



**PRESENTATION ON THE FINDINGS OF COURT OBSERVATION ON ACJA IN FCT**

**(JUNE 2018 –SEPTEMBER 2018)**

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**Introduction**

The Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in the Judicial Sector project is a 3-year being implemented by the Rule of the Law and Empowerment Initiative (also known as Partners West Africa – Nigeria) with support from MacArthur Foundation. To ensure effective collaboration, Partners West Africa – Nigeria worked with the state High Courts in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Lagos & Ondo; Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee; the Nigerian Bar Association (Akure, Gwagwalada, Ikeja, Lagos Island, & Unity Branches), Nigeria Institute of Advance Legal Studies, civil society organizations & the media.

The goal of the project is to enhance integrity in the Nigerian Judicial system through court observation; promote implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Law in the FCT, Lagos & Ondo states; enhance citizen's participation in judicial processes and improve access to information on judicial proceedings with regards to compliance of the ACJA. We aim to achieve this through social accountability in the judicial sector.

A total of 65 court rooms are being observed in the three states (FCT -20, Lagos- 25 and Ondo – 20).

**Methodology**

Partners West Africa – Nigeria adapted 4 strategies to the observation process, namely:

- i. Expert methodology workshop
- ii. Court Observation
- iii. Case Monitoring
- iv. Criminal Justice actors' Survey on the ACJA

**Background of the Observation Process:**

The project worked with the Chief Judges, Supervising Judges, Registrars of the courts that were open to collaboration and approved access for the observers to be placed in the courts. These findings are for observation in the FCT.

- A total of 20 observers were deployed across 20 courts in the Federal Capital Territory –Abuja (13 High & 7 Magistrate Courts). The designated courts were in Apo, Maitama, Mpape, Jabi, Gudu, Lugbe, LifeCamp, Dutse-Alhaji, Wuse and Gwagwalada.

## Presentation of findings

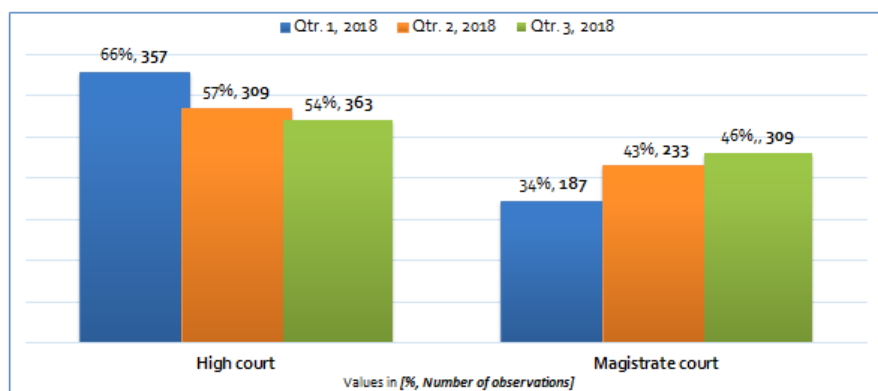
### Court Observation

Court Observation commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The data being presented today is for June 2018 to September 2018. However, comparisons will be made with data from November 2017 till date. The observers were in court Mondays to Wednesdays every week from the date of commencement of the observation this quarter.

In this observation quarter, the High Courts observed their annual vacation from the 9<sup>th</sup> of July to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018. This means High Court Observers were in court for at least 25 days, and Magistrate Court Observers were in court for at least 45 days.

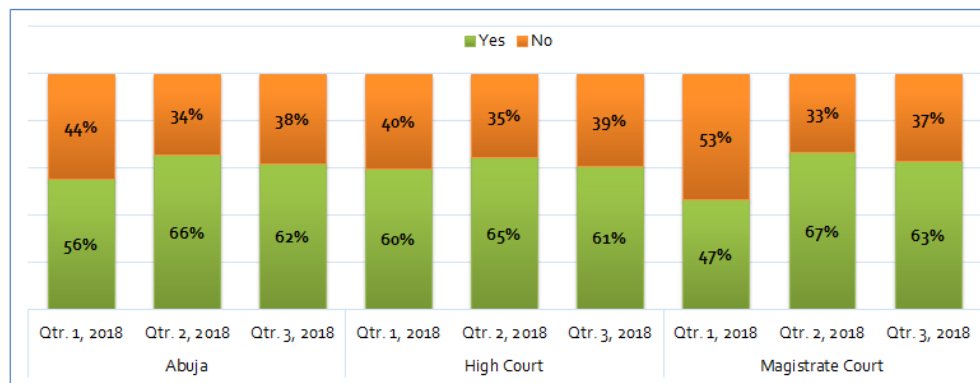
Magistrate courts were observed for 309 days while High courts were observed for 363 days.

Number and % of days Courts were observed in Abuja (Qtr. 1, Qtr. 2, & Qtr. 3 - 2018)



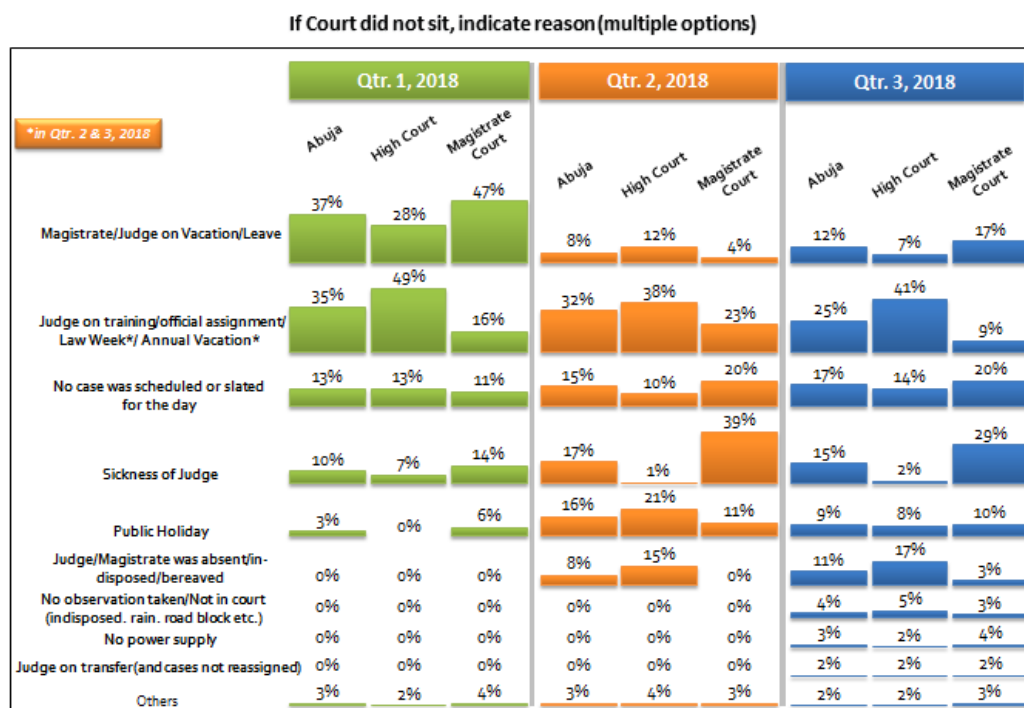
#### 1. Court Sittings:

Did the court sit on this day?



61% of the time, the High court observed sat, compared to 63% sitting for Magistrate courts. In the High Court, Q3 has a lower rating (61%) than Q2 (65%) as a result of the annual High Court vacation.

The reasons given for courts not sitting ranged from official assignment/training/law week/annual vacation, vacation/leave and no case was scheduled for the day, etc – 41% for Annual Vacation at High Courts and vacation/leave (17%) at Magistrates courts.



