



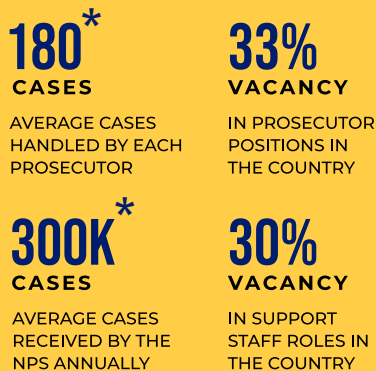
STRENGTHENING DOJ'S PROSECUTION

ARM THROUGH ANALYTICS

CASE OVERVIEW

It is said that 'Justice delayed is justice denied.' Therefore, the state must ensure speedy, impartial, and truthful processing of complaints and cases in all stages of the judiciary system. This begins with the filing of cases where it is examined by the prosecutor on whether it has a probable cause to proceed into trial.

Prosecutors are at the forefront of administering justice in the Philippines. As part of the Department of Justice (DOJ) under the National Prosecution Service (NPS), they drive the direction of the filed cases by identifying a reasonable certainty on whether a crime has been committed or not. They decide whether a case has merits before escalating it to trial courts.



53%*
OF CASES
ARE BEYOND THE
120-DAY REGLEMENTARY
PERIOD RESULTING IN
CASE BACKLOGS

AGING OF COMPLAINTS WITH PENDING RESOLUTION IN NPS



*Average is based on figures from an 8-year period (2010 to 2017)

With the current state and challenges in mind, this case brief aims to help the DOJ accomplish and live up to its mandate:

VISION

A just and peaceful society anchored on the principles of transparency, accountability, fairness and truth.

MISSION

Effective, efficient, and equitable administration of justice.

We center our focus around improving the **process of determining probable cause for cases submitted to the prosecutor's office**. To pinpoint the right questions surrounding this objective, the paper assesses the current procedures in place relevant to the activities during the preliminary investigation and inquest proceedings; utilize this information to observe patterns, simulate necessary changes, and evaluate their future impact; then lay out the optimal strategy and subsequent requirements according to the results.



DESCRIPTIVE ANALYTICS

This section explores the current landscape of the judicial system to lay the foundation for understanding the existing processes that the prosecutors utilize to determine the probable cause of a case. The factors affecting the timeliness of judicial decisions are centered on three main areas: the allocation of case complaints, accessible resources (upskilling, technology, etc.), and external factors (administrative policies and seasonal variations in case complaints).

ALLOCATION OF CASES

The average number of cases assigned to each prosecutor significantly impacts their ability to thoroughly delve into the complaints and deliver a timely verdict. Thus, determining the current and historical distribution of case complaints per prosecutor is crucial to visualize future scenarios effectively.

- How many cases on average are assigned to each prosecutor per category (criminal, civil, administrative, etc.)?
- What is the average processing time of filed complaints across all case categories?
- What is the average number of cases completed vs. pending under the jurisdiction of the prosecutor each month/year?
- Do prosecutors have assistants working under them? If yes, how many are there on average?

ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES

- What systems/tools do the prosecutors use to aid in the determination of probable cause?

- Which training programs and refresher courses are provided to prosecutors?

OTHER FACTORS

- What internal (such as policies) and external factors (such as seasonal trends, holidays, extraordinary events) surround the decision process?

PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS

The data we can derive from descriptive analytics revolves around two categories, those related to the allocation of cases and those that connect to process duration. With this in mind, the goal of predictive analytics is to use descriptive data to transform it into questions that can: (1) assess impact, (2) predict solutions, and (3) create actionable insights.

CHANGING THE PARAMETERS

Controllable factors may affect the timeliness of the determination of probable cause. Manning and location assignments are two of the most important ones. That said:

- What will be the impact of changing the following parameters to the workload of prosecutors and timeliness of determination of probable cause:
 - number of prosecutors assigned to each category of the case, number of support staff, and location of prosecutors

UPSKILLING AND TECHNOLOGY

We want to see how providing proper training and technology can lead to any change, by how much, and to what extent. To become a prosecutor, no prior training is required. They only learn from their experiences on the job.

- What will be the impact of extra training and refresher courses for prosecutors and their support staff?
- Based on past training (if there is any), which courses will improve the rate of determining probable cause?
- What will be the effect if existing systems and tools used in determining probable cause were to be upgraded?

FACTORS SURROUNDING THE PROCESS

We have broken the conditions that envelop the process into two categories, external and internal:

- What will be the impact of external and internal factors on the process of determining probable cause?
 - **Internal:** policies, ways of working, and sub-processes
 - **External:** seasonality of cases and extra-ordinary phenomenon

PREDICTING CASELOAD

This part aims to determine how much workload the prosecution team can handle considering: number of cases, case completion time, category of cases, and work schedule.

- Based on government data, how many cases will be assigned to each prosecutor?

PRESCRIPTIVE ANALYTICS

This section can help the DOJ in pivoting its processes that will improve how the merits of a case is determined.

OPTIMIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASES TO PROSECUTORS

- How should caseload be distributed to prosecutors?
- How many prosecutors and support staff should be assigned in each area and per case category?

UPSKILLING AND TECHNOLOGY

The acceleration of technology in the digital age presents new opportunities to redirect efforts to more worthwhile undertakings and to better the quality of service.

- What trainings should be provided to prosecutors?
- What technological investments should be pursued and prioritized to aid in determining probable cause?
- What systems and tools can the DOJ use to improve the rate of determining probable cause?

OTHER FACTORS SURROUNDING THE PROCESS

There are certain variables that lie beyond the control of the DOJ, such as natural hazards or recurrence of a pandemic.

- What SOPs should be crafted to combat the effect of extraordinary phenomenon and seasonality?
- What improvement in existing policies, ways of working, and sub-processes should be implemented?

CONCLUSION

With the public concern on attaining justice in mind, these analytics question will lead to insightful actions in achieving the organization's vision and mission. For case allocation, answering the questions will help improve case management and the efficiency of prosecutor's operations. We can then employ techniques in expediting the probable cause identification using novel ways of doing analytics. Incorporating these in the department's overall strategy would empower prosecutors to deliver independent, effective, and efficient service.

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