

# NEWSLETTER

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## WORLD BANK MISSION ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON



The World Bank, through the missions, carries out an exhaustive follow-up to the goals and objectives advanced by Improvement Program of the Justice Services - EJE NO PENAL. In April 2022, after 02 years of pandemic and virtuality, Bank officials developed a schedule in Lima to hold meetings with the leaders of the beneficiary institutions of the Improvement Program. They addressed many issues to consolidate the development of a more prompt, timely, and transparent justice system in Peru, as it is in essence, the nature of the program financed by the World Bank. In this Newsletter's edition, we provide details of these work and coordination meetings

with the Chairman of the National Board of Justice, the President of the Judiciary, the President of the Magistrates Academy, senior officials of the Constitutional Court, and the Vice Minister of Human Rights and Access to Justice.

Likewise, in April, a portfolio review meeting was held with the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF). The General Directorate of Public Indebtedness and Treasury led this working group to review the progress of disbursements in each project. Both executing units comprising the Improvement Program - EJE NO PENAL attended the meeting: MINJUSDH (Ministry of Justice and Human Rights) and the Judiciary.

Participant institutions:

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World Bank official, Carolina Vaira, led a working meeting at the offices of the EJE NO PENAL.

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL MODERNIZATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND THE NATIONAL BOARD OF JUSTICE



One of the objectives of the Improvement Program financed by the World Bank is to provide the ALEGRA centers with modern computer equipment to improve and expand the services they provide. Additionally, it is planned to train the personnel working in the ALEGRA centers such as the Public Defenders or pro bono attorneys available to the citizens



During a week in Lima, World Bank officials led by Carolina Vaira, senior public sector specialist for Latin America and the Caribbean visited the offices of the Improvement Program of the Justice Services - EJE NO PENAL. The delegation arrived to check the Program achievements to date. As part of the mission, they met with the presidents of the institutions that constitute the Peruvian justice system, entities receiving technical and financial support to achieve true digital justice in Peru.

The objective is ambitious; the World Bank and the Improvement Program have set the goal of enabling real access to justice viable in the country. In particular, the focus is on the most vulnerable since the existing gaps mean that not all citi-

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zens can achieve complete defense of their rights and obligations.

Indeed, this was one of the topics discussed with the Vice Minister of Human Rights and Access to Justice, Dr. Guillermo Vargas. The General Directorate of Public Defense, which depends on his office, guides through the ALEGRA free legal advice centers. A zero-cost service for the citizen that, given its free of charge, needs to expand more strongly. “Thanks to the support of the World Bank in 2015, the first Mega Alegra was inaugurated in Peru. It was a unique model in Latin America and has been replicated gradually in many regions around the country. It is important since the State supported by these international organizations can provide people with limited economic resources with an attorney to help them with their judicial proceedings,” said Carlos Gallegos, District Director of the Public Defense of Central Lima.

Vice Minister Vargas met with the World Bank officials at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights offices; located in the District of Miraflores. During the meeting, the national authority reported on the progress made in the Program implementation and thanked the World Bank for the support to achieve interoperability among the institutions that constitute the country’s justice system. One of the objectives of the Improvement Program financed by the World Bank is to provide ALEGRA centers with modern computer equipment to improve and expand the services they provide. There are also plans to train the personnel working in the ALEGRA centers, such as the Public Defenders or free lawyers available to the citizens. Within this framework, Bank officials also met with Zoila Macavilca Román and Patricia Espinoza Eyzaguirre, General Director of the Public Defense Directorate and General Administrative Coordinator, respectively. “Thanks to the Improvement Program – EJE NO PENAL, we have had excellent training progress for our Public Defenders executed during 2021 and so



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far in 2022. As Public Defense, we provide advice to the most vulnerable population, and compared to other countries in Peru, we work in the legal area and on the defense of victims,” said Macavilca Roman.

The objective of the Improvement Program is to set up new ALEGRA centers nationwide to meet citizens’ demand for legal defense. Likewise, it is required to strengthen the extrajudicial conciliation service offered in these places to avoid more lawsuits. Nationwide, there are 89 conciliation centers of the General Directorate of Public Defense, based on information released by the MINJUSDH. The data also refers that this alternative solution mechanism allows the conciliation of issues such as alimony, child custody, and visitation, payment of debts, compensation, and evictions, among others, without the need to go to the Judiciary with a lawsuit.

National Board of Justice (JNJ) and Constitutional Court (TC)

National Board of Justice, as the autonomous constitutional body in charge of appointing, ratifying, and sanctioning all judges and prosecutors at the national level, also participated in these

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meetings with the World Bank. Its President, Dr. José Ávila Herrera, valued the Bank's support through the EJE NO PENAL Program to provide the Board with the necessary tools to turn this institution into an island of integrity.

"We want the World Bank to help us achieve four standards: integrity, interoperability with other justice system institutions, technological infrastructure, and artificial intelligence. In this way, the Board will be a reference entity within the state," commented Avila Herrera.