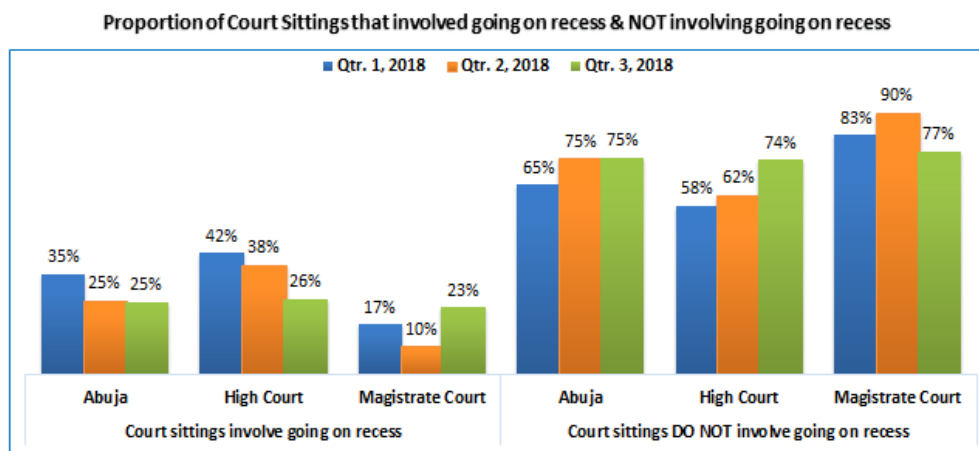
## 2. Average Time of Court Sitzings:

In the High court, the average time when the courts observed commenced sitting was 9:33am, they went on recess at 12:15am and resumed back from recess by 12:45pm and closed for the day by 14:16. For the Magistrate courts, average time courts start sitting is 9:25am, average time for recess is 11:53am, resumption from recess 12:31pm and on average close for the day by 14:10pm.

**Average – time court started sitting, went on recess, resumption from recess & closed for the day**  
Time (Hour : Minute)

### COURT SITTINGS THAT INVOLVE GOING ON RECESS

	Qtr. 1, 2018			Qtr. 2, 2018			Qtr. 3, 2018		
	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court
Average time court started sitting	9:37	9:35	9:45	9:32	9:32	9:33	9:29	9:33	9:25
Average time court went on recess	11:52	11:53	11:44	12:00	12:10	11:11	12:05	12:15	11:53
Average time of resumption from recess	12:24	12:27	12:08	12:36	12:50	11:27	12:39	12:45	12:31
Average time court closed for the day	14:09	14:12	13:51	14:06	14:22	12:50	14:14	14:16	14:10



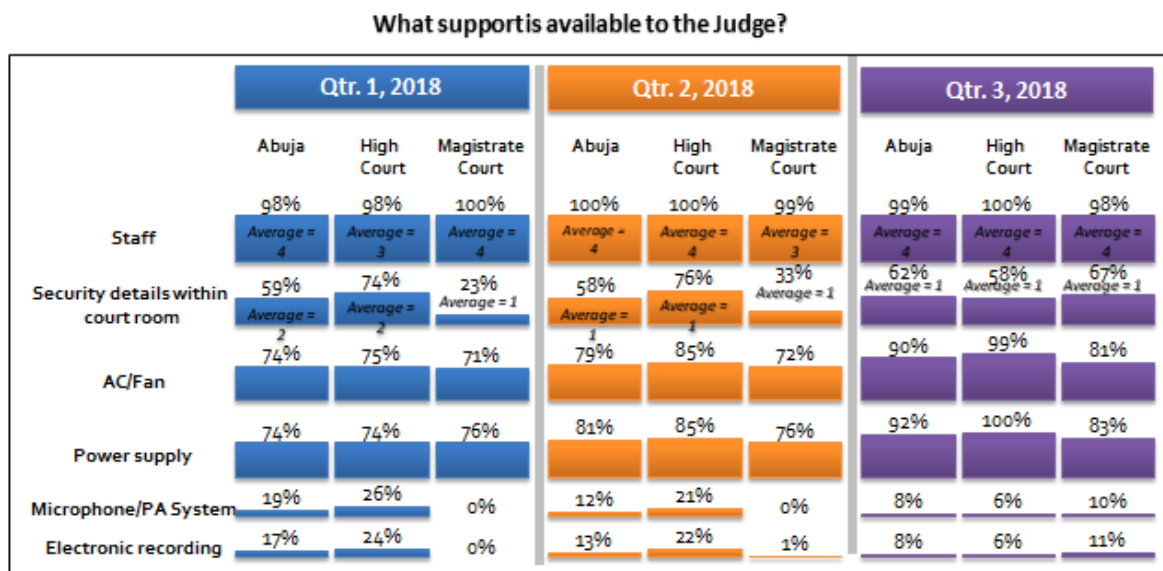
The graph above shows the proportion of courts that go on recess and those that do not go on recess. 77% of the Magistrate and 74% of the High courts observed do not go on recess. In the High Court, an increase in court sittings that do not involve going on recess can be seen across the three quarters (58%-62%-74%).

**Average – time spent in court, spent in recess, actual time spent in sitting on cases**  
*Time presented in 'Hours : Minutes'*

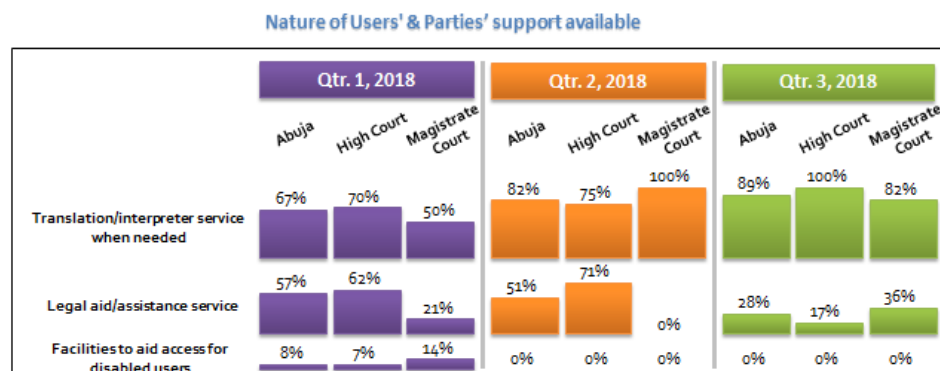
		Qtr. 1, 2018			Qtr. 2, 2018			Qtr. 3, 2018		
		Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court
Court sittings that involved going on recess	Average time spent in court (HH:MM)	4:32	4:36	4:05	4:34	4:49	3:16	4:44	4:43	4:45
	Average time Spent in Recess (HH:MM)	0:32	0:33	0:23	0:35	0:39	0:15	0:33	0:30	0:38
	Average actual time spent in Sitting on Cases (HH:MM)	4:03	4:07	3:41	3:58	4:09	3:00	4:10	4:12	4:07
Court sittings that DO NOT involved going on recess	Average time spent in court (HH:MM)	2:44	2:45	2:42	2:51	2:49	2:53	2:50	3:09	2:30
All cases observed	Average actual time spent in Sitting on all Cases (HH:MM)	3:21	3:31	2:57	3:17	3:35	2:56	3:18	3:33	3:01

For the courts that go on recess, the average time spent in court is 4hours 44mins; average time spent on recess is 33mins and actual time spent in sitting on cases is 4hours 10mins. However, the courts that do not go on recess spend an average of 2hours 50mins in court. When combined the average time spent in sitting on all cases for High courts is 3hours 33mins and for Magistrate courts 3hours 1mins.

### 3. Supports Available to the Courts



From the slide above, we look at the support(s) that are available in the courts to make the job of the judges/magistrates easier (that is makes them more efficient). 98% of the Magistrate courts, are supported by staff in the courts (4 in average) while the High Courts have 100% (4 in average). 67% of the Magistrate Courts have an average of 1 security detail available to them during proceedings, while 58% of the High Courts have at least 1 security detail as well. With regards to Microphones/ PA Systems, 6% of the High Courts are equipped with these facilities, while the Magistrate Courts are at 10%.



