



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

*The latest news and updates from PWAN*

JANUARY - APRIL, 2021 VOL.. 0001



## LATEST UPDATES

### PWAN TRAINS 30 YOUNG POLITICAL ASPIRANTS

### POLICE DUTY SOLICITORS SCHEME (PDSS): A MOVE TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE.

### PWAN BUILDS THE CAPACITY OF 20 WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATIONS IN BORNO AND YOBE

### EFFECT OF THE JUDICIAL (JUSUN) STRIKE IN NIGERIA

### WASTE FOR JUSTICE INITIATIVE (W4J)

## PWAN TRAINS 30 YOUNG POLITICAL ASPIRANTS

The need to increase women’s participation in politics is a conversation that needs to be heard continuously. Nigeria is said to be one of the countries with the lowest representation of women in elective and appointive offices, PWAN with support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) held a 3-day Political Leadership Mentorship Program for Young Women phase 2 from 22nd-24th February 2021. 30 young women were selected from a pool of over 80 applications, they were drawn from across Nigeria.

The boot camp was aimed at building the capacity of these young women in navigating the political terrain in Nigeria, understanding the electoral system, good governance, and what it takes to run a successful campaign and possibly win elections. The ladies were trained on the history of the Nigerian Political System, Running for Elective office, Democratic Ethics, the Life of a full-time politician, public speaking, media engagement, etc.





After the 3-day training, the mentees were paired with outstanding women who have successfully navigated the political terrain in Nigeria, the mentorship stage is to last for six months. This will help these young women have hands-on training from women who have experience in politics in Nigeria, the mentees have regular meetings with their mentors, they can reach out to their mentors for advice, etc.

**"A big thanks to Mrs. Kemi Okeyondo, the Executive Director, and the team members who made the whole process a success. The total experience of learning and sharing exceeded my expectations and I must confess that it is indeed a milestone me which I hope to run with it" - Susan Okolie**

## **POLICE DUTY SOLICITORS SCHEME (PDSS): A MOVE TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE.**

“The Police is your friend’ is a slogan that can trigger an angry reaction amongst Nigerians. Police are the first responders of the Law enforcement agencies with the aim to protect lives and properties. Nigeria has over 208 million people. This has stretched the operational capacity of the Police considering they face issues of inadequate resources amid the ongoing security challenges in the country. There has been a cry for the reform of the Police with the most recent being the EndSARS protest where citizens felt that Police instead of protecting them, rights were violated.

When these rights are violated, then a Lawyer is involved. The big question is, how many citizens can afford the services of a Lawyer?

In line with the Force Order 20 of the NPF which gives Lawyers access to defendants in Police detention, PWAN partners with Partners Global, with support from the United State Dept of State Bureau International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) to implement the project Reforming Pre-trial Detention in Nigeria (RPDN). In order to promote access to justice, PWAN is working with the Legal Aid Council, NYSC, NBA to implement the PDSS. Our Lawyers are stationed across 10 Police stations in the FCT.



**A move to ensure accountability in the Nigeria Police Force**



Our Lawyers resume at Police stations daily on working days to monitor all the detention and arrest protocols and most importantly; ensure that suspects are granted bail within 24 hours in compliance with Section 32 (1) of the ACJA 2015 (which provides that suspects arrested for non-capital offenses should be released on bail within 24 hours of arrest, and where this is not done, a court must be notified). This is to make sure that the rights of the citizens are timely protected and this service is the first of its kind in Nigeria.

We hope that this would set a pace for compliance with the ACJA and ensure the accountability and transparency of the Nigeria Police Force.



## **PWAN Builds the Capacity of 20 Women-Led organizations in Borno and Yobe**



Insurgency and conflict in Nigeria have been on a steady increase over the years, with Boko Haram in the North East, Herders/farmers clashes, security challenges keep occurring as a result. Gender-based violence including rape, sexual exploitation, and abuse has become a part of the conflict-ridden parts of Nigeria.

With support from UNWomen, PWAN carried out a two-phased intervention in Borno and Yobe state, the first phase involved fostering a relationship between women in grassroots communities and law enforcement agencies to ensure the protection of women and girls, a 1-day training session was held for the leadership of Community Safety Partnership in Borno and Yobe.

