

# **SUPPLEMENTARY PRACTICE DIRECTION ON PERFORMANCE REPORTING FOR SMALL CLAIMS COURTS**

## **SUPPLEMENTARY PRACTICE DIRECTION NO. SC/PD/02/2023**

**Date: 15th February, 2023**

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by Section 274 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), High Court Law, Cap. 53 Vol. 1, Laws of Niger State, 1989; Section 89 (1) and (2) of the District Courts Law, Cap 37, Vol. 1, Laws of Niger State, 1989; and by virtue of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, **I, Hon. Justice Halima I. Abdulmalik, Chief Judge of Niger State**, hereby issue this Supplementary Practice Direction to enhance performance monitoring and accountability within Small Claims Courts in the State.

### **ARTICLE 1 – OBJECTIVE**

This Supplementary Practice Direction provides a legal and procedural basis for the collection, collation, and reporting of case statistics and performance data from all designated Small Claims Courts in Niger State.

### **ARTICLE 2 – SCOPE AND APPLICATION**

2.1 This Direction shall apply to all Magistrate or District Courts designated by the Chief Judge as Small Claims Courts.

2.2 It shall also apply to the Secretariat of the Judicial Committee on Small Claims Courts, established by Judicial Circular No. SC/02/2023.

### **ARTICLE 3 – PERFORMANCE REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

3.1 Every Small Claims Court shall maintain a monthly register of all cases filed, disposed of, or pending.

3.2 The following minimum data shall be recorded and reported quarterly:

- a) Court name and division
- b) Number of new cases filed
- c) Number of cases disposed
- d) Number of pending cases
- e) Average time from filing to disposition
- f) Nature of claims

g) Method of resolution (judgment, consent, withdrawal, etc.)

3.3 The Presiding Magistrate or Judge of each Small Claims Court shall forward a quarterly performance report to the Secretary of the Judicial Committee on or before the 5th working day following the end of each quarter.

#### **ARTICLE 4 – CONSOLIDATED QUARTERLY REPORTS**

4.1 The Judicial Committee on Small Claims Courts shall consolidate the performance data into a quarterly report, which shall be submitted to the Office of the Honorable Chief Judge.

4.2 The Chief Registrar may direct publication of summary performance statistics on the Judiciary's official website or notice board.

#### **ARTICLE 5 – FORMAT AND COMPLIANCE**

5.1 Reports shall be submitted using the standardized performance reporting template issued by the Judicial Committee.

5.2 Persistent failure to comply with this Practice Direction shall be treated as administrative misconduct, subject to internal disciplinary measures.

#### **ARTICLE 6 – COMMENCEMENT**

This Supplementary Practice Direction shall come into force on 15th February, 2023, and shall be deemed to complement the original Practice Direction on Small Claims Courts (2018).

Issued under my hand and seal this 15th day of February, 2023.

**Hon. Justice Halima I. Abdulmalik,**  
Chief Judge,  
Niger State.