Some of the key principles for free and fair trial as stated in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and promoted by the ACJA include, interpretation and translation services (89%) and legal aid services / assistances (28%) and facilities to aid access with disabilities, rather poor, is (0%).

#### 4. Attendance to Cause list

**Number of cases on the day's cause list, cases attended to & percentage of cases attended to VERSUS cases on the day's causelist**

	Qtr. 1, 2018			Qtr. 2, 2018			Qtr. 3, 2018		
	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court
Average number of cases on the days cause list	10	10	10	10	9	11	11	10	11
Average number of criminal cases on the cause list	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	4	3
Average number of civil cases on the cause list	7	7	7	8	7	8	8	8	9
Average number of cases on the days cause list attended to	8	8	8	9	8	9	9	9	10
% of cases on the days causes list attended to Versus Cases on the days causelist	85%	86%	84%	87%	86%	88%	89%	92%	87%

The findings reveal that 11 cases are the average number on the day's cause list. On average 8 civil and 3 criminal cases are on the day's cause list. Of the number on the day's cause list, 9 are attended to amounting to 89% attendance to cases on daily cause list.

In situations where cases were not attended to, the graph below shows that the major reasons include *"one or all the parties were not available"* (60%) Magistrate courts and (56%) High Courts; *"one or all the lawyers were not available"* (74%) for High courts while Magistrate courts is (44%). Noteworthy is the fact that service delivery and absence of witnesses were observed as minor reasons why cases were not attended to.

**Reason why some cases were not attended to (multiple options)**

	Qtr. 1, 2018			Qtr. 2, 2018			Qtr. 3, 2018		
	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court	Abuja	High Court	Magistrate Court
One or all the parties were not available	68%	66%	74%	70%	72%	66%	58%	56%	60%
One or all the lawyers were not available	52%	51%	56%	59%	57%	62%	58%	74%	44%
A witness was not available	13%	7%	28%	21%	20%	23%	27%	28%	25%
Services not effected	10%	11%	5%	9%	13%	0%	17%	21%	14%
Court did not sit on time	6%	4%	14%	3%	3%	2%	1%	0%	1%
The cases were called out of turn (by senior lawyers)	3%	3%	5%	1%	1%	0%	2%	4%	0%
The files or exhibits were not available when the cases were called	3%	0%	9%	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	2%
Power failure (and court had to adjourn sitting)	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	2%
Congestion of court dockets (large number of cases)	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Others	10%	12%	5%	11%	12%	8%	8%	1%	14%

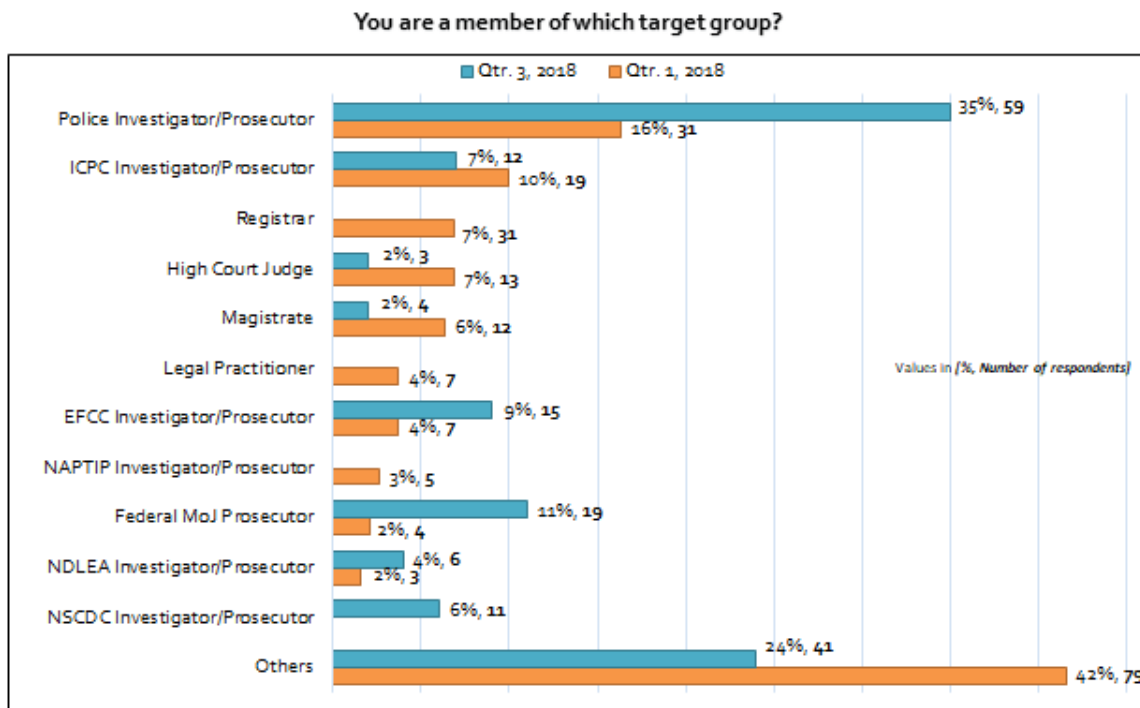
## Presentation of Findings of Criminal Justice Actors' Survey

### Background of respondents

A total of 176 criminal justice actors were surveyed over a period of two weeks across the courts being observed in the FCT in this quarter. Fifty nine (35%) were Police Investigators/Prosecutors, Twelve (7%) ICPC Investigators/Prosecutors and 2% were High Court Judges and Magistrates. Nineteen (11%) of the total surveyed were Federal Ministry of Justice Prosecutors, while EFCC were 9%, NSCDC Investigators/Prosecutors 6%, and NDLEA Investigators were 4%.

Worthy of note is that forty-one (24%) of the individuals surveyed were reluctant to indicate on the questionnaire which category they belong to. However data collectors indicated that all were criminal justice actors.

There is also an improvement in the responses from the Federal Ministry of Justice from the first quarter. Where previously majority of FMOJ prosecutors were reluctant to disclose information on level of implementation of ACJA, they were more inclined to doing so in this quarter.



61% of the criminal justice actors had spent a period of 1-9 years in their current positions, while 22% had spent 10 -14 years and 11% have worked for 15years and above in current positions.

### How long have you been at your current post?

	Abuja	Magistrate	High Court Judge	Police	Federal MoJ Prosecutor	ICPC	EFCC	NAPTIP	NSCDC	NDLEA	Registrar	Legal Practitioner	Others
<b>Qtr. 1, 2018</b>													
Below 1 year	6%	8%	0%	10%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	31%	14%	3%
1 to 4 years	31%	33%	54%	29%	25%	16%	29%	80%	0%	67%	23%	29%	29%
5 to 9 years	37%	33%	31%	26%	50%	53%	43%	0%	0%	33%	38%	14%	40%
10 to 14 years	17%	0%	8%	19%	25%	21%	29%	20%	0%	0%	8%	43%	17%
15 years and above	10%	25%	8%	16%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	12%
<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Qtr. 3, 2018</b>													
Below 1 year	6%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			20%
1 to 4 years	21%	25%	0%	14%	32%	33%	0%	0%	9%	17%			34%
5 to 9 years	40%	25%	67%	44%	47%	25%	53%	0%	91%	66%			12%
10 to 14 years	22%	50%	33%	22%	21%	25%	47%	0%	0%	17%			17%
15 years and above	11%	0%	0%	17%	0%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%			17%
<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>41</b>

## 1. Management of cases since ACJA

Of the total surveyed 14% said they had handled 1-4 cases, 24% handled 5-9 cases and 22% - 10-20 cases since the coming of the ACJA, Twenty (20%) made up of judges, magistrates, police, FMOJ, ICPC, EFCC & NDLEA indicated they have handled 30 cases and above since ACJA.

