**Case Study**

**Legal and Judicial Records and Information**

**Systems in South Africa**

**Digital Nervous System (DNS)**

73 The DNS creates connectivity within the Department of Justice. It links the

Department’s servers to the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) thereby

‘piggybacking’ on SITA’s infrastructure. It is anticipated that 611 sites will be

incorporated in two years. Key issues governing deployment and its sequencing have

included the theft of equipment and budget and facility constraints.

74 The DNS project encompasses six areas:

• communications: e-mail

• research: Internet access

• work processes: word-processing, spreadsheets, document and information

management, human resources systems and procedures

• court processes

• financial services

• capacity building.

**INTEGRATED JUSTICE SYSTEM (IJS) AND E-JUSTICE**

68 South Africa has embarked on an e-Justice programme designed to support and

strengthen the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development within an

Integrated Justice System. The programme components are:

• the Digital Nervous System (DNS) project to provide the ICT infrastructure

throughout the Department and the common platform for applications

• intranet using Microsoft Sharepoint portal software. This will deliver

applications to users via a common browser interface. The network will hold all

forms and templates, case records and the Department’s knowledge base

• Financial Administration System

• Management Information System

• Court Process Project (CPP): the automation of court and case management

(see paras 169 to 215)

• Court Centre Project: semi-automated court and case management as an interim

solution to unacceptably high backlogs (see para 170)

• automation of staff leave processes to reduce fraud and inaccurate record

keeping.

**Electronic Court Records Management:**

6.1. E-Filing, includes:

6.1.1. Case filing via internet

6.1.2. Payment of court fees online

by credit or debit card

6.1.3. Online case registration

6.1.4. Online document delivery

6.1.5. Serve notice via e-mail

6.2. Online dispute resolution

mechanism (ODRM)

Records management is the key success factor in judicial system. Systematic, efficient and organised records management system provides comprehensive information for courts to guarantee unbiased decision. Transparent information system and good records management indirectly hinder the misuse of power or corruption, case postponement and delayed decision. It also reflects the good image of judiciary system and upholds the rights of individual and society at large. This paper unfolds the implementation of Electronic Records Management Systems (ERMS) in Nigerian courts

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* Intranet using Microsoft Sharepoint portal software. This will deliver applications to users via a common browser interface. The network will hold all forms and templates, case records and the Department’s knowledge base
* Financial Administration System
* Management Information System
* Court Process Project (CPP): the automation of court and case management
* Court Centre Project: semi-automated court and case management as an interim solution to unacceptably high backlogs
* Automation of staff leave processes to reduce fraud and inaccurate record keeping.