



Call for Consultants: Strengthening Judicial Communication in Electoral Adjudication in Nigeria.

Application Deadline: 28th March

Background

Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) is seeking a consultant to support the convening of stakeholders and the development of a judicial communication framework for electoral matters. This project aims to enhance judicial transparency, public engagement, and trust in Nigeria's judicial processes, particularly in electoral adjudication.

The 2023 Presidential Election Petition Court (PEPC) proceedings highlighted the existing gap in judicial-media relations and the intersection with the members of the public. There were instances of disinformation and cyber threats targeting the judiciary, which led to distrust in the electoral process that is being presided over. Where there is a dearth of information, assumptions and misgivings thrive, and these are ingredients that poison democracy. This has therefore established the critical need for structured judicial communication to counter misinformation, manage public expectations, and safeguard judicial independence, as well as the need to create a body of work to guide this activity.

KDI plans to convene a multi-stakeholder Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with key actors—including the judiciary, media, civil society, academia, and legal experts—to assess current communication practices and recommend strategies for improved judicial-media relations.

Scope of Work

The consultant will be responsible for facilitating high-level engagements, conducting research, and developing a judicial communication framework that aligns with international best practices while considering Nigeria's legal and political environment.

Key Responsibilities

1. Stakeholder Engagement

- Organise and facilitate discussions with judicial institutions, particularly the Court of Appeal and Election Petition Tribunal Department.
- Maintain relationships with key stakeholders, including judicial officers, academics, media professionals, and legal experts.

2. Research & Analysis

- Conduct an in-depth assessment of current judicial communication practices in Nigeria, focusing on electoral adjudication.
- Review international best practices on judicial transparency, media engagement, and digital communication strategies.
- Identify gaps and challenges in the existing judicial communication landscape.

3. Development of Judicial Communication Framework

- Draft a structured framework for judicial transparency, digital engagement, and media relations in electoral matters.
- Propose policy recommendations to institutionalise effective judicial communication.
- Ensure the framework balances transparency with judicial independence.

4. Facilitation of Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

- Design the FGD methodology and prepare discussion materials.
- Moderate discussions among judiciary representatives, media practitioners, civil society, and legal scholars.
- Document key insights, challenges, and recommendations from the FGD.

5. Final Report & Advocacy Strategy

- Develop a comprehensive report detailing research findings, stakeholder inputs, and proposed policy recommendations.
- Support KDI in engaging policymakers and judicial authorities to adopt and implement the framework.

Deliverables

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan: A structured approach to engaging key actors, ensuring their participation and contribution to the project.

- Judicial Communication Practices Assessment Report: A document analysing existing communication practices, identifying challenges, and reviewing international best practices.
- Facilitation of FGD & Summary Report: A comprehensive report summarising discussions, key insights, and proposed solutions.
- Judicial Communication Framework: A structured framework for improving judicial communication on electoral matters in Nigeria.
- Final Project Report: A detailed document consolidating research findings, stakeholder feedback, and recommendations for policy advocacy.

Qualifications

- Development expert with at least five years' experience in judicial affairs, electoral adjudication, and media relations.
- Strong access to and established relationships with the judiciary, academia, media, and civil society organisations in Nigeria.
- Proven experience in policy research, stakeholder engagement, and advocacy.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Experience working on governance, transparency, or legal reform initiatives is an added advantage.

Job Duration

- One month

Remuneration

- 2 million naira

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit

- A cover letter outlining relevant experience and approach to the consultancy.
- A detailed CV highlighting expertise in policy development.
- A proposal (maximum 3 pages) detailing methodology and timeline.
- Samples of previous work related to development communication, policy development, or stakeholder engagement.

- Submissions should be sent to info@kimpact.org.ng with the subject line: Consultant: Strengthening Judicial Communication in Electoral Adjudication in Nigeria.

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- Please note that only the selected candidate will be contacted.

KDI is an equal opportunity organisation, and we encourage applications from qualified candidates, including women and persons living with disabilities.