

**PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF LEVERAGING ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFECTIVE JUSTICE
DELIVERY IN NIGERIA**

Felix Daniel Nzarga*
Musa Kasim Bello**
Paul Ali Bobai***

Abstract

The world has evolved into a digital age as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) takes center stage. It has made the world a global village and simplified the way and manner activities and businesses are being conducted globally. Political, socio-economic and all other forms or facets of human endeavours and activities have been positively impacted by ICT to the extent that processes and procedures have been digitalised and made easy. The Court has been an integral part of the political system since the creation of modern State. Being as old as the human political set up, it cannot be left out in the digital political space. Interestingly, most developed and developing countries have introduced ICT in their respective courts for effective administration of justice and this has eased the processes and procedures of court and justice administration. In Nigeria today, the application of ICT in justice delivery has been a topical issue in many fora. The

* LLB (Hons), BL LLM,_(Former lecturer Nigerian law School Yola Campus, currently High Court Judge of Adamawa State, Nigeria). Email: felixzarga@gmail.com.

** LLB (Hons) BL LLM, Senior Lecturer, Nigerian Law School Yola Campus. Adamawa State). Email: ibnkasimbello@gmail.com.

*** LLB(Hons), BL, LLM, PhD, Director Academics, Nigerian Law School Kano Campus, Kano State). Email: paulbobai@gmail.com

article examines the benefits and challenges of the application of ICT in Court management and justice delivery in Nigeria. It was found that the application of ICT in Court management and justice delivery remains a mirage largely due to lack of political will to ensure its implementation. The article concludes with recommendations on the need to invest massively and strengthen ICT units in each court with a view to ease and expedite the processes of justice delivery. This research adopts doctrinal methodology using primary and secondary sources for analysis.

Keywords: Court, Computer, Information, Communication, Technology, Digital, Judiciary and Global

1. Introduction

The judiciary is the third arm of government in any democratic set up, the court is the hallmark of the judiciary as it adjudicates over matters and interprets the laws as enacted by the legislature. It therefore presupposes that the Court system should be structured in a way to achieve effective and efficient justice delivery. Globally, information technology has promoted easy ways of sharing, transferring and transmitting information. The term Information and Communication Technology (ICT) encompasses all forms of electronic technologies for the manipulation and communication of information through the computer. It includes data processing (electronic retrieval, storage and management of data, document imaging); data management and communications services (telecommunications generally, wireless, video conferencing, electronic mail, the Internet); work-flow systems; and artificial intelligence. It is concerned with the storage, retrieval, manipulation, transmission or receipt of digital data. Thus, the scope of ICT covers any product that will store, retrieve, manipulate, transmit or receive information electronically in a digital form such as

personal computers, digital television, email, and robots.¹ The Nigerian Judiciary, despite its significant achievements since independence in 1960, it is still too slow, archaic, and inaccessible to a growing number of ordinary Nigerians and is in dire need of urgent reform aided by the full application of information and communication technology.² It is therefore, imperative for the judiciary to deploy information technology as a means to promote and achieve the end of justice delivery.

In the later part of 2019, Covid-19 occasioned a global lock-down which affected all aspects of life in both the public and private sectors of the economy. Governments shut down and operated only skeletal and essential services. In March 2020, the lock-down spread across Africa. Nigeria with the largest black population on earth was not an exception as virtually all spheres of government operations were shut down. This necessitated the issuance of a circular (Circ.No.NJC /CIR/HOC/11631) by the Chief Justice of Nigeria to close down the judiciary across the nation with the aim to protect and preserve the health of judicial officers, staff, litigants and lawyers. Thus, all heads of courts in the Federal and State Judiciaries were directed by the said circular to suspend court sessions till further notice, except for urgent matters that are time-bound.³

This is no doubt an eye opener, that exigencies or necessities of life such as tragedy or plague can strike at any time and we must be prepared to overcome such exigencies. One of the disturbing facts about the Nigerian court system is that for ages, the Nigerian courts have been using manual

¹ Anne Wallace, 'E-Justice: An Australian Perspective' in M Fabri and F Contini (eds) *Justice and Technology in Europe: How ICT is Changing the Judicial Business*. [2008] <https://books.google.com/about/justice_and... > accessed 16th June 2024.

² Adeniji Kazeem, 'Information Technology and Justice Delivery in Nigeria' <<http://www.academia.edu/infor...> > accessed 7 November 2024.

