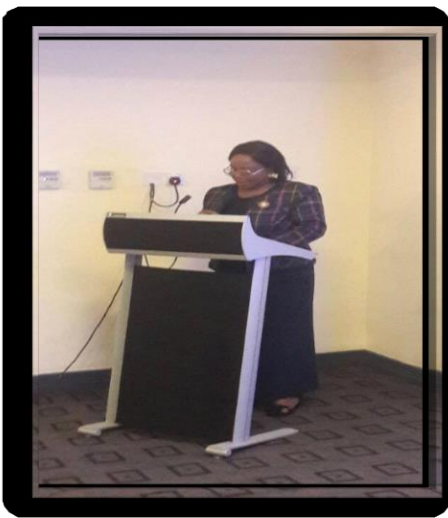
The programme will engage with all the groups in all three locations over the coming years, with the aim of taking average awareness and application over 55%.

## Justice Sector Reform Coordination

Abia and Adamawa states have now joined the league of states that have established Justice Sector Reform Teams (JSRT) as vehicle for driving criminal justice reform in their states. This brings the total number of existing JSRTs to 26. The Abia State Justice Sector Reform Team (ABJSRT) was inaugurated on Monday 29 January 2018 in Umuahia, while the Adamawa JSRT was formally launched on 10 April 2018 in Yola.

A state JRTs is made up of representatives of all the key justice institutions in the state including federal institutions operating in the state

The RoLAC programme also arranged and facilitated workshops at federal level in Abuja and in four states of Adamawa, Anambra, Kano and Lagos, bringing together Federal Justice Sector Reform Coordinating Committee (FJSRCC) and the Justice Sector Reform Team (JSRT) to agree action plan for improvements within justice sector. These five workshops took place between Feb to May, attended by 145 key stakeholders who agreed 84 concrete and specific activities that they will be implementing over the next year.



*"This platform is therefore another opportunity to reflect on the activities of the committee as it relates to our respective institutions and find practical solutions to the challenges facing our criminal justice system." Hon. Justice Opeyemi Oke, Chief Judge Lagos State, while declaring open the action-planning retreat of the Lagos State Criminal Justice Reform Committee, May 17, 2018*

Figure 1 Hon Justice Opeyemi Oke CJ of Lagos

The workshops provided opportunities for relevant stakeholders in the justice sector to collectively identify challenges facing the sector in their state and develop activities and strategies to resolve them.

A Network Conference of Justice Sector Reform Teams bringing together 103 delegates from 32 states of the Federation including the newly established teams of Adamawa and Abia, was then held in Calabar, Cross River State from May 10 – 12, 2018. This provided an opportunity for sharing experiences and best practices in justice sector reform across the country. Several states like Bauchi, Gombe, Zamfara and Rivers, who attended the conference as observers, committed to take steps towards establishing a state Justice Sector Reform Team soon.

*"At the Nigeria Bar Association, we have always believed that the challenges faced by the Justice Sector are a reflection of the various failures in the various agencies that make up the justice sector. My participation in the inaugural retreat for the Adamawa state Justice Sector Reform Team which was facilitated by RoLAC has widened my understanding of the challenges facing the justice sector as a whole. I no longer see other agencies like the police and the judiciary as those to be blamed for the problems facing the sector, but partners with whom we can work together to collectively address the problems faced by every agency and develop reform initiatives to address them. I now see myself as wearing 'two hats' instead of one". Mr Everastus Odo, Chairman Nigerian Bar Association, Yola Branch at the inaugural retreat for the Adamawa State Justice Reform Team*

## Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC)

RoLAC supported the secretariat of the ACJMC to re-establish itself. The secretariat was formally commissioned by the Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja on Monday, June 4, 2018. The ACJMC is a body established by the Administration of Criminal Justice Act to monitor compliance with the provisions of the Act in the FCT. The Act has been acclaimed as a revolutionary piece of legislation seeking to address the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system in the country.

The ACJMC was formally inaugurated in February 2016, but its effective performance has been hampered by lack of funds from the Federal Government. The secretariat will now be able to accommodate its staff in a reasonable working environment, will have

space for the work of its six sub-committees and a focal point for organisations and individuals that will engage with the committee. In his remarks at the event, the Chairman of the Committee and Chief Judge of the FCT, Justice Ishaq Bello, who was represented by Justice O.O. Goodluck appreciated the European Union funded RoLAC Programme for bearing the cost of the refurbishment of the secretariat. The commissioning was attended by the DG LACoN, Justice Binta Nyako, representing the CJ of the Federal High Court, DCP Amacree representing the IG of Police, Vice President of the NBA, Representatives of the CG Prisons, DG National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), legal practitioners and the media