### How many criminal cases have you handled since the Administration of Criminal Justice ACT(ACJA) came into force in the state?

	Abuja	Magistrate	High Court Judge	Police	Federal MoJ Prosecutor	ICPC	EFCC	NAPTIP	NSCDC	NDLEA	Registrar	Legal Practitioner	Others
<b>Qtr. 1, 2018</b>													
None	10%	17%	0%	10%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	38%	0%	11%
1-4	25%	17%	0%	13%	25%	21%	29%	80%	0%	100%	38%	29%	29%
5-9	23%	25%	15%	23%	0%	21%	14%	20%	0%	0%	8%	57%	27%
10 -20	21%	8%	46%	23%	50%	32%	43%	0%	0%	0%	15%	14%	14%
21-29	7%	8%	15%	10%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%
30 and above	14%	25%	23%	23%	25%	21%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%
<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Qtr. 3, 2018</b>													
None	7%	0%	0%	2%	31%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			10%
1-4	14%	0%	33%	5%	11%	17%	0%	0%	9%	0%			34%
5-9	24%	0%	34%	19%	21%	50%	27%	0%	82%	17%			12%
10 -20	22%	0%	0%	31%	5%	8%	33%	0%	9%	33%			22%
21-29	13%	0%	0%	9%	16%	17%	27%	0%	0%	33%			15%
30 and above	20%	100%	33%	34%	16%	8%	13%	0%	0%	17%			7%
<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>41</b>



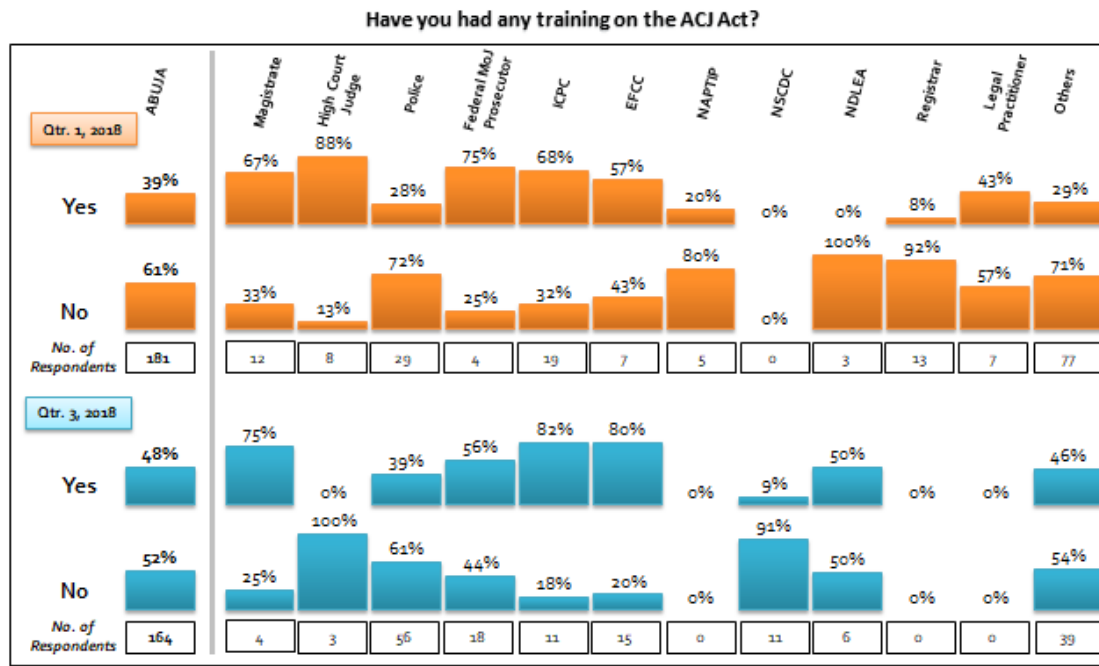
## 2. Capacity Building & knowledge of ACJA

To what extent have you read the Administration of Criminal Justice Act?

	Abuja	Magist rate	High Court Judge	Police	Federal MoJ Prosecutor	ICPC	EFCC	NAPTIP	NSCDC	NDLEA	Regist rar	Legal Practiti oner	Others
<b>Qtr. 1, 2018</b>													
<i>I have not read the provisions of the ACJA</i>	29%	45%	25%	39%	50%	32%	43%	20%	0%	0%	8%	14%	27%
<i>I have only read those Provisions of the ACJA that apply to my functions &amp; powers</i>	63%	45%	75%	52%	50%	63%	57%	80%	0%	100%	54%	57%	69%
<i>I have read all the provisions of the ACJA</i>	8%	9%	0%	10%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	38%	29%	4%
<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Qtr. 3, 2018</b>													
<i>I have not read the provisions of the ACJA</i>	11%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	90%	0%			3%
<i>I have only read those Provisions of the ACJA that apply to my functions &amp; powers</i>	50%	25%	67%	66%	32%	67%	58%	0%	0%	100%			36%
<i>I have read all the provisions of the ACJA</i>	39%	75%	33%	20%	68%	33%	42%	0%	10%	0%			61%
<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>39</b>

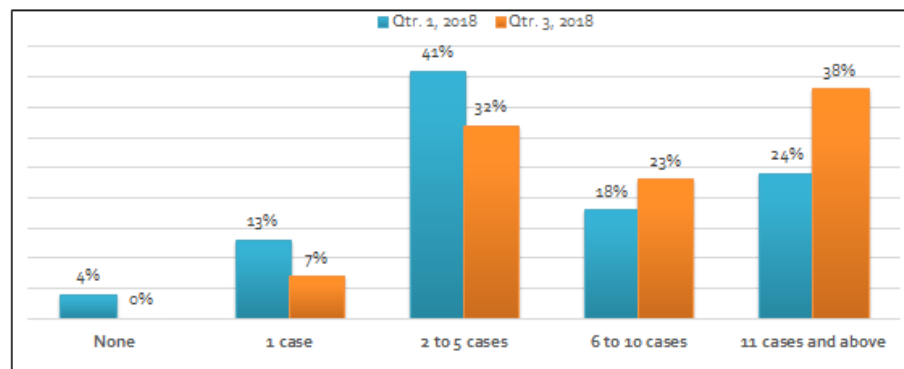
50% of criminal justice actors surveyed have “read some provisions of the ACJA that apply to their functions & powers.” Of the total, 11% have not read the provisions of the ACJA – “Others”, Police, with the majority being NSCDC. However (67%) amounting 2 judges have read some provisions while (75%) amounting to 3 Magistrates have read all of the provisions of the ACJA.

Only 79 respondents (48%) have been trained on the ACJA these are Police prosecutors (22), prosecutors of ICPC (9), EFCC (12), FMOJ Prosecutors (10), & magistrates (3); and the trainings were mainly provided by their employers & donor support program. Worthy to note is that the High Court Judges surveyed indicated they had not received any training on the ACJA although 67% of them had read some provisions.