³Dada F and Alemika E, 'Meeting the Need for a Technologically Driven Justice Delivery System: The Elixir of Rights and Judicial Expediency' [2020] 11 *Beijing Law Review*, 805-825. <<https://doi.org/10.4236/blr.2020.113049> > accessed 5 March 2024.

court systems in justice administration. Court processes are still been essentially filed using papers and manual processes.⁴ The judges from the lowest to the apex court use pen and paper to write proceedings in long hands. The court registry and other administrative departments mostly adopted manual filing and processing. Public address system for lawyers, judges and litigants used to address the court while canvassing arguments, which is also a standard global practice for proceedings and conferences is still a mirage in many of our courts today. Lawyers have to strain their voices to be heard by judges. Technology remains a challenge in court system in Nigeria. The causes of these can be traced to many factors.

In Africa, Kenya is a success story with regards to the influence of the internet and its uses in empowering the public.⁵ Tanzania and Rwanda have also made remarkable efforts in improving their court systems using ICT. With the support of donor funds, both countries now have electronic filing systems, electronic records management systems, and legal information portals.⁶ Many courts in Nigeria today have professed the introduction of ICT in management and administration but in reality, the application is still several miles away. Currently, in terms of filing and documentation, only the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) is fully ICT- compliant. This article is divided into four parts, to wit, the first part contains the introduction; the second part examines the benefits of the application of Information and Communication Technology in court management and justice delivery in Nigeria; part three deals with the challenges of Information and

⁴ Except, recently.

⁵ Innovations For Successful Societies, 'Transforming The Courts: Judicial Sector Reforms In Kenya 2011-2015' [2015] *Princeton University Journal*, <http://successfulsocieties.princeton.edu/sites/successfulsocieties/files/MG_OGP_Kenya.pdf> accessed 6th March 2024.

⁶ A Asonibare and H Akaje, 'E-Path to Effective Justice Delivery: The Nigerian Courts In Perspective' [2015] *African Leadership Development Centre Research Paper* <<http://eprints.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/>> accessed 10th April 2024.

Communication Technology in court management and justice delivery in Nigeria and part four encapsulates the conclusion and recommendations.

2. Benefits of the Application of Information and Communication Technology in Court Management and Justice Delivery in Nigeria

The importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in business, academia, justice administration and delivery etc. cannot be overemphasized. ICT open access to education and knowledge. ICT has huge potential to transform a society including the justice system as there are overwhelming records of the benefits of the use of ICT in the justice system of most jurisdictions that have applied it. ICT can reduce the rate of poverty and improve the economic and social status of people. In the judicial sector, ICT can be a useful tool in the following areas: text creation, storage and retrieval, improved access to the law, case management, support for e-filing, transparency, security of court documents, easier and faster access to information, cost saving, space savings, quick dispensation of justice, increased efficiency, promotion of easy research, and easier information retrieval.⁷

Information and Communication Technology is a hallmark of the digitisation of court process and dispenses with manual and tasking human activity in the justice administration and delivery process. The use of ICT in the administration of justice basically drifts the courts away from the erstwhile analogue system of justice delivery with its attendant delay and ineffectiveness. It promotes e-filing, electronic adoption of motions, and some special/urgent courts processes without the physical presence of the legal practitioner in court. The effective use of ICT will allow counsel

⁷ CA Aniekwe, 'Legal Framework for the Use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the Nigerian Justice System: A Call For Review' [2019] 1 (3) *IJOCLLEP*.

<<https://www.nigerianjournalonline.com/index.php/IJOCLLEP/article/download/1098/1082>> accessed 20 February, 2024.

representing parties in cases to exchange their pleadings using their e-mails or court websites; and will also allow the court to give and publish their rulings and judgments, all without the physical appearances of the counsel. During the Covid-19 pandemic and the attendant lock down nationwide, only the banking sector, Corporate Affairs Commission (C.A.C) and the telecommunication sector were in active operation due to the complete/near-complete digitisation of those sectors.⁸

The liberalisation of the ICT market in Nigeria started in the year 2000. It was when the country became one of the leading countries in the telecommunication sector in Africa. With the over 148.3 million active mobile telecommunications subscriptions in 2018 there has always been pressure on the legislature to amend the existing laws or to enact new ones to cope with the challenges posed by the use, misuse and abuse of the ICT and internet.⁹ The Nigerian Judiciary, like other sectors keyed into the Information and Communication Technology innovations by creating Judicial Information Technology Policy Formulation and Implementation Committee (JITPOCOM) in 2012. The committee came up with Judiciary Information Technology Policy as a comprehensive ICT policy for the country's judiciary seeking to select, adopt and implement 'suitable ICT solutions for the Nigerian Judiciary such as a Court Case Management System (CCMS) and a Cloud-based email Solutions.'¹⁰

