

“Data should move, not people”

Statements by the President of the Constitutional Tribunal, Dr. Francisco Morales, to close the gaps in access to justice. The Constitutional Court (CC) is one of the beneficiary institutions of the Improvement Program - Eje No Penal .

With the support of the World Bank, through the Improvement Program Eje No Penal, Magistrate Francisco Morales has initiated a digital crusade. As president of the CC, he is leading the transformation process in his institution. The following is part of the interview he gave.

Dr. Morales, how is the change in the Constitutional Court going?

We are in a process of digital transformation. The ordinary citizen today, for example, can carry out his

banking operations by telephone, which was not possible before, and this has meant a change in our mentality and behavior. What is happening today in the banking sector must also happen in the legal field.

But the process of change is ambitious and we still have an unfinished issue in terms of innovation in the justice sector.

In the case of digitization of constitutional proceedings that is the future and the change reaches not only ju-

dges, lawyers but also users. I am an optimist in that process.

And what is the contribution of international cooperation, in this case a multilateral organization such as the World Bank, to the objectives of your institution?

In the case of the Constitutional Court, which is a small institution, the contribution of the Eje No Penal Program has been fundamental. We have been able to improve our equipment, to have scanners that have allowed us to digitalize lawsuits and constitutional grievance appeals. There are even developments of predictive modeling projects for the Habeas Data processes and improvement of the technological infrastructure.



The ALEGRA center of Comas facilitates access to justice

The ALEGRA center of Lima Norte is about to celebrate its tenth anniversary. With the intervention of the Eje No Penal Program, the user assistance will be improved.

“The presence of the ALEGRA center in the district of Comas is very important and it cannot stop, since every day our users come looking for a free lawyer. Otherwise, they would have no one to represent them and their rights could be affected”, said Dr. Raúl Navarro Mendivil, district director of Lima Norte of the General Directorate of Public Defense of the Ministry of Justice.

The Alegra center of Comas is going to change. Aware of the need to have access to justice services, the Eje No Penal Program began the work of physical improvement of the centers in Lima Norte. The estimated investment exceeds half a million soles and, during the following 45 days, work will be done to provide an adequate and quality service to the user population that comes in search of assistance.

These works will include improvement works in all environments such as access ramps, waiting rooms, children’s play areas, warehouse, reception, offices for public defenders, change of electrical connections, painting, among others.

The ALEGRA center of Comas has an area of 117.60 m². To optimize its operation, the improvements consider the expansion of the covered area with removable elements. Likewise, the total replacement of the drywall walls that were in poor condition is