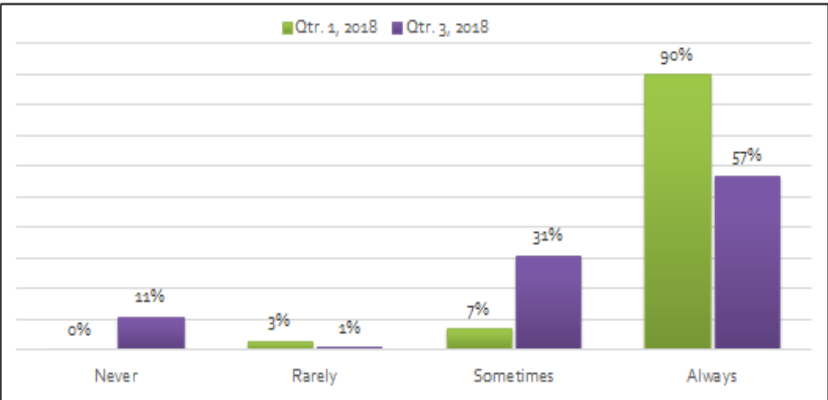
### 3. Pre-trial & Trial requirements

Since the coming into force of the ACJA how many criminal cases have you been involved in that led to the arrest and or prosecution of the suspects in the case?

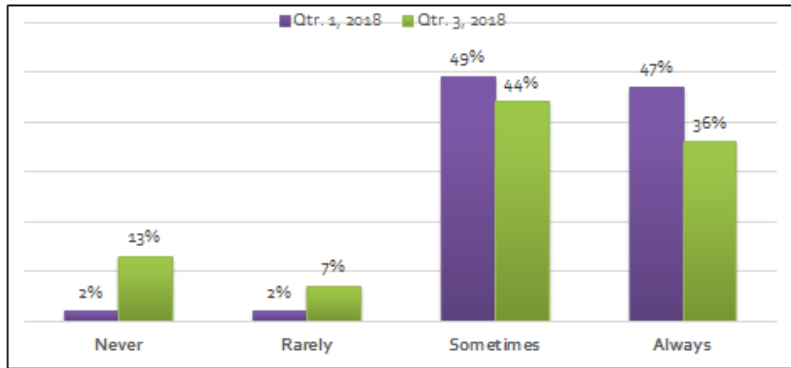


55% surveyed prosecutors & investigators have been involved in 2-10 cases that led to arrest & prosecution of suspects since ACJA, while 38% have been involved in over 11 cases leading to arrest & prosecution.

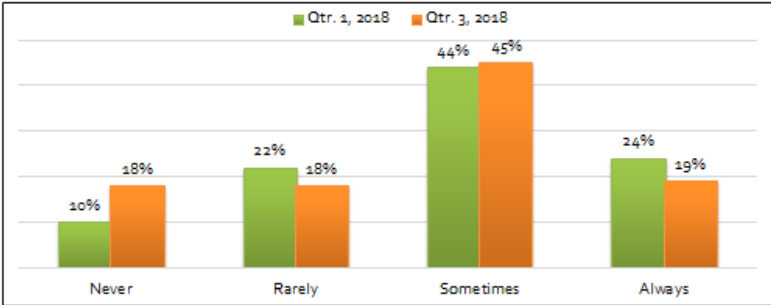
If you were involved in at least 2 cases that led to the arrest and or prosecution of suspects, how often did you...**Inform the arrested persons the reason(s) for their arrest, whether orally or in writing?**



If you were involved in at least 2 cases that led to the arrest and or prosecution of suspects, how often did you...**Allow the accused person's legal counsel to be present during interrogation?**

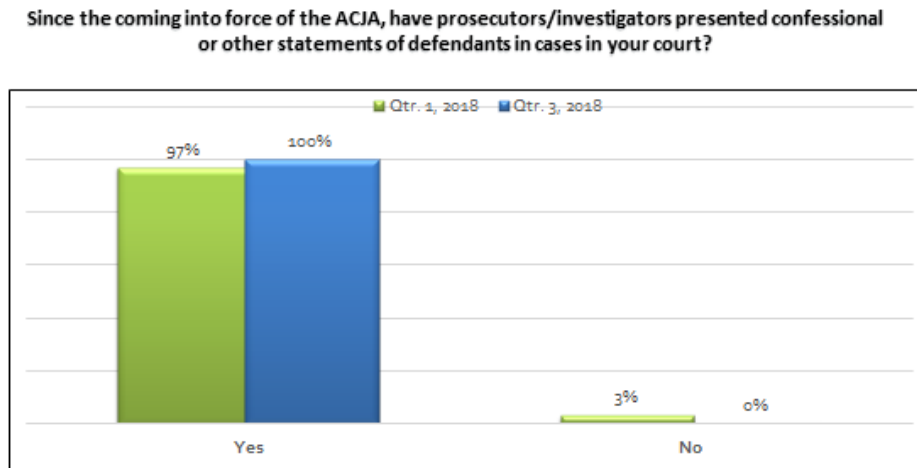


If you were involved in at least 2 cases that led to the arrest and or prosecution of suspects, how often did you...**Make a video recording of the confessional or other statement of the suspects; or in the absence of a video recording, allow a legal practitioner to be present during the making of the statement?**

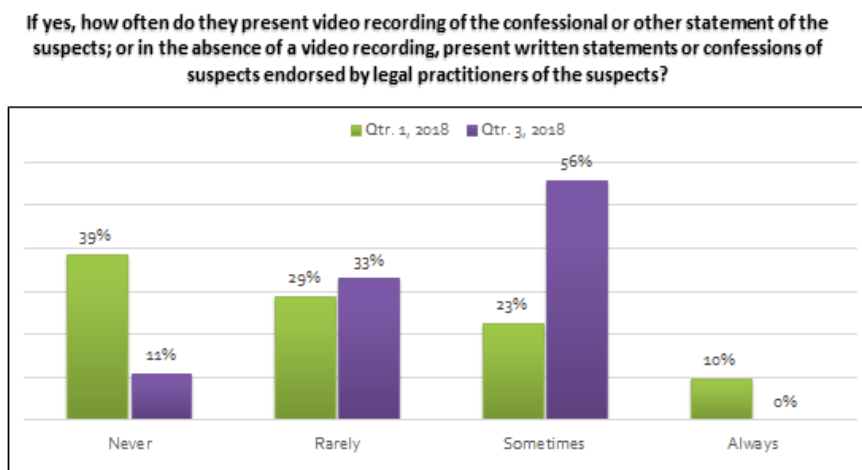


In line with Section 6(1) of the ACJA, 57% of the respondent investigators & prosecutors say they “always” inform the person(s) the reasons for their arrest either orally or in writing. 36% respondents

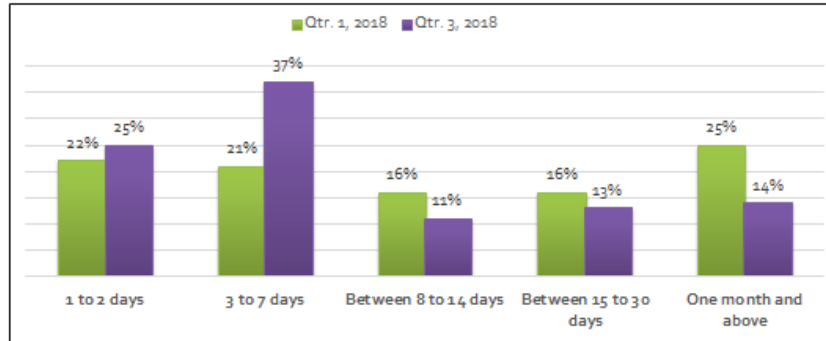
always and 44% sometimes allow defendant's legal counsel presence during interrogation. On the other hand, only 19% respondents "always" record statement of suspects and in the absence of video recording allow legal counsel during the making of statement.



100% of judiciary surveyed said since ACJA, prosecutors/investigatorors have continued to present confessional statements of defendants in their courts. However 44% of the time, they rarely or do not present video recordings of the confessional statement or in absence thereof written statements of suspects endorsed by legal practitioners. This is intendam with the position of prosecutors who say they seldom record interrogation processes.



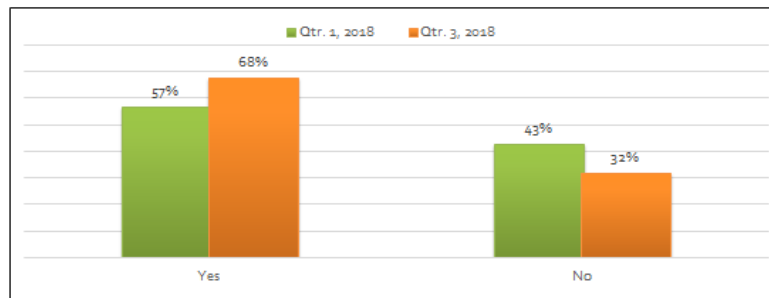
For the cases you were involved, on the average how long did it take from arrest of the suspects to the case being charged to court?



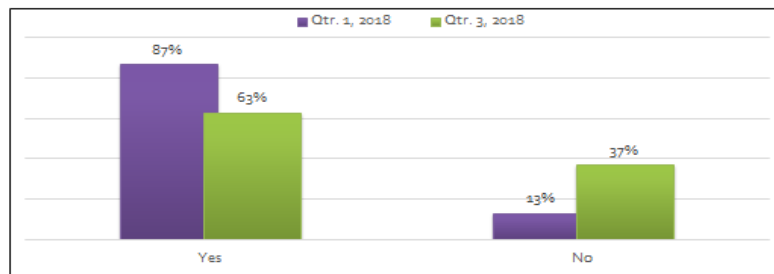
14% of respondent prosecutors say it takes an average of 1 month and above from arrest of suspects to the case being charged in court; 25% say it takes 1-2 days.

In line with section 293(1) ACJA, 68% of respondent prosecutors/investigators applied to the magistrate for remand of arrested suspect, out of which 63% have applied for extension of the remand order, however it is not so often that they apply for the extension.

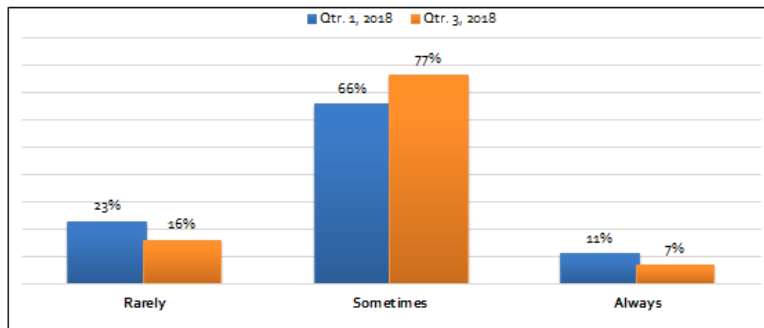
Did you have cause to apply to a Magistrate or Judge for an order to remand a suspect in any of the cases you were involved in?



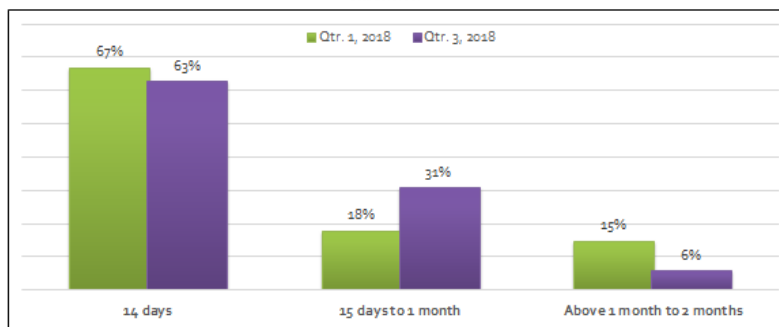
Did you have cause to apply to a Magistrate or Judge for an extension of the remand order?



How often did you apply for an extension of a remand order?

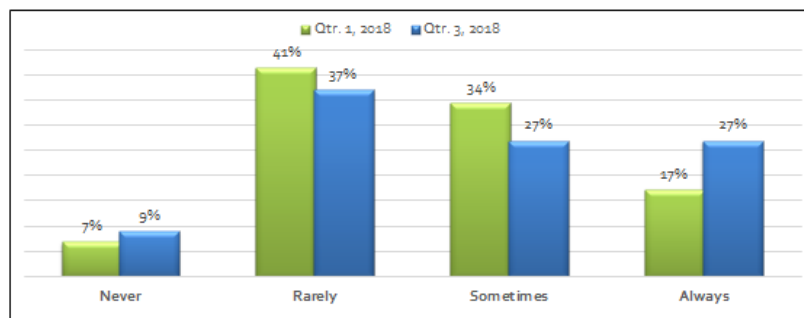


On the average how long did it take between the original order for remand and the application for extension; or between an order for extension and a subsequent application for further extension?



When compared with responses from the judiciary, 37% said “rarely” and 27% said “sometimes” law enforcement agents & prosecutors apply for remand orders. However 60% of the judiciary believes it takes 15 days to 1 month while 63% for prosecutors are of the opinion that it takes 14 days from original order for remand and application for extension order.

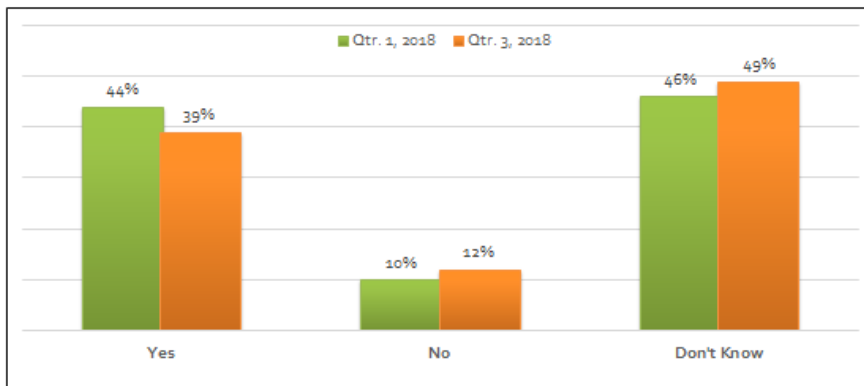
Since the coming into force of the ACJA how often do law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies apply for remand orders from your court?



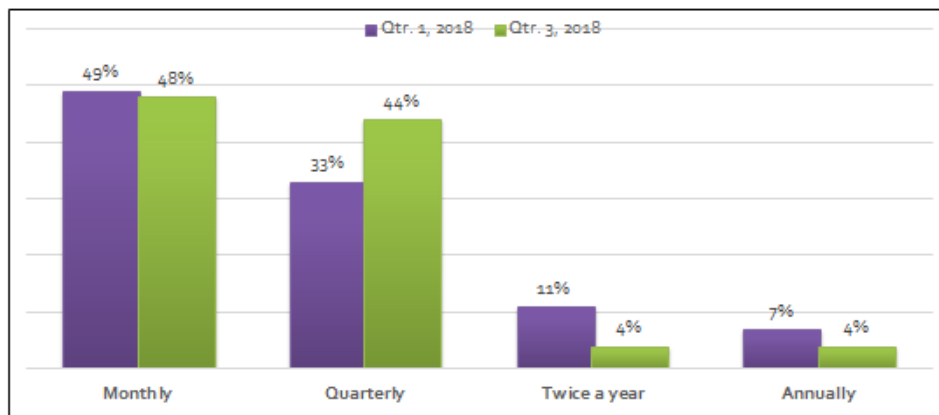
#### 4. Oversight powers (FMOJ, Police & Judiciary)

To ensure accountability and for oversight purposes, the ACJA Sec. 29 (1) mandates the Inspector General of Police or head of agency authorized by law to make arrest to remit quarterly report to the Attorney General of all arrest made with or without warrant. 39% said IGP or head of agency sent the reports out of which 48% said he/she does monthly while 44% said he/she does quarterly.

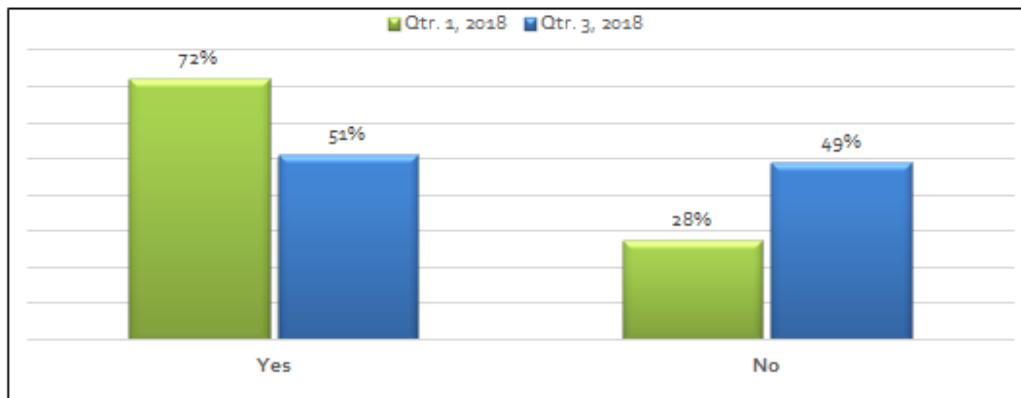
Since the coming into force of the ACJA has the Inspector General of Police; or the Commissioner of Police; or head of your agency sent records of arrests /detention to the Attorney General of the Federation?



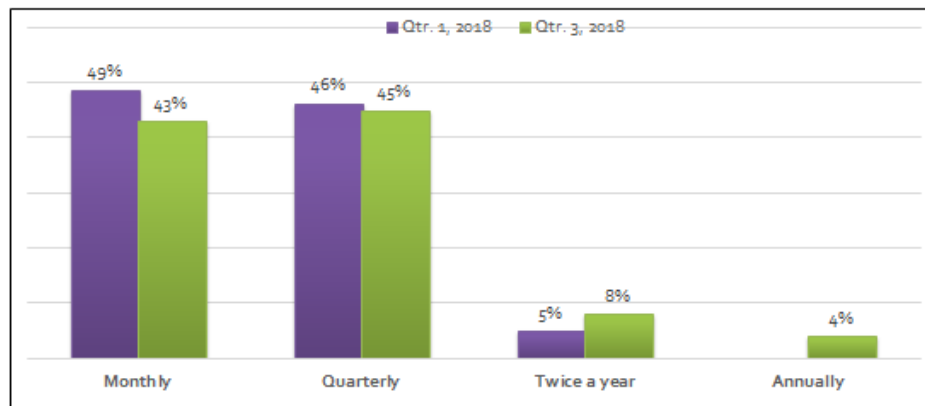
If yes, how often?



Since the coming into force of the ACJA, has your police station (or unit of your agency) sent reports of persons arrested without warrant to a Magistrate or Judge?

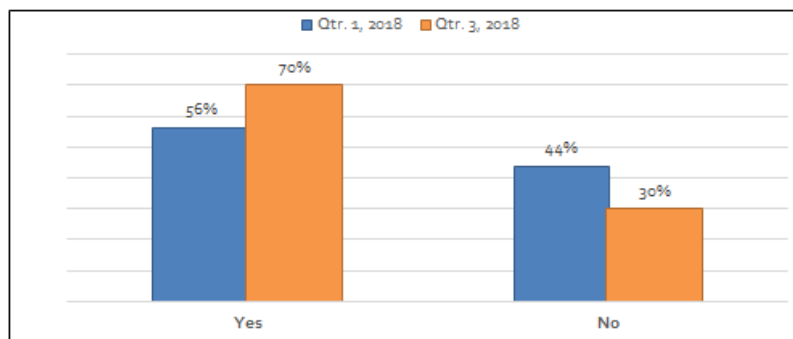


If yes, how often?



51% of respondents said their police stations/agency responsible for arrest, monthly or quarterly send reports of persons arrested without warrant to the Magistrate or Judge.

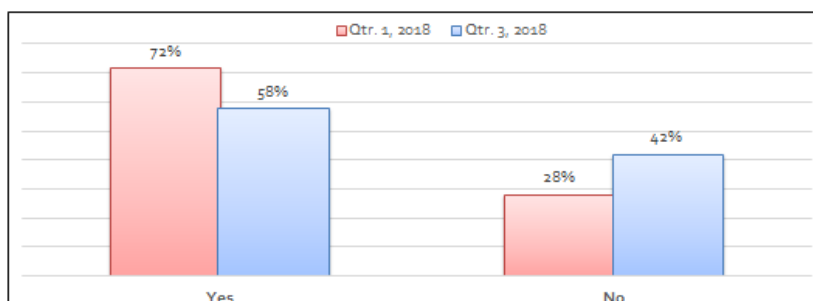
Since the coming into force of the ACJA, do you send to your head of court (CJ) reports of criminal cases in your court whose trial do not commence after 30 days of arraignment or; where commenced within 30 days are not concluded/disposed of after 180 days from arraignment?





With regards to oversight of Chief Judge on Magistrates & Judges, 70% of respondent judiciary members said they, mostly on quarterly basis, report to the Chief Judge criminal cases that have not commenced in their courts after arraignment.

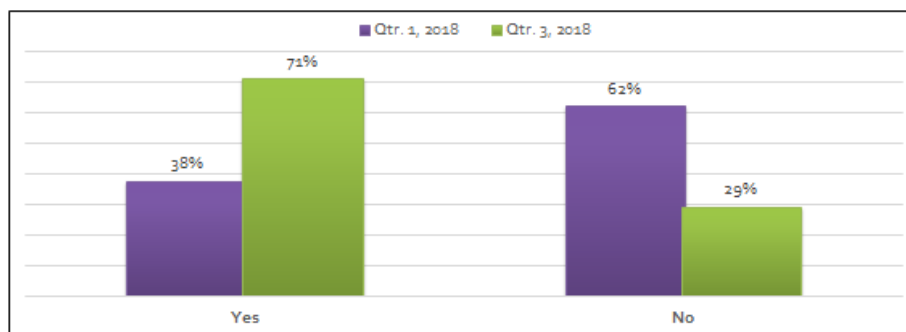
Since the coming into force of the ACJA, has a magistrate/Judge carried out an inspection of your agency's place of detention?



	Qtr. 1, 2018		Qtr. 3, 2018	
	N	%	N	%
Magistrate	1	100%	0	0%
High Court Judge	1	100%	0	0%
Police Investigator/Prosecutor	21	81%	38	79%
Federal MoJ Prosecutor	3	100%	4	57%
ICPC Investigator/Prosecutor	4	40%	5	50%
EFCC Investigator/Prosecutor	4	80%	6	55%
NAPTIP Investigator/Prosecutor	0	0%	0	0%
NSCDC Investigator/Prosecutor	0	0%	0	0%
NDLEA Investigator/Prosecutor	1	50%	1	17%
Registrar	10	100%		
Legal Practitioner	2	100%		
Others	2	50%	7	58%

58% prosecutors said since the ACJA, on monthly or quarterly basis magistrates/judges have carried out inspection of their detention centers and 71% of judges & magistrates agreed.

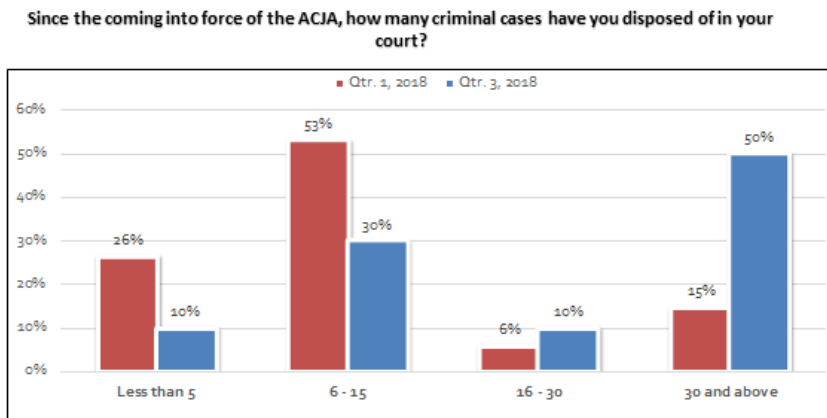
Since the coming into force of the ACJA, have you carried out an inspection of a place of detention (other than the prison)?



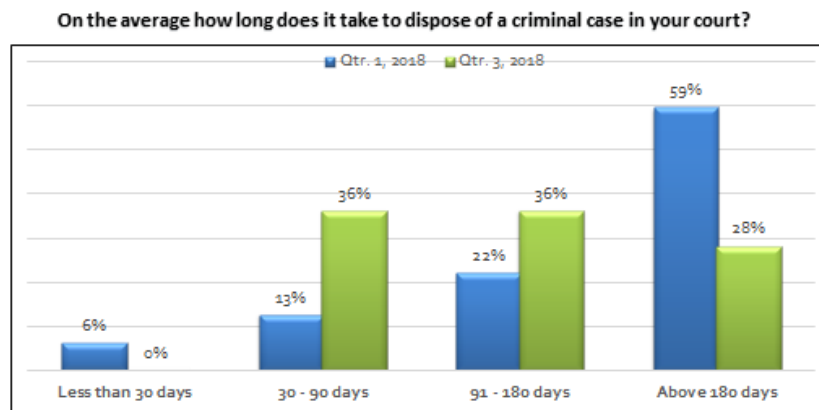
	Qtr. 1, 2018		Qtr. 3, 2018	
	N	%	N	%
Magistrate	5	56%	3	75%
High Court Judge	3	43%	2	100%
Police Investigator/Prosecutor	0	0%	4	67%
ICPC Investigator/Prosecutor	1	50%	0	0%
Legal Practitioner	1	100%		
Others	2	17%	1	50%

## 5. Speedy trial

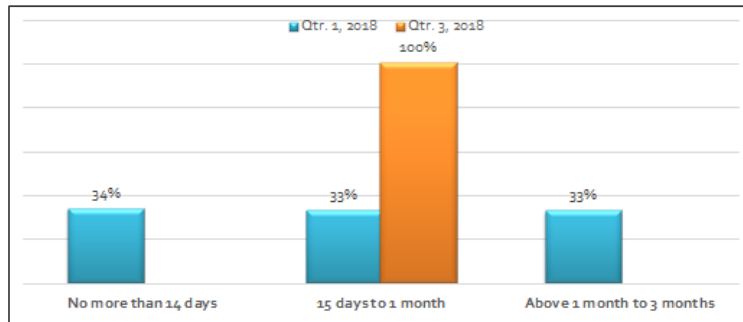
One of the fundamental intentions of the drafters of the ACJA is to ensure speedy trials and dispensation of justice. 2 (30%) of the 7 total of judges & magistrates surveyed, said since ACJA they have disposed of 6-15 cases; 1 (10%) has disposed of less than 5 cases, while 3 (50%) persons have disposed of over 30 and above.



36% of members of the judiciary said it takes them 91-180 days to dispose of criminal cases in their courts, while 28% said it takes them above 180 days to do same.



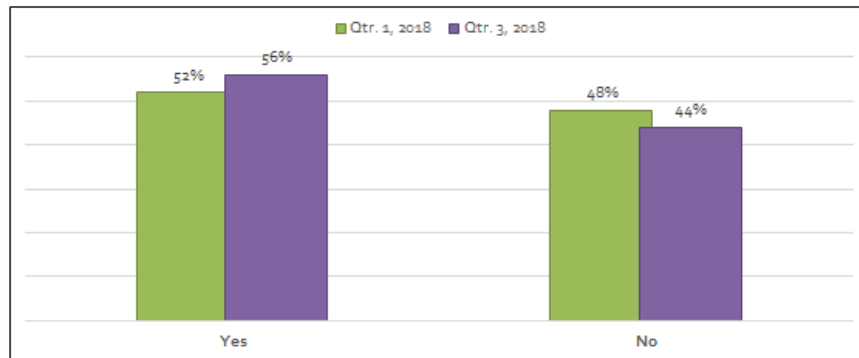
**What is the average duration of adjournments in criminal cases in your court?**



In this quarter, the Judiciary states that it takes 15 days to 1 month for the average duration of adjournments.

56% of respondents of judiciary members surveyed said since ACJA, they have ordered for witness expenses such as cost or compensation for lost of time. It was however unclear in this research whether these expenses where paid for.

**Since the coming into force of the ACJA, have you ever ordered for witness expenses (whether for cost, expense or compensation for lost of time) to be paid to any witness in a criminal case before you?**



### **Observations/ Commendations**

1. PWAN would like to commend employers of Criminal Justice actors for providing capacity building on the ACJA for its employees. Based on PWAN's recommendation on the need for training on the ACJA in the first quarter, the findings from observation in this quarter have revealed that more criminal justice actors have received training on the ACJA. PWAN would like to encourage all employers to train criminal justice actors, and also emphasize the need for continuous re-training.
2. PWAN would also like to commend the FCT Judiciary on the institution of the Declogging panel for criminal cases. It is our hope that the panel will contribute to effective implementation and improve speedy dispensation of justice.
3. PWAN would also like to commend the Federal Ministry of Justice for its improvement in the willingness of staff to share information on implementation of the ACJA. Findings from previous quarters revealed that some staff of the FMOJ were reluctant to disclose information on the ACJA. This informed PWAN's recommendation on criminal justice agencies allowing access to information in promotion of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. We encourage other criminal justice actors to be more transparent with regards to sharing of information.

### **Recommendations**

1. Provision of working equipment: There is need for government to appropriate and provide equipment such as electronic recorders for effective discharge of duties by judges and magistrates.
2. Inclusiveness within the judicial system: The judiciary should ensure that facilities are provided to cater for all, including persons with disability. This may include sliding rams for access into court premises, sign language provision to aid interpretation.
3. Discharge of duties by parties/representatives: The courts should implore the intention of the ACJA on "speedy trial and effective dispensation of justice" to exercise their discretion on erring parties and their representatives in courts. The practice of persons with locus standi and their representative being the reasons for cases not attended to vitiates the intent of the ACJA.
4. There is need for the executive to appropriate and provide the necessary wherewithal for procurement of equipment for interrogation processes for investigative agencies. Philanthropists, Donors, and other organizations are also encouraged to support in the procurement of equipment. The practice of non-presentation of video-recording of interrogation processes to courts is in violation of the ACJA. Investigative and Prosecutorial agencies when provided with tools for effective discharge of duties should use them with duty of care.
5. The Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee should be empowered resource-wise to ensure effective coordination of criminal justice agencies. This report reveals that there are gaps in inter-agency coordination and collaboration on administration of criminal justice.

6. The Executive & Legislature should appropriate for witness expenses in the budget to the judiciary. When this is done, the Judiciary should provide a schedule for witness expenses in line with the requirements of the ACJA. This will allow for more information on what witness are entitle to.
7. PWAN would like to recommend that the Legal Department of the FCT Command should forward quarterly reports to the Commissioner of Police FCT Command, who in turn will forward to the Attorney General of the Federation. This will be in addition to reports send in by the IG to the Attorney General of the Federation.
8. Finally, there is a need for continuous coordination between ACJA implementing organizations to ensure effectiveness of interventions aimed at promoting the successful implementation of the ACJA.