The training was aimed at building the capacity of the CSPs to engage better with law enforcement and carry out effective and informed dialogue on the safety and security needs of the communities as it relates to women and girls.

The second phase involved a 5-day training for women-led organizations in Borno and Yobe, the training was to build the capacity of these organizations on understanding the security sector institutions and how best to engage with these institutions. They were trained on communication, advocacy, and effective strategies for engaging with security sector institutions as it affects women's security and protection within their communities. This will help make these women who have been affected negatively by these activities feel safe, being able to have a proper reporting structure where they can go and have the necessary actions taken to protect them will help build the trust of these women and girls for the security sector.



**"where they can go and have the necessary actions taken to protect them and help build the trust of these women and girls for the security"**



## EFFECT OF THE JUDICIAL (JUSUN) STRIKE IN NIGERIA

The Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) passed a circular on the 6th of April 2021 to begin a strike in the demand for their financial autonomy, this strike has led to the shutdown of the judiciary in Nigeria including the closure of courts which are part of the JUSUN.

As an Organization, PWAN has observed court processes in a project titled 'Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in the Judicial sector. This sector deals with a holistic system from the investigation, arrest, trial and which means that every criminal justice sector has a part to play including the JUSUN.

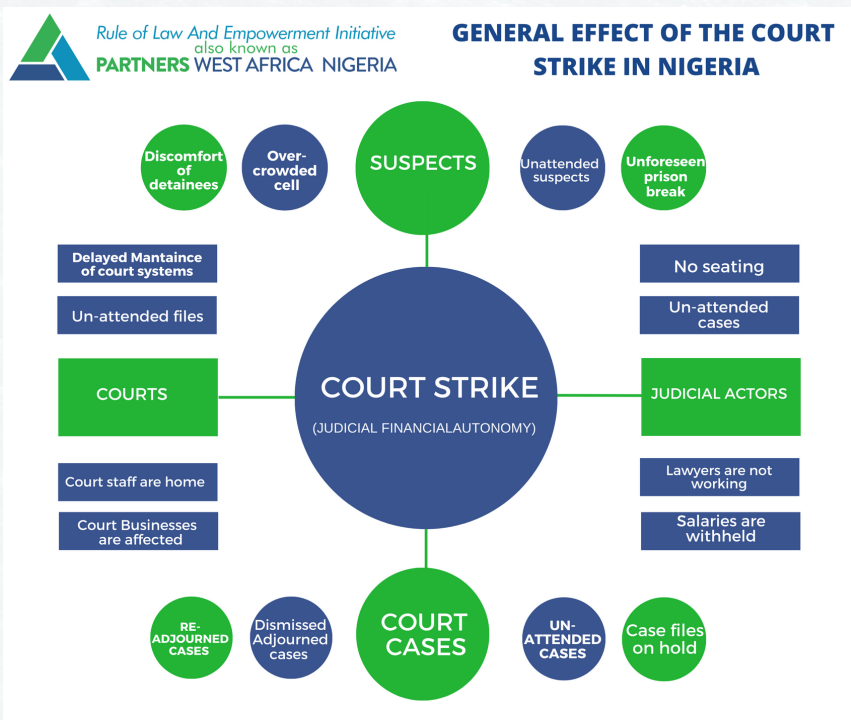
This implies that every action taken by each of these agencies would go a long way to affecting the whole judicial process from one stage to another.

Following PWAN's presentation of court findings from case monitoring in the FCT, after monitoring 42% of High courts and 58% of Magistrate courts, our findings show that it takes an average of 570 days (19 months) from the commencement of hearing to the date of disposal.

