

Justice Sector Trend Analysis: Access, Case Backlog and Expedition of Justice

2030 target: cases awaiting judgement for six months lower than 2023

Strategic objective: Ensure citizens benefit from a fair, impartial and effective justice sector through increased access to justice, expedited case handling, protection of human rights and equal opportunities for economic development.

Trend evidence: 2017 baseline pressure -> 2023 benchmark -> 2025 reform response



Scorecard interpretation

2017

Backlog was acute and long-running.

2023

Baseline confirms delays remained systemic.

2025

Visible reform actions show positive direction, but sustained implementation is still needed.

Delivery status

Status: Reform momentum, not yet full target achievement



Ad hoc backlog reduction measures have helped. The more sustainable shift is the Criminal Procedures Act 2024, which introduces case-flow improvements intended to reduce delays.

Priority issues to monitor

1

Publish regular case-age data by court and case type.

2

Track cases pending over six months against the 2023 baseline.

3

Address causes of delay beyond legislation: staffing, scheduling, digitisation, legal aid and adjournment control.

Analytical reading: The justice trend shows a movement from severe inherited backlog pressure in 2017, to a weak but measurable 2023 baseline, to reform activity by 2025. The direction is positive, but the 2030 target depends on measurable reductions in cases awaiting judgement for more than six months.

Year	Trend signal	Evidence summary	IGR scorecard meaning
2017	Severe backlog pressure	Cases could await judgement for 3-10 years, with extreme reports up to 15 years. Backlogs and lengthy pretrial detention shaped the justice-sector picture.	Starting point shows major access-to-justice and human-rights risks.
2023	Baseline still weak	Cases commonly took 1-10 years to reach decision. This year acts as the benchmark for the MTNDP 2030 target.	Progress should be judged by how far case-age data improves against this baseline.
2025	Reform momentum	Judicial Week, Chief Justice directive and Criminal Procedures Act 2024 provisions aim to expedite cases and reduce delays.	Positive delivery status, but requires institutionalisation, data publication and follow-through.

Suggested monitoring framework for the IGR scorecard

Use a simple dashboard that tracks: number of cases pending judgement for more than six months; average time to judgement; number of completed cases during special judicial interventions; adjournment frequency; court-level backlog; legal aid coverage; and publication frequency of case-flow data.

Note: This infographic uses qualitative status language because no official numerical time-series values were provided for 2017, 2023 and 2025.