

Innovation for Access to justice : Experience from Nepal's Justice Sector Reforms

Shyam Kumar Bhattarai
Joint Attorney,
Office of the Attorney General, Nepal

Introduction

- The Attorney General of Nepal is the Chief Legal advisor of Government of Nepal and has a duty to give opinions and advices on constitutional and legal matters to the Government of Nepal.
- The Attorney General has authority to decide whether or not to initiate judicial proceedings against suspects. And has final authority to prosecute.

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- Attorney General has power to defend on behalf of the Government of Nepal, any lawsuit in which the Government of Nepal is a plaintiff or a defendant.
- The Attorney General may delegate his or her functions, duties and powers to his or her subordinate government attorneys as to be exercised and complied with subject to the specified conditions.

UNDP Support

- UNDP is a key development partner of OAG for last three years.
- It provided support for the development of ICT in OAG.
- Laptops, computers, server and electronic appliances were made available for that purpose.
- Software developed for Case Management System (CMS)
- Organized training related to use of ICT
- Record keeping of decisions related to prosecution of the cases and decisions regarding appeal at OAG.

E-Attorney

- E-attorney programme as a tool for an automated case handling system and digitization promoted access to justice.
- It is a milestone for institutional reform of Office of the Attorney General
- E-attorney programme has been brought into implementation from last year in order to integrate the activities of government attorney into information and communication technology (ICT) through CMS and Record Management System

Development of supportive software

Following software have been prepared and implemented with the government support for effective utilization of CMS,

- Cause list Management System
- Physical Infrastructure Management System
- Asset Management System

Software for Case Management System (CMS) was developed with assistance from UNDP, RoLHR.

Achievements

Following results have been achieved after the implementation of CMS software:

- Case details of every government attorney offices has been updated through CMS.It has helped to promote transparency and accountability of decision made by prosecutors
- It has helped to supervise the decision and activities of government attorney.
- Record management of government related cases has been updated. It helped to provide effective and speedy service delivery.

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- It has helped to communicate required information to stakeholders regarding the decision made by government attorneys
- Fundamental electronic appliances are available in all government attorney's office of the country. These offices are connected to internet which has facilitated the speedy communication for effective decision making
- Record of the decisions has been kept of all the cases made by attorney general for last 25 years, which has helped to protect the institutional memory.

Sustainability

- There is a sense of ownership at all levels of office of the government attorneys for the above mentioned reform efforts initiated by the attorney general's office.
- These programmes which were started by the support of UNDP have been continued with the government's support.
- Government has allocated 40 million rupees yearly budget from last year. This budget has ensured the sustainability of e-attorney programme.
- This assistance has been seen as a successful task which has helped in the effective work execution.

Sincere thanks

- We would like to extend our sincere thanks to UNDP for the help provided in the institutional reform of OAG.
- We are committed in taking this programme forward and hope to receive necessary support from the government and the development partners.