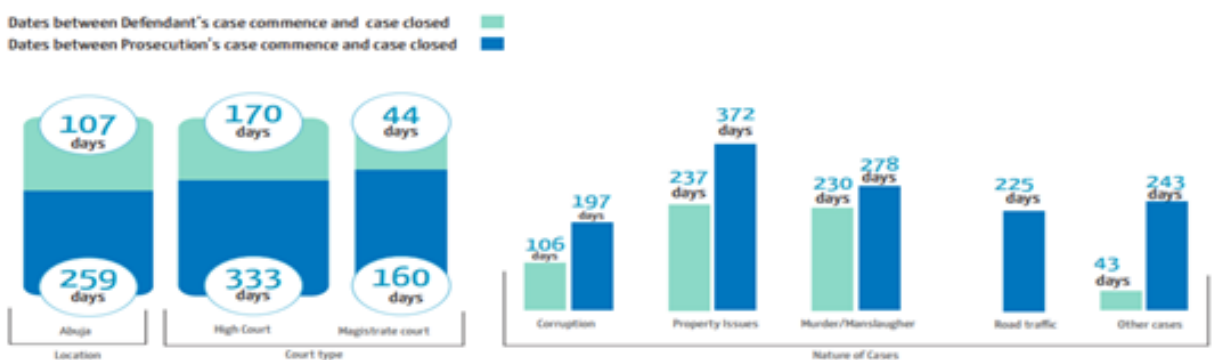
Detainees whose freedom depends on court processes would be the most affected by the strike where they will be denied quick resolution of their cases and this would lead to overcrowding and an overwhelming state of detention facilities at this moment.

The impact of this strike will also be evident in the number of cases that would have piled up during this period of 30 working days.

According to PWAN's findings, currently, it takes an average of 10 cases being heard by each judge on a daily basis which can be estimated at 300 pending cases assigned to a judge following the duration of the ongoing strike (which is 30 days at the time of this publication).



Average Number of Days between date case commenced and closed for the Prosecution and Defendant person





## Waste for Justice Initiative (W4J)

Nigeria being the most populous country in Africa is faced with so much restiveness and in a bid for survival, citizens engage in activities that often lead them to be apprehended and convicted at the correctional centers. During the COVID-19 Lockdown, there was a Presidential pardon aimed at decongesting correctional centers across the country, and the head of the Nigeria Correctional service, Ja'faru Ahmed in a statement on April 10th, 2020, says 51,983 inmates are awaiting trial out of the 73,726 inmates at the Correctional centers across the country and only 22,773 have been convicted.

According to Yomi Kazeem, a reporter at Quartz says that 'covering data from 2011-2015 from Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics shows that 72%.5 of Nigeria's total prison population are inmates serving time while awaiting trial and without being sentenced'. Some are alleged to have committed serious offenses, others are tried for misdemeanors and sentenced to fines in place of imprisonment. However, due to economic hardships and other social challenges, they are unable to pay these fines resulting to longer stay in detention after conviction.

In the promotion of the ACJA and the Nigeria Correctional Services Act on reformation and rehabilitation of offenders, PWAN's Public Defenders Unit in collaboration with Chanja Datti Ltd. designed the Waste for Justice Initiative (W4J) to promote speedy resolution of cases and reduce pre-trial detention in Nigeria. W4J is an innovative way of assisting indigent persons with legal fees raised from donated waste which we collect, sort, recycle, and convert to cash. We also collect cash to support these categories of persons afford a Lawyer representative.



### SUPPORT PWAN AND CHANJA DATTI FOR THE WASTE FOR JUSTICE (W4J) PROJECT

As part of our agreement to provide justice to pretrial detainees in Nigeria through our waste for justice (W4J) program, PWAN and Chanja Datti Recycling Company call on the general public to support us with your trash in other to facilitate a speedy resolution of their matters in court.

Thank you as we wait for a swift response.

Kindly make donations to;

Name: Rule of law and empowerment initiative.

Bank details: 1021258586 (UBA)

or call : (+234)8091257245





## Check out;



### Our podcast series below;

- <https://soundcloud.com/partnersnigeria/sexual-harassment-in-the-workplace>
- <https://soundcloud.com/partnersnigeria/sgbv-in-nigeria>
- <https://soundcloud.com/partnersnigeria/how-to-tackle-violent-extermisim-in-nigeria>



### Our Women Empowerment Program

- <https://fb.watch/5y2A2GAknl/>
- <https://fb.watch/5y2EdSFaWV/>
- <https://fb.watch/5y2HHZbBQj/>



### Our different trackers for your state;

- ACJL - <https://www.partnersnigeria.org/acjl-tracker>
- VAPP - <https://www.partnersnigeria.org/vapp-tracker/>
- SAP - <https://www.partnersnigeria.org/sap-tracker/>
- CRL - <https://www.partnersnigeria.org/childs-rights-law-tracker/>

You can also download our publications  
<https://www.partnersnigeria.org/publications/>