

NEWSLETTER

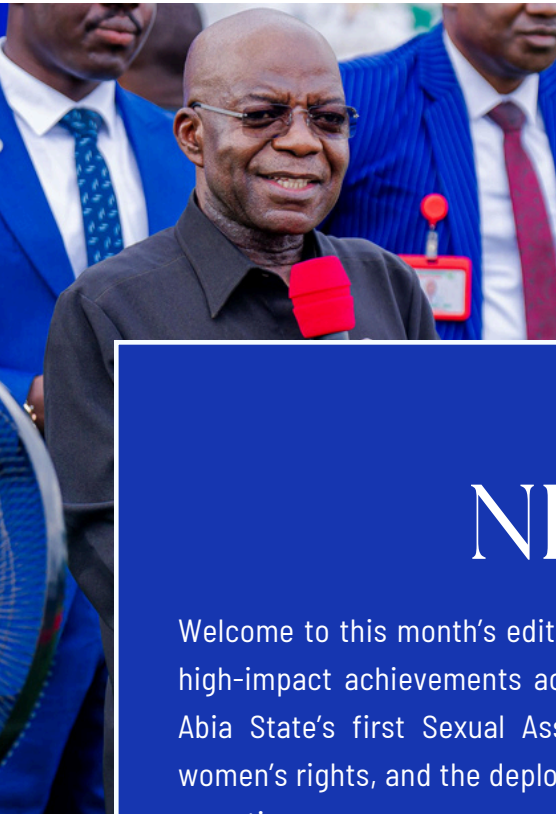
THE RULE OF LAW AND ANTI-CORRUPTION (ROLAC) PROGRAMME



Funded by
the European Union



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WELCOME TO OUR

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to this month's edition of the RoLAC newsletter. The start of 2026 has been marked by high-impact achievements across both programmes. Highlights include the landmark launch of Abia State's first Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), vital community-level advocacy for women's rights, and the deployment of digital tools to track assets and streamline criminal justice reporting.

Furthermore, our focus on institutional integrity has seen us engage directly with the leadership of the Nigeria Police Force and the 36 State Heads of Civil Service to embed lasting anti-corruption reforms.

In this edition, you will find detailed updates on how these coordinated efforts are translating into tangible policy shifts and improved service delivery. We hope these stories of partnership and resilience provide valuable insights into our ongoing work to build more transparent and inclusive governance structures for all Nigerians.

Key Highlights

130

NBA Chapters trained, with
over 70 step down training



Over **19K**

Citizens reached, yielding 89
disclosures of SGBV violations



We launched the first Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) at Aba General Hospital in Abia State, Nigeria.

As part of our commitment to ending SGBV and supporting survivors to access care and justice, we are excited to share that the RoLAC Programme launched the first Sexual Assault Referral Centre - Nchedo SARC at Aba General Hospital in Abia State. This exciting milestone under the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) Programme, supported by the European Union, is particularly important as it will provide survivors of SGBV with essential psychosocial support such as counselling, emotional care, family involvement, and community networks to help them cope, heal, regain normalcy and demand justice.

This collaborative milestone was backed by the Abia State Government through the State's Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, in partnership with the Ministries of Justice, Health, and Women Affairs, reinforcing the importance of key stakeholders buy-in for the success of any intervention and its sustainability.

The Programme also set-up two technical pillars- the Abia State GBV Committee (Chaired by the First Lady) and the Abia State GBV Technical Committee (Chaired by the Ministry of Social Protection & Women Affairs), both structures that are very crucial in providing a coordinated, multi-sectoral, and accountable mechanism to prevent SGBV in the State, mitigate associated risks, and ensure that survivors receive timely, confidential, and life-saving support.

Beyond immediate care, these efforts are grounded in a commitment to long-term systemic change. By strengthening legal frameworks and improving referral pathways, the initiative ensures that the path to justice is as accessible as the path to recovery. Ultimately, the Nchedo centre stands as a beacon of hope, signaling a future where every survivor is heard, protected, and empowered to reclaim their life within a supportive and responsive society.





Beyond March: Strengthening Systemic Structures for Rights, Justice, and Action for All Women and Girls

To ensure sustained action for the rights of women and girls well beyond the celebratory women's day, we supported activities in Kano, Lagos and Anambra States geared towards strengthening justice systems, and proactively challenging and dismantling harmful societal narratives and norms on women's rights, through s

In Lagos, we backed the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (LagosDSVA) for a pivotal event with 80 advocates, government officials, CSOs members, and SGBV survivors. The Executive Secretary of the agency, Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi stressed collective action for protection, justice, and support, fostering peer learning and survivor confidence.

We also partnered with Anambra State's Ministry of Women's Affairs for town-hall meetings across three senatorial zones (Enugu-Agidi, Anaku, Ufuma), engaging 150+community/women leaders and advocates on justice access, leadership, and dismantling injustice cycles at the grassroots.

In Kano, we supported the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) in pushing for a harmonized penal code with stronger protections for women, better shelters, and effective justice systems. Through these across across different states, we are promoting a more equitable society.