Carolina Vaira, the representative of the World Bank, learned about the need to develop the National Registry of Judges and Prosecutors. A consultation tool where it will be possible to have information on the name and qualification or disqualification of more than 8500 prosecutors and 3500 judges throughout the Peruvian territory and will be of great help in the ratification and appointment or disciplinary processes undertaken by the Board.

"We are aligned with the National Board of Justice because we have the same objectives. When you have an island of excellence that has a multiplier, incentive, and replication effect for other state institutions," commented Vaira.

The digital transformation of the Constitutional Court was another major topic addressed during the World Bank mission. The head of the Information Office of this entity, Mr. César Rodríguez, gave a broad explanation of the Court's digitalization process and highlighted the Expert System for the resolutions and sentences issued in the Habeas Data processes. A technological application that is being developed within the Improvement Program of the Justice Services - EJE NO PENAL. As a result of the implementation of the EJE NO



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PENAL Program, 100% of the files of the Constitutional Court were digitized,

which resulted in significant progress for the institution (Caretas, digital edition dated Friday, April 22, 2022).

Thanks to the acquisition of 5 high-resolution and high-speed scanners financed by the World Bank and the EJE NO PENAL Program, the goal has been achieved.

Finally, Camilo Avila, the Bank's justice consultant, and Tanja Goodwin, manager of the Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions Program for Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru, also attended the World Bank mission. René Menard, World Bank Social Safeguards consultant, also led coordination meetings at the Bank's Lima office. As a matter of policy, when the World Bank finances projects, it seeks to ensure a minimum of adverse impacts on people or the environment, hence the need to hold periodic meetings to ensure best practices.

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*Econ. Rodolfo Albán Guevara, Executive Director of the Improvement Program of The Justice Administration System - EJE NO PENAL*

## PORTFOLIO REVIEW

### INTERVIEW TO:

#### **ECON. RODOLFO ALBÁN GUEVARA**

*Executive Director of the Improvement Program of the Justice Administration System - EJE NO PENAL*

Since the beginning of the Improvement Program of the Justice Services - EJE NO PENAL in 2021, the Executing Unit 003 has been disbursing more than 11 million Soles and planning to invest 9 million Soles more in the next six months. Periodically, the Program is responsible for providing the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and the World Bank with all the information related to the progress in execution and management. The work of the Improvement Program is based mainly on supporting non-criminal justice system institutions in need of modernization. The beneficiary institutions, such as the Constitutional Court, the National Board of Justice, and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, are improving their standards for information processing and change management within their organizations. Econ. Rodolfo Albán Guevara provides details of this essential portfolio review to have clear accounts and meet the objectives quickly.

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### 1. What do we mean by portfolio review?

It is an activity carried out by the Ministry of Economy and Finance with the participation of the IBRD and Executing Unit 003. Its objectives include measuring the progress of the Investment Projects in charge of the different executing units and observing the physical and financial execution, disbursements, and future challenges.

### 2. What does the Ministry of Economy and Finance analyze in these “portfolio review” meetings?

The Ministry of Economy and Finance follows up on the financial execution of the investment projects, evaluates the current situation of each project investments, the difficulties encountered, and the possible solutions to overcome the existing challenges.

### 3. Why are these meetings important?

The importance of these meetings arises in the first instance so that the Ministry of Economy and Finance can become aware of the reality of the investments carried out, their progress, and the projections to meet the Program objectives. Likewise, these meetings become spaces where the executing units provide relevant information on the projects and the challenges to be overcome for the proper execution of the loan contract.

### 4. What is the World Bank’s participation in these meetings, or how is it informed about all progress achieved?

Since the World Bank is the institution that provides technical and financial assistance to the Program, the portfolio review reports the finan-

cial execution by type of resource (national and foreign resources). The World Bank carefully observes the Program progress, disbursement, project portfolio execution, and others. The Improvement Program of the Justice Services - EJE NO PENAL is responsible for providing the MEF and the World Bank with information on the progress of the program execution.

### 5. How much investment has been made by Executing Unit 003, and is it meeting its objectives within the timeframe set?

Since the beginning of the program in 2021, it has been executing a total of S/11,567,197.00, considering the context suffered due to the pandemic generated by COVID 19. We believe that this program has been complying with its general objectives, showing significant advances in its execution. This program successfully leads the digital transformation in the Constitutional Court, the National Board of Justice, and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The current progress lays a solid foundation for timely, transparent, and predictable justice.

### 6. In general terms, what is the outlook for the EJE NO PENAL Improvement Program for the next six months?

In terms of budget execution, the Improvement Program has contemplated the expenditure of 9 million Soles in the next six months to purchase goods and services that will allow the implementation of the Electronic Judicial File. We also highlight the technological modernization of the ALEGRA free legal advice centers throughout the country and continue making progress in strengthening the constitutional justice administered by the Constitutional Court.

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