It is worthy of note that like in many countries, the main work of the court is administration and dispensation of justice. The main function of a judge in justice delivery involves administration of the court generally and dispensation of justice through trial of cases, judgment and execution of

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Gillwald Alison, Fola Odufuwa and Onkokame Mothobi, 'The State of ICT In Nigeria' [2018] *White Paper no. 3/5, International Development Research Centre*, <<https://researchictafrica.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/After-Access-Nigeria-State-of-ICT-2017.pdf>> accessed 19 February, 2024.

¹⁰ CA Aniekwe (n 8).

those judgments. Administration of the court involves dealing with and managing the court's personnel, litigants and their counsel and external collaboration with other stakeholders in the justice system like the police, correctional centers warders, prosecutors etc. In all these, the judge being the head of the court and its sole decision maker needs to leverage technology for seamless administration of the court ecosystem, case management, judgment writing and post-judgment issues and events like record tracking and retrieval.¹¹ The benefits and usefulness of the application of Information and Communication Technology in court management and justice delivery includes the following among others which shall be discussed in detail:

- a. Text creation, Storage and Retrieval;
- b. Improved Access to the Sources of Law;
- c. Recording of Court Proceedings;
- d. Case Management and Producing Data for Administrative Purposes;
- e. Tele-Justice.

3.1 Text Creation, Storage and Retrieval

Text creation is a term in computing to describe typing of words on a computer, while storage is the process of saving the typed work for references and retrieval means to access the work and print or share the work on the internet. It is a common knowledge that Nigerian judges write proceedings and decisions in long hands and before the advent of the computers; typewriters were used by their secretaries or typists to type the same out in typescript. It was a herculean task, but with desktops, personal computers or laptops and tablets, it is now possible for the judge to type out the decision directly on the computer. Word processing in computers is user

¹¹ Mohamad A M and Sule I, 'ICT-Enabled Applications for Decision-Making by the Courts: Experiences from Malaysia and Nigeria' [2021] 6 (22) *International Journal of Law, Government and Communication*, 189-196, <<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/>> accessed 21 March 2024.

friendly and time effective. Perfection in typing comes through consistent use of same. In some courts today, the judges have mastered the art of typing and they type their proceedings as lawyers' conduct their cases live. That way, trials are conducted much faster without delay. Even more convenient and efficient is the availability voice to text word processing and fully integrated voice to text transcription systems. Also, in view of the ability to operate computers through copy, cut and or paste, or working from templates, or using Microsoft words, it is now much simpler to produce a document with the necessary information you want into it. It is equally possible on the same computer or other storage medium, to save the document, and retrieve it very fast, call up other documents, without having to move from one place to another. In the result judgments, decisions and or rulings can be obtained much faster in final form for release to the parties.¹²

It is a common knowledge that the processes filed in courts emanate from computers, this is to say that they are electronically generated. This means that soft copies of the same are available electronically as they are produced digitally. And even if they have been produced in hard copies, it is possible to scan them and convert them into digital format. This creates an opportunity of creating and maintaining an electronic copy of case files that would eliminate cases of loss of the physical file and creation of temporary files which has been a sad characteristic in our courts in Nigeria for quite some time now. The courts have the capacity to acquire the necessary hardware for this purpose.¹³

3.2 Improved Access to the Sources of Law

Access to law is through sources, these sources give life to the law. They are classified as primary, secondary and tertiary sources. They include the

¹² M.D Abubakar, 'Application of Information Technology in the Administration of Justice' [2019] *National Judicial Institute research paper*, < <https://nji.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/APPLICATION-OF-INFORMATION-ECHNOLOGY-IN-THEADMINISTRATION-OF-JUSTICE-2.pdf>> accessed 1 March, 2024.

¹³ Ibid.

constitution as the grund norm, statute books for legislation; law reports for case law, oral tradition for customary law, the Quran and sunnah for Islamic law. Before the advent of computer technology, the mode of storage of legislation and case law was only through hard copies in book form or printed or typescript. The constitution, statutes and case law were all produced as books, gazettes and transcripts. Law reports were published monthly, quarterly or weekly as books and law library shelves were filled to the brim, making legal research a herculean task to conduct. The internet in 1990s made the relationship between technology and law to become a very important ingredient of law. It is now possible to keep both legislation and law reports, not only in hard copy and book form, but also in digital format, on CDs and other storage media, online (internet/intranet), or on standalone machines making it much easier for a judge or member of the public to search and obtain the provisions of the law or previous court decision that one desires. With the use of the internet, it is possible to seek and obtain comparative and persuasive jurisprudence from other jurisdictions while seated at one's work station.¹⁴ The same applies to secondary sources like books, journal etc. Access to sources of law is therefore made easier and more accessible through convenient and most accessible formats. It makes it simpler to research and incorporate the results of the research into new documents being produced.

