



PLATEAU STATE JUDICIARY

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PLATEAU STATE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON SMALL CLAIMS COURT HELD ON 22ND JUNE, 2023 AT THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE, PLATEAU STATE JUDICIARY.

ATTENDANCE

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|--------------------------|---|----------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Justice D.G. Mann | - | Chief Judge | - | Chairman |
| 2. Barr. Andrawus Maikai | - | Chief Registrar | - | Member |
| 3. Hon. Helen Danboyi | - | Dir. Magistrates | - | Member |
| 4. Yop Rwang Esq. | - | DCR/LR Min of Just.- | - | Secretary |

1.0 OPENING REMARKS

The Meeting commenced at 2.00pm with the Opening Prayer by Yop Rwang Esq. the Director, Citizens Rights and Law Reform, Ministry of Justice. The Chief Judge of Plateau State, Hon. Justice David G. Mann welcomed members and stated that there is only one item to be discussed which is the establishment of the Committee on Small Claims Court. He stated that this Committee will afterwards be in charge of implementing the mandate that will bring about the establishment of the Small Claims Court in Plateau State.

2.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON SMALL CLAIMS COURT

2.0.1 The Chairman explained that he had received a briefing from Mrs. Yop Rwang who is the Focal Person on the State Action Business Enabling Reform (SABER) Team representing the Ministry of Justice and the Plateau State Judiciary and thought it needful to keep members abreast of activities.

He stated that in order to encourage business in Plateau State and make the State a viable place for businesses and attractive to investors, it has become necessary to have certain business enabling reforms in the State to foster development. He further explained that certain MDAs have been pencilled as agents of change in this regard and some conditions have been given to these MDAs on fulfilment of which the sum of 750 million dollars will be released to the State Government. The judiciary which happens to be one of these MDAs has the following conditions to meet to enable it harness 1 million dollars out of the grant.

2.0.2 He stated that one of the main conditions is to set up a Committee known as the Judicial Committee on Small Claims Court which is the reason for this meeting. He went ahead to inaugurate the Judicial Committee on Small Claims Court consisting of the following:

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|--------------------------|---|------------------|---|--------|
| 1. Barr. Andrawus Maikai | - | Chief Registrar | - | Member |
| 2. Hon. Helen Danboyi | - | Dir. Magistrates | - | Member |
| 3. Barr. Yop Rwang | - | DCR/LR, MOJ | - | Member |

And including himself as the chairman.

2.0.3 He enumerated the mandate of the Committee is as follows:

- a. To set up a Small Claims Court in the State including the Practice Direction.
- b. To verify that the Practice direction is published on the state judiciary website.
- c. To obtain the single case performance report from the state judiciary and verify that a minimum of two small claims courts have disposed of at least one case each since establishment.
- d. To visit the judiciary website and verify that the monthly publication of performance reports for 2023 are uploaded.

3.0 A.O.B

COMMITTEE FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT PRACTICE DIRECTION

The Chairman stated that in order to save time, this is a good opportunity to also bring up the issue of the need to have another committee to look into the drafting of the Small Claims Court Practice Direction as soon as possible. This is to enable the judiciary meet up its target and he requested that members should suggest names of persons that can deliver effectively. After deliberations it was resolved that the following persons should be nominated as members of the Committee:

Justice Elizabeth I. Angai -	Judge	-	Chairman
Barr. Samuel Galadima -	DCR Mag.	-	Member
Barr. Yakubu Bawa -	NBA Jos Pres.	-	Member
Hon. Rita Selkur -	Chief Mag.	-	Member
Abigail Haruna -	Registrar	-	Member
Yop Rwang -	DCR/LR, MOJ	-	Member

The Chief Judge directed the Chief Registrar to ensure that the nominated persons receive their letters as soon as possible for work to commence.

The Chief Registrar in response stated that that this development is laudable as it will reduce the traffic of little monetary claims in the superior courts which can speedily be dispensed with in the small claims courts.

Yop Rwang also added that it is important to act swiftly in order to catch up with timelines.

4.0 CLOSING PRAYERS/REMARKS

The Chairman thanked all for attending and expressed hope that the establishment of these courts will drastically reduce time spent in recoveries of liabilities from commercial transactions while expectantly awaiting the grant from the World Bank. The meeting ended at 3.30 pm with a word of prayer by Chief Registrar.



Hon. Justice David G. Mann
CHAIRMAN



Yop Rwang Esq.
SECRETARY