Figure 2: Justice O O Goodluck commissioning ACJMC Secretariat



Figure 3 ACJMC Secretariat

*Figure 2: “While the committee (ACJMC) has hit the ground running by holding meetings and setting up sub committees to help its work, the volume of its activities determined the need to have its own office manned by its own staff from where its activities can be carried out. An office as this, therefore became imperative in an attempt to provide decent offices for staff from where activities can be coordinated. Those of us who are familiar with the current office state of affairs will bear witness that, a better place like this is long overdue “. Justice O.O. Goodluck, delivering the address of the Chief Judge of the FCT High Court at the commissioning of the ACJMC Secretariat refurbished by RoLAC – EU*

## **Implementation of Child Rights Act (CRA)**

Lagos, FCT and Anambra states were recently supported to assess the level of implementation of the Child Rights Act in their various states. The assessment was also to identify challenges to implementation and identify/recommend key priority areas for intervention and scale of activities necessary to implement them. As part of the assessment, validation workshops were held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February in each state. 79 key stakeholders from Anambra, Lagos and FCT participated in these workshops. State and non-state actors involved in the implementation of the laws to validate the assessment findings provided inputs, exchanged experiences and knowledge on advancing the implementation of Child Rights Act in the 3 states which will feed into a draft implementation strategy

In all 3 locations the validation meetings were well attended by key stakeholders from the Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development, the Nigerian Police Force, Ministries of Justice and CSOs. In Anambra state it also includes the Controller of Prisons Anambra State, and Chairman Justice Reform Sector Anambra State. At Federal level, the Federal Ministry of Justice, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Federal Capital Territory Authority (Social Development Secretariat), Ministry of Budget and Planning, FIDA, Legal Aid Council, FCT Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) and some International Development Agencies were represented. In Lagos, the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Office of Public Defender, Ministry of Education, Judiciary, DSVRT, Ministry of Health, and the Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs participated

## **National Children's Parliament Inauguration (22 to 25 May 2018)**

RoLAC provided support to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development to revive the National Children's Parliament. The event brought together sixty-eight children (34 males and 34 females) from 34 states of Nigeria and the FCT and culminated in the election and inauguration of

a new leadership for the Children's Parliament by the Honorable Minister of Women Affairs & Social Development - Senator Aisha Jummai Alhassan. The theme for the Children's Parliament was "***Creating Safe Spaces for Our Children: Our Collective Responsibility***"





*Figure 4 Children Parliament*

Kano State Representative, Hon. Maisara Abdul-Khadir Abbas emerged as the new Speaker, of the 6<sup>th</sup> National Children's Parliament and promised to advocate for the passage of the CRA in Kano State. Kano is one out of twelve states that is yet to domesticate the CRA.



*Figure 5 Minister of women affairs and speaker of children's parliament*

The revival of the Children's Parliament by RoLAC is a significant achievement given that it

has been moribund since 2014. RoLAC will continue to engage this platform to ensure that the voices of children are heard in matters that affect them, particularly child justice issues.

The Federal Government established the Nigeria Children's Parliament (NCP) to give children the opportunity to express themselves and establish a foundation for a more democratic process for the future of the children. Nigeria Children's Parliament is also a forum for children, aged 10-18 years to discuss national issues as it concerns them and to articulate their views for government consideration. The National Parliament draws membership from the State Parliaments. The Children's parliament both at the National and State level has provided great opportunity for the realization of the participatory rights of children. They have served as a pressure Group and also as a platform for nurturing leaders

*"It is also unfortunate to note that the children's access to justice is almost non-existent as some children are kept in detention centers just like adults and you see babies in prison with their accused or convicted mother..... These situations are unfair and unacceptable, and I call on security agencies, Judiciary, National Human Rights Commission, NAPTIP, Legal Aid Council, Law Reform Commission, The National Assembly and other relevant stakeholders to see that these situations change by adequately bringing the perpetrators of violence against children to book to serve as deterrent to others." Senator Aisha Jummai Alhassan Honourable Minister of Women Affairs & Social Development at the inauguration of the National Children's Parliament in Abuja, on May 25*

## Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Agencies - Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act

RoLAC successfully trained 38 staff of law enforcement agencies such as NAPTIP, FCT-SGBV Response Team, Federal Capital Territory Authority (Social Development Secretariat), Nigeria Police Force- Gender Unit, International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), CSOs and other relevant agencies in investigating and prosecuting cases under the VAPP Act. The training took place in Kaduna from the 14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> of May and was aimed at enhancing the capacity of the relevant law enforcement officers to undertake successful investigations and prosecutions of cases of violence against persons using the VAPP Act.