3.3 Recording of Court Proceedings

It is a fact that since the introduction of the English legal system into the country, judges and magistrates have conducted court proceedings in long hand. It involves a stressful, slow and strenuous effort of writing proceedings by judges in their books as litigants present their cases before them. There was no room for recording. However, with the introduction of ICT, it is now possible to have digital audio recordings of voice on the computer, this gives an opportunity to the judge or magistrate to annotate this record and listen to whatever portion he may want to listen to at any

¹⁴ Ibid.

time. The record having being recorded can be converted into a hard copy format (for as long as a hard copy file is maintained), and as well maintain the soft copy. ICT has also made it possible to have direct recording of proceedings by court reporters which can be viewed by the judge and counsel at their respective desks at any time during or after the proceedings. This is the practice in Supreme Court of Nigeria today.

3.4 Case Management

Case management by courts entails the processes of using technology to leverage knowledge and methodologies for managing the life cycle of a case or matter more effectively.¹⁵ It allows for the computerisation of court processes, retrieval of information online, easy monitoring of performance, and generates statistics automatically which in turn causes uniformity in reporting. There are a number of modules under the CMS: the registration module, the scheduling module, the master listing module and the administration module.¹⁶ It is expedient that courts manage and supervise the progress of a case from commencement to final determination, which could be consent judgment, dismissal, withdrawal or final judgment. The process begins with the court clerk who makes sure the filed documents conform with court requirements. It may also be classified by subject matter, assignment of a docket number for tracking, and encoding of the case into the court's computing tracking system.

Recently, Nigerian Case Management System (NCMS) was introduced as a template to assist in achieving proper and efficient case management in courts. It is a software developed to suit the Nigerian judiciary and meant to automate processes pertaining to case filings, case assignments, delivery of judgments and generation of statistics and reports, it has three modules:

¹⁵ S B Levy, 'Legal Project Management: Control Cost, Meet Schedules, Manage Risks and Maintain Sanity' (Baypack books Publishers 2009).

¹⁶Kuching High Court, 'Brief Introduction On the Integrated Court System (ICS) in the Courts of Sabah and Sarawak' < <https://wsa-global.org/winner/integrated-court-system-ics/> > accessed 15 March 2024.

The Supreme Court Module, the Court of Appeal Module as well as the Trial Court Module. It is still at the development stage.¹⁷

3.5 Tele-Justice

There are instances where it is often practically impossible to conduct physical trials either due to security challenges, transportation challenges, epidemics (as was the case with the lockdown during Covid-19 pandemic). Tele-justice derives its utility from the imperative of ensuring that the administration of justice is not truncated. Tele-justice is a system of technology using cell phone and satellite technology to communicate between people in two or more countries, using video conferencing, equipment or intranet technology. Today, video conferencing is used by many judicial officers daily and is connected to prisons. Similarly, intranet technology is being used in many courts. With tele-justice, the accused can now be present in a court through a video link established on ISDN lines, between the prison and the court.¹⁸

Zoom calls, Duo calls, Skype, and Google Meet are also examples of applications through which tele-justice can be achieved. Globally, tele-justice has evolved as a fast and secure way of conducting law related conferences and trials. By installing a video conferencing system at the courtroom as well as the prison facility, defendants can participate in all legal procedures without law enforcement having to shoulder the dangers associated with jail-to-courtroom prisoner transport or epidemics.¹⁹ Interestingly, some courts have deployed the use of technology in obtaining the testimony of witnesses. This has led to legal practitioners having to cross-examine witnesses via video conferencing. The Federal High Court has engaged the use of Zoom as a tool for witnesses to give evidence. Also,

¹⁷ National Center for State Courts, 'Nigeria: Installation of Court Case Management System at Supreme Court' <https://ncscinternational.orgafrica> > accessed 6 November 2024.

¹⁸ M.D Abubakar, (n 13).

¹⁹ Ibid.