Digitizing Administration of Criminal Justice Act Reporting for Transparent Justice

With our support, the Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC) launched the Criminal Justice Reporting Portal (CJRP), a crucial digital platform to improve the efficiency, transparency, and overall management of reporting obligations under the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) across the FCT.

The training program provided an opportunity to present the CJRP to its primary end-users (Magistrates, Divisional Police Officers-DPOs, and Court Registry staff) for hands-on capacity building and operational validation, and to interact with the system, master its reporting features towards addressing manual processes' delays and inconsistencies.

By centralizing these records, the portal reduces the administrative burden on justice sector officials and ensures that critical data is captured in real-time. This digital transition not only speeds up the reporting cycle but also fosters greater accountability across the various agencies involved.

Moving forward, the CJRP will serve as a vital tool for data-driven decision-making, helping to identify bottlenecks and ultimately ensuring a more responsive and fair criminal justice system for all citizens.



We Hosted 36 State Heads of Civil Service for National Anti-Corruption Dialogue

To ensure that we advance preventive anti-corruption measures we hosted a 2-day National Stakeholders Engagement in collaboration with the Code of Conduct Bureau and Federal Ministry of Justice on the Online Assets and Liabilities Declaration System (OALDS) and National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS).

The engagement gathered 36 State Heads of Service, the “engine room” of policy execution to tackle compliance gaps in state civil services.

While the online assets declaration system is a powerful tool, its success will ultimately depend on strong ownership and enforcement at the state level.

DR. ABDULLAHI USMAN BELLO

Chairman of Nigeria's Code of Conduct Bureau



The dialogue got their buy-in for NACS 2022–2026 implementation and sub-national domestication (building on state strategies like KANSACS and EDSIAS), while promoting OALDS rollout—a digital upgrade for transparent asset declarations, verification, and monitoring.

By fostering coordination, user training, and shared ownership, the event drives accountability, restores public trust, and ensures anti-corruption success across federal and state levels.

"We need change champions across the states, to help us drive the change we want to see. No matter the enforcement capacity at the Federal level, we can only go this much, if we don't have people who are committed and visioned to see the new Nigeria we are all desirous of "

EMMANUEL CHUKWUEMEKA UCHE

Project Manager, RoLAC II,
Component 3



SENATOR NEDA IMASUEN

Senator Neda imasuen
Senator representing Edo South Senatorial District. He also serves on the Senate Committee on Public Petitions and Ethics

Also in attendance was Senator Neda Imasuen, representing the Edo South Senatorial District and a member of the Senate Committee on Public Petitions and ethics.

Addressing the State Heads of Service, Senator Imasuen delivered a profound call to action, urging them to lend their full support to the government's anti-corruption and ethical reforms. He emphasized that the success of these initiatives hinges not just on policy, but on a collective moral commitment, noting that "true institutional integrity is born when we transition from mere compliance to a deeply rooted culture of personal and professional ethics." His remarks underscored the legislature's support for a transparent system where accountability serves as the bedrock of public service.

The engagement concluded with a renewed sense of purpose, serving as a vital milestone in the ongoing mission to fortify Nigeria's integrity framework. It serves as proof that through strengthened institutional autonomy and a steadfast commitment to ethical leadership, the fight against corruption can achieve the transparency and public trust essential for lasting national progress





Advancing Criminal Justice Reform through Enhanced Police Effectiveness

The Nigerian Police Force (NPF) plays a pivotal role in advancing criminal justice reform in Nigeria, serving as the frontline guardian of public safety, rule of law, and citizen rights. Effective policing directly influences trust in the justice system, community cooperation, and the overall success of anti-corruption and security efforts. To strengthen this foundation, we supported a three-day strategic retreat aimed at developing a multi-year, long-term Strategic Action Plan for police training and capacity development.

The training targeted officers of the Department of Training and Development which plays a central role in shaping the professionalism, operational readiness, and institutional culture of the Nigeria Police. It provided an avenue to discuss issues of citizens engagement, evolving security threats, technological advancements, shifting public expectations, and periodic changes in leadership within the force which sometimes affects the continuity of reforms.

At the end of the three days, a Strategic Action Plan was developed to provide a structured guide for training priorities, institutional reforms, partnerships, resource mobilisation, and put an end to fragmented interventions, duplication of efforts, inconsistent standards, and limited sustainability of reforms.



Strengthening FOIA Compliance for Transparent Governance in Nigeria

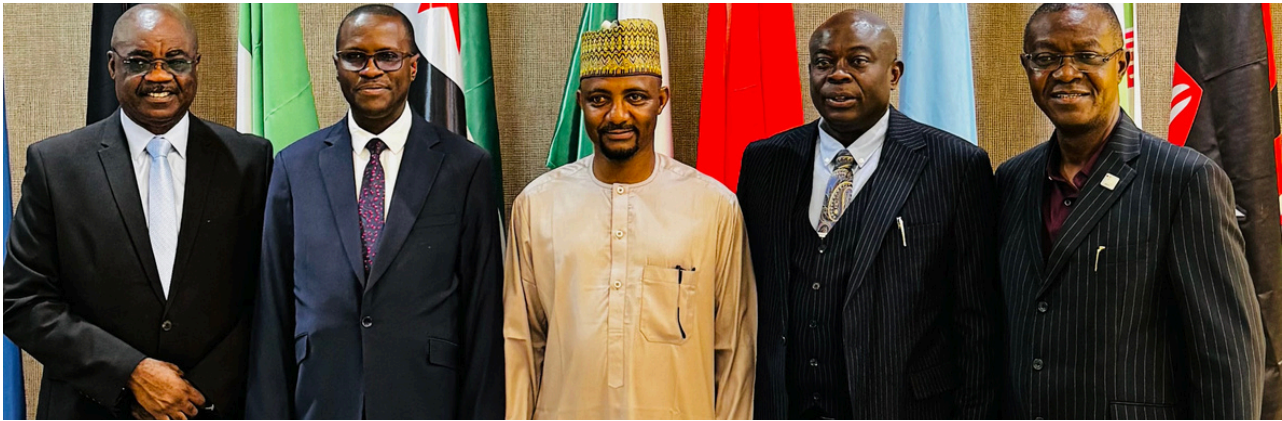
The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act is a tool for transparent and accountable governance, as it enables citizens, civil society, and the media to access public records and hold institutions to account.

When public institutions comply with the Freedom of Information Act, 2011, it becomes easier to detect abuse of power, monitor public spending, and demand responsive service delivery.

For this reason, we support for FOI compliance is central to its broader objective of strengthening institutions and reducing corruption in Nigeria.

Given the critical role of desk officers as the first point of contact for FOI requests, it is essential that they understand both the provisions of the law on FOIA. To deepen this understanding, #RoLAC supported the Federal Ministry of Justice in organizing a one-day compliance reporting and sensitization workshop for federal public institutions.

The workshop aimed to address persistent challenges such as delayed responses, inconsistent interpretation of the Act, and weak reporting practices, and to equip FOI desk officers with the knowledge and tools they need to handle requests effectively.



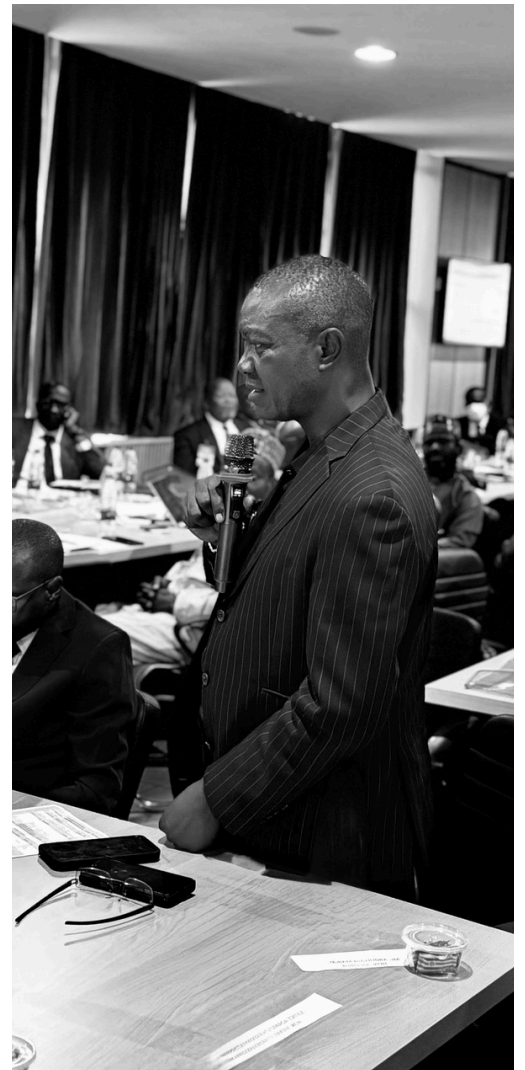
Enhancing ICPC's Institutional Effectiveness

One of RoLAC's core objective in the fight against corruption is to strengthen institutions, build transparent systems, and enhance accountability across the justice and governance sectors.

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) plays a central mandate in this regard as Nigeria's key institution for preventing, investigating, and prosecuting corruption, as well as promoting integrity and public trust. Supporting ICPC's management retreat, themed "Enhancing Institutional Effectiveness, Leadership, Performance and Public Trust," was therefore critical to aligning institutional capacity with reform ambitions and ensuring that anti-corruption efforts are strategic, sustainable, and citizen-centred.

During the retreat, we collectively reviewed ICPC's institutional performance, achievements, and challenges, including the path towards greater financial and institutional autonomy for the commission.

It also served as a platform to plan the implementation of the 2026 Strategic Action Plan, and to develop a monitoring framework for anti-corruption reforms at state and sub-state levels, reinforcing existing Anti-Corruption and Transparency Units (ACTUs) and expanding them where needed, alongside stronger internal oversight mechanisms.



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