

NEWSLETTER

# RULE OF LAW AND ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAMME

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Funded by the European Union



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## Farming Justice: Cultivating Reform and Rehabilitation Behind Bars

As part of ongoing efforts to promote sustainable rehabilitation within Nigeria's correctional system, we, in partnership with Hope Behind Bars Africa, is implementing the Farming Justice Project a reform-focused agricultural initiative designed to equip people who have been in conflict with the law and are on the verge of being reintegrated back into society with practical farming and life skills.

The project is currently being implemented in the Dukpa and Kuje correctional centres in Abuja, as well as in the women's section of the Kirikiri correctional centre in Lagos, with plans to expand to Edo State in due course. So far, it has reached 341 male and 188 female inmates, providing hands-on training in sustainable agriculture, behavioural change, and financial literacy to support reintegration and self-reliance after release.

The initiative addresses key challenges of overcrowding, food insecurity, and limited rehabilitation opportunities within correctional facilities. By revitalising farm centres, the project is helping transform correctional facilities into spaces for productive learning, food production, and skill development aligning with the Nigerian Correctional Service Act (2020), which prioritises rehabilitation over punishment. Through stakeholder collaboration with correctional authorities, agricultural experts, and civil society, the Farming Justice Project is building a scalable model for correctional reform one that restores dignity, strengthens food security, and empowers inmates for life beyond confinement.

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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# Nigeria Exits FATF Grey List

## Our Strategic Support Strengthened the Country's AML/CFT Framework



Nigeria has officially exited the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Grey List, marking a major milestone in the country's fight against money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing. We played a key role in achieving this success through targeted institutional support and multi-stakeholder coordination. In response to the FATF's recommendations, we provided a series of technical and operational interventions that strengthened Nigeria's Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism, and Countering Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF) framework.

We facilitated EFCC/SCUML-led reviews of existing systems and structures and policy roundtables to assess residual risks of money laundering and terrorist financing, ensuring alignment between institutional strategies and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). The Programme also supported the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) in training law enforcement and sanctions bodies on terrorist designation and compliance procedures, improving inter-agency understanding and coordination in tracking illicit financial flows.

To strengthen investigative and analytical capacity, we supported the EFCC in acquiring and deploying a Case Management and Archiving System. This innovation improved the Commission's forensic and open-source intelligence analysis, enhanced case documentation, and facilitated better collaboration among agencies involved in financial crimes investigations. Recognising the importance of global cooperation, we enabled Nigeria's experts to participate in key international forums such as the Conference of States Parties, bolstering the country's voice and visibility in global AML/CFT dialogue and compliance monitoring. In line with FATF's focus on preventive measures, we supported targeted compliance and awareness outreach for financial institutions and Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs), including the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA).

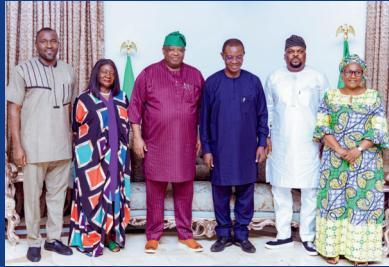
Notably, RoLAC's support to the NBA's national training in January 2025 equipped 130 branch executives with AML/CFT compliance skills, which has had a multiplying effect—74 branches have since stepped down the training to their members, significantly improving the rate of suspicious transaction reporting and customer due diligence across the legal profession.

These interventions directly addressed the FATF's key recommendations and contributed to strengthening Nigeria's institutional readiness and compliance culture, paving the way for its successful exit from the FATF Grey List.





## RoLAC Secures Plateau State Governor's Commitment to Strengthen Transparency and Accountability Reforms



As part of efforts to deepen collaboration with state governments and accelerate the implementation of the Programme, a delegation from the Programme met with the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Mr Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, and members of his cabinet to discuss ongoing reforms and strategies to improve transparency and accountability in the state.

The meeting, attended by key state officials including the Deputy Governor, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Head of Service, Commissioners, and Special Advisers, provided an opportunity to update the Governor on progress made under the Programme and to secure high-level commitment for the implementation of activities.

Leading the RoLAC team, Dr Emmanuel Uche, Component Manager for Anti-Corruption, highlighted key achievements we have made and the need for the government to drive further reforms in transparency and accountability.

In his response, Governor Mutfwang commended the European Union and International IDEA for their continuous partnership in advancing good governance and justice reforms in Plateau State. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to transparency and accountability. The Governor cited examples of his administration's adherence to due process, including instances in which financial authorisations were declined for non-compliance with established procedures, underscoring his government's commitment to doing things the right way. He assured the RoLAC team of full cooperation and pledged to support the accelerated implementation of the Programme's activities.





## Building Digital Intelligence: EFCC and Anti-Corruption Agencies Strengthen Internet Investigation Capacity

As the world increasingly moves online, corruption investigations are evolving beyond traditional methods. Recognising this shift, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), with our support from convened a three-day Internet Investigation Tradecraft Workshop to enhance the digital investigative capacity of Nigeria's law enforcement and anti-corruption agencies.

The training brought together 47 participants—31 men and 16 women—from the EFCC, the Nigeria Police Force, and other anti-corruption agencies, to build practical skills in using open-source intelligence (OSINT) tools, managing digital evidence, and conducting secure, ethical online investigations.

Over three days, participants were exposed to the fundamentals of internet-based investigations, including advanced search techniques, digital footprint management, social media monitoring, and handling of digital evidence. The workshop also introduced investigators to dark web navigation, pseudonym creation for undercover operations, and international best practices in online surveillance.