The training was based on recommendations from an assessment conducted by RoLAC on the extent of implementation of the VAPP Act

in the FCT since its passage in 2015. The assessment showed that the level of application of the VAPP Act has been low due to several factors including limited capacities to investigate and prosecute cases under the Act.



This training will help responsible agencies to advance the implementation of VAPP act and develop wider understanding.

## Establishment of Anti-Corruption and Transparency Units (ACTUs) in States 23-25 April 2018

In April, RoLAC embarked on advocacy visits to the Heads of Service and awareness workshops with Permanent Secretaries and Directors in Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) in Kano, Anambra, Adamawa and Lagos states on how to create Anti-Corruption and Transparency Units (ACTUs) in the state MDAs and how to conduct Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) for target public sector

institutions in their states. The ACTUs and CRAs seek to help private and public-sector institutions identify corruption risks in performance settings and implement mitigation measures to improve operations and service delivery.

The Heads of Service, Permanent Secretaries and Directors of Departments in the states expressed their total commitment to ensure

successful implementation of the programs. That the state governments have given their full support is a break through and unprecedented, according to the ICPC. Hitherto, the ACTUs and CRAs were implemented only at the federal level. Lagos expressed a desire to implement the ACTUs and CRAs initiative through the state's Citizens Gate.

*"I have learned about the critical importance of the proactive measurement of corruption through Corruption Risk Assessments. The training will improve my work through our investigations and mediation operations. I have learned how to reduce corruption risks in government agencies"* (Khalid Ibrahim, Operations Department, Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission).

*"Training on Corruption Risk Assessments is very relevant to the work that we do at the Public Complaints and Anti-corruption Commission. It will improve my ethics and work experience. I have now come to know and understand that it is better to prevent corruption before it occurs. The best way to do this in the MDAs is through the Corruption Risk Assessments"* (Kabiru Usman, Nassarawa Local Government, Kano State).

## Anti-Corruption Strategy

Adamawa state has developed an action/operational plan for the state's Anti-Corruption Strategy. The action plan is to drive the implementation of the Adamawa State Anti-Corruption Strategy (ADSACS) which was developed with the support of RoLAC and was publicly presented and launched during the Adamawa State Anti-Corruption Summit attended by Mr President, Muhammadu Buhari on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2018.



*Figure 6 Participants at action plan dev retreat for Adamawa Anti-corruption strategy*

The Action Plan development event was held from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March at the ABTI American University Hotel Yola

In Kano, a total of 72 senior government personnel comprising Permanent Secretaries, Directors and other staff from the Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission participated in the training while in Lagos 75 attended, Anambra 48 and 45 from Adamawa

town and was flagged off by the Governor of the state represented by the Adamawa State Head of Service – Dr. Louis S. Manadama who emphasised that his government is one that has zero tolerance for corruption.

The Governor's speech described the event as ***"an impetus for the attainment of good governance and the rule of law"*** being championed by the current administration in the state and urged participants to be open minded and down to earth in their deliberations.

Other top state government officials in attendance included the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Bala Sanga, the Director General of the Adamawa State Bureau of Public Procurement (ADSBPP), Mr Abba Bello Umar, the Chairman of the Adamawa State Fiscal Responsibility Commission; the Director General of the Debt Management Office; and 30 Permanent Secretaries of state MDA's and their deputies among other participants. The next step will be to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the strategy

## Other Activities

The Governor of Anambra State recently signed into law the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Bill. This followed advocacy activities carried out by the International Federation of Women Lawyer (FIDA), Anambra State. The advocacy activities which were supported by the RoLAC Programme drew the attention of the Governor (and other key stakeholders) to the benefits of the VAPP Bill passed by the State House of Assembly in November 2017 and the urgent need to assent to it.

In the coming weeks, RoLAC will work with key stakeholders to identify priority areas for support for the implementation of the law

## Upcoming Activities – June/July 2018

Public hearing at the Adamawa State House of Assembly on 3 bills: the Administration of Criminal Justice Bill; the Penal Code Law amendment Bill; and the Proceeds of Crime Bill
Validation of Anambra State Anti-Corruption Strategy
Domestic Violence Response Team of Lagos State review of the level of implementation of the Domestic Violence Law of Lagos State
Capacity building for journalists and CSOs on investigative journalism and reporting of corruption in the criminal justice and anti-corruption sectors
Training of Legal Aid Council paralegals

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For more information on the programme contact:

National Programme Manager	Danladi Plang	<a href="mailto:Danladi.plang@ng.britishcouncil.org">Danladi.plang@ng.britishcouncil.org</a>
Operations Manager	Sanjiv Malhotra	<a href="mailto:sanjiv.malhotra@ng.britishcouncil.org">sanjiv.malhotra@ng.britishcouncil.org</a>