Lagos state High Court judges have granted applications for giving evidence via video conferencing.²⁰

4 Challenges of Information and Communication Technology in Court management and Justice Delivery in Nigeria

The challenges are multifaceted. We will try to highlight some of the major challenges.

4.1 Erratic Electric Power Supply

This is one problem too many as it abounds and has persisted for ages in Nigeria. Electricity or Power supply is the basis of every economic development and epileptic power supply has crippled so many businesses in Nigeria. ICT solely depends on power to thrive as electricity powers technology. It is an undisputable fact that when computer hardware, software, internet and applications are mentioned, we know that ICT depends on them and they digitalised the judicial process, the lack of which makes it difficult to attain ICT enabled judicial process. Some courts have introduced public address system (as simple as that maybe) in Nigeria today but have had erratic power supply to contend with thereby rendering such efforts fruitless. Some courts that have employed alternative source of power through generators have also had high cost of diesel to contend with. Erratic power supply has greatly contributed to the failure of ICT enabled judicial process.

4.2 Lack of General Use of the Internet, ICT Skills on the Part of Judges/Magistrates, Judicial Staff, and Legal Practitioners

This is also a challenge to the use of ICT in court administration in Nigeria. Internet service is not readily provided in courts, and where it is provided, the network is mostly very poor or erratic due to bandwidth and signal

²⁰ Aarndale Solicitors, 'Technology as a Tool for Enhancing Legal Services and Delivery of Justice in Nigeria' <<https://www.mondaq.com/nigeria> > accessed 7 November 2024.

quality. Without information, there is no communication and internet service is the most important aspect of ICT. Another stumbling block to the use of ICT is the lack of skills by the major players or stakeholders. Judicial officers, magistrates, court staff and legal practitioners are the major key players in court management; most of them cannot even operate a computer and they get old with the old system of running the court thereby getting accustomed to archaic and tedious ways of managing the system. According to Oyedele and Olugasa ‘lawyers and judges in Nigeria may not possess adequate technological literacy to effectively navigate technology-related legal issues.’²¹ Technology started spreading in the country like wild fire less than 20 years ago. Most of the judges and lawyers whose ages are 50 years or above are not computer literate and not all of them are willing to learn. Those in these age brackets are, unfortunately, the people at the helms of affairs in the judicial arm of the country. They are so comfortable with the old system of pen and paper (long hand) that it has affected the rate of adoption of technology in courts.

4.3 Lack of Implementation of Judicial Information Technology Policy of the Nigerian Judiciary (JITPO)

On the 30th of May 2012, the then Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Dahiru Musdapher inaugurated a committee known as Judicial Information Technology Policy Formulation and Implementation Committee (JITPOCOM). One of the main tasks of the Committee was to develop a comprehensive Information Technology Policy which could be implemented in all jurisdictions of the Nigerian Judiciary. The Committee’s other major tasks include the selection, adoption and implementation of suitable ICT solutions for the Nigerian Judiciary such as a CCMS and a Cloud-based e-mail Solution. The Committee’s efforts yielded the publication of the Judicial Information Technology Policy (JITPO) policy

²¹ Omodele Adeyemi Oyedele and Olubukola A Olugasa, ‘The Pros and Cons of Technology in the Judicial Process in Lagos State, Nigeria.’ *Afropolitan Journal* <<https://afropolitanjournals.com...>> accessed 7 November 2024.

document. It is one of the foremost legislation for the use of ICT in the Nigerian judiciary with laudable and practicable provisions albeit not in force. The question that called for answer is, what are the innovations introduced by the policy, the issues and challenges arising from the policy documents and to what extent has the provisions of the policy been implemented in the judiciary all through the jurisdictions of courts (at all levels) in Nigeria. It is however unfortunate that the feasible and innovative provisions of the Policy fundamentally lack implementation, having not been legislated upon by the National Assembly/State Houses of Assembly or incorporated in the rules by the various heads of Court.²²

4.4 Inadequate Funding

It is a common knowledge in Nigeria, the provision of funding to acquire, manage, service or maintain public facilities is still a far cry. The provision and maintenance of ICT gadgets and equipment is capital intensive. The Nigerian Judiciary, particularly in the States, does not provide adequate resources and has led to limited computers and other gadgets which has adversely affected the effectiveness of courts.

4.5 Cyber Crimes

The emergence of ICT comes with the attendant proliferation of cyber criminals who commit cybercrimes to wit, criminal trespass into another computer, data theft, the use of internet to commit or aid in the commission of fraud which poses a serious challenge to the judiciary. Also fake imaging and fake videos could be created to mislead the court. There are however, counter measures developed to help combat these issues. For instance, there are firewalls built to protect the system and keep out hackers and cyber-criminals.