Despite challenges with internet connectivity, the workshop achieved remarkable outcomes. Participants demonstrated improved use of Boolean operators, advanced search tools, and global datasets skills essential for tracing illicit financial activities across borders. Knowledge of social networks and data cross-referencing was also significantly enhanced, improving their ability to uncover digital trails linked to corruption cases.

The activity marks a significant step in strengthening Nigeria's investigative ecosystem by helping agencies stay ahead of increasingly sophisticated digital crimes.



## Supporting Efficiency in the Justice System: RoLAC Hands Over IT Equipment to the Nigerian Correctional Service

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance the efficiency of Nigeria's criminal justice system and promote diversion and non-custodial measures, we formally handed over a set of information technology (IT) equipment to the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS).

The support forms part of RoLAC's continued assistance to strengthen the Correctional Information Management System (CIMS), a critical digital tool designed to improve data management, case tracking, and coordination across correctional facilities in Nigeria.

The equipment provided includes electronic tracking devices, computers, internet infrastructure, IT accessories, and solar systems to ensure uninterrupted power supply and reliable data connectivity. Together, these tools will enhance the Service's ability to manage inmate information efficiently, monitor pre-trial detainees, and support ongoing reforms toward a more humane and effective correctional system.

Through this intervention, RoLAC continues to advance its goal of promoting a fairer, more efficient, and technology-driven justice system that aligns with international standards and contributes to decongesting correctional centres across Nigeria.



## We Supported the Development of a Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Women Affairs, Children, and Disabled in Kano State

As part of our commitment to promoting inclusive governance and strengthening state institutions, we supported the Ministry of Women Affairs, Children, and Disabled in Kano State to develop a comprehensive three-year (2026–2028) Strategic Plan and an accompanying Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework.

The strategic plan serves as a roadmap for the Ministry's work over the next three years, outlining clear priorities, measurable goals, and actionable strategies aimed at improving service delivery to women, children, and persons with disabilities in the state. The process, which was participatory and consultative, involved senior officials from the Ministry, representatives of civil society organisations, and key stakeholders working in gender equality, child protection, and disability inclusion.

The MEL framework complements the plan by providing tools and indicators to track progress, measure impact, and ensure that interventions remain responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable groups. With this framework, the Ministry will be better positioned to monitor the implementation of its programmes, strengthen accountability, and make evidence-based decisions that advance inclusion and empowerment.

Through this support, we continue to reinforce institutional capacity and governance structures that promote transparency, equity, and the protection of rights. The initiative also aligns with the programme's broader goal of strengthening public institutions to deliver effectively and uphold the rule of law at state and subnational levels.



## We Trained Counsellors and Social Workers on Trauma Counselling for Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the FCT

As part of efforts to strengthen the response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), we organised a specialised training on SGBV trauma counselling for counsellors and social workers. The training aimed to equip frontline service providers with the knowledge and practical skills to deliver trauma-informed care to survivors of abuse.

Participants drawn from government agencies, civil society organisations, and support centres were trained on understanding trauma, effective communication with survivors, managing secondary trauma, and applying survivor-centred counselling approaches. The sessions also provided a platform for experience sharing and peer learning among professionals working in the field.

By strengthening the capacity of counsellors and social workers, the training seeks to ensure that survivors of SGBV in the FCT receive compassionate, professional, and sustained psychosocial support.

This intervention complements ongoing RoLAC initiatives to enhance coordination among justice and service delivery actors and improve the quality of response mechanisms for survivors.



## Deepening our collaboration with the Edo State Government

As part of our effort to ensure strong partnerships with our stakeholders, the RoLAC delegation, led by Mr Danladi Plang, embarked on a high-level engagement visit to Edo State to meet with key state leaders and update the new administration on ongoing initiatives under the Programme. The visit focused on reaffirming collaboration around transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption reforms, which constitute the third thematic area of RoLAC's intervention. Over two days, the delegation met with the Deputy Governor, Hon. Chief Judge, Attorney General, Special Adviser to the Governor on Legal Matters, Head of Service, and the Managing Director of the Edo State Public Procurement Agency (EDPPA). Discussions centred on RoLAC's achievements in the state, emerging priorities, and opportunities for strengthened partnership.

In our meeting with the Deputy Governor, Mr. Plang highlighted areas requiring state action, including the review of the Administration of Criminal Justice (ACJ) Law, Child Rights Law, the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act and the adoption of the Edo State Integrity and Accountability Strategy (EDSIAS). The Deputy Governor reiterated the government's commitment to these reforms and designated a focal officer in the Governor's office to coordinate engagement with RoLAC.

During discussions with the Special Adviser to the Governor on Legal Matters and the Attorney General, both parties agreed on the need to advance key legislative priorities, including the Proceeds of Crime Law, Anti-Corruption Agency Law, and State Correctional Service Bill. The State Government also expressed interest in printing and disseminating its Anti-Cultism and Anti-Kidnapping Laws to promote public awareness and compliance.

At the Edo State Public Procurement Agency (EDPPA), both teams agreed to strengthen collaboration on capacity building, citizen engagement, and the deployment of an e-procurement platform to promote transparency in the state's procurement system.

Through these engagements, RoLAC continues to strengthen partnerships that foster integrity, access to justice, and good governance in Edo State, in alignment with the Programme's broader objective of consolidating the rule of law and anti-corruption reforms in Nigeria.

### Photo News



Mr Danladi Plang and the SA to the Edo State Governor on Legal Matters



Mr Danladi Plang and Dr Emmanuel Uche with the Head of Service Edo State Government



A cross section of the team with the Chief Judge of Edo State

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