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²² CA Aniekwe (n8).

²³Chineze Sophia Ibekwe and Chiugo Onwuatuegwu , 'ICT in the Administration of Justice: Challenges and Prospects for Labour and Productivity' [2021] 8 (1) *NAUJCP* <ICT <https://>

4.6 High Level of Computer Illiteracy

If we consider the estimated population of Nigeria, the majority of the population is illiterate and ignorant, and most of the educated population are computer illiterate. This adversely affects the use of ICT to improve access to justice. ICT knowledge is beyond knowing how to read and write. It encompasses proficiency in ICT and its attendant processes. Individuals no matter the age should create time to learn the basics of a computer most importantly typing, sending or receiving e-mails etc.

5 Conclusion and Recommendations

From the forgoing, it is not in dispute that ICT is a revolutionary and unprecedented trend in court administration as it promotes speed and effectiveness in justice delivery. ICT occupies a pivotal place in the life wire of justice system everywhere around the world and the absence is a recipe for retrogression. The major challenge of ICT in court administration in Nigeria is the failure to embrace it fully among others, and as enormous as the challenges could be they cannot be insurmountable.

The following recommendations are therefore proffered:

5.1 Judicial Information Technology Policy of the Nigerian Judiciary (JITPO) should be properly developed, strengthened and implemented in the Federal and State judiciaries across the country. The policy document comprises a lot of areas that can be considered as critical success factors to effectively utilise ICT in Nigerian Courts. The JITPO made extensive provisions for the procurement of Local Area Network, Wireless Networks, Wide Area Network, Hardware, Software, Web

[journals.unizik.edu.ng/in+the+Administration+of+Justice +Challenges+and+Prospects+for+Labour+and+Productivity.pdf](https://journals.unizik.edu.ng/in+the+Administration+of+Justice+%2BChallenges+and+Prospects+for+Labour+and+Productivity.pdf) > accessed 27 April 2024.

Portal, Internet/Portal Services, E-mail Services, Portable Devices, Case Management Software, E-filing, Electronic Document Management System (EDMS), Virtual Library, Video Conferencing, and E-Court (technological) Systems. A synergy should be established with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the National Communication Commission (NCC), the National Judicial Council, National Judicial Institute and all heads of court and ICT scholars and experts with the aim of improving the operation and functionality of E-judiciary and synergising with other countries to adopt theirs with modifications that would suit our circumstances.

- 5.2 Government should invest massively in the ICT sector. It is a common fact that ICT is capital intensive. Adequate financial resources is required to purchase equipment, gadgets software and hardware, additionally, substantial amount of money should also be set aside for the management and services of those equipment in the budget of the judiciary.
- 5.3 Judges, magistrates, judicial staff and all stakeholders engaged in the administration of justice across the country should be ready, determined and committed to embrace the ICT regime and ensure the adoption of E-Judiciary with changes that will suit our local environment and tradition. They should be computer literates and ICT friendly.
- 5.4 It is also important to have a robust legal provisions and regulatory framework that will accommodate the increasing nature and advancement of ICT. It is not in doubt that some laws made some important provisions regarding ICT. The Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015 and Administration of Criminal Justice Laws across most of the states have made provisions regarding the voluntary recording of arrest and confessional statement in writing or electronic recording on a retrievable video compact disc or such other audio

visual means; the establishment of a Police Central Criminal Registry; Electronic Record of proceedings; examination of a witness through video link under section 234 of the Act.²⁴ The Evidence Act 2011 as well made some novel provisions which include improperly obtained evidence covered by sections 14 and 15, hearsay rule²⁵ and the computer generated evidence under section 84. Other than these two beautiful Acts that contain these provisions, there is no law regulating ICT in the administration of justice. Only recently, during the Covid-19 pandemic the High Courts, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court made provisions in their Practice Directions to assimilate the use of ICT. This is not enough considering its importance in Justice delivery system. The Acts and Laws establishing the Courts should be amended to make provisions for them.

- 5.5 Government should ensure proper cyber protection and security. Nowadays, hackers and cyber scammers are all over the cyber space. They hack into accounts and obtain information and transform same for their selfish and nefarious reasons. The judiciary should work with other ICT agencies like NITDA and NCC to ensure information stored on their systems are properly secured.

²⁴ ACJA 2015.

²⁵ Section 37 and 38 Evidence Act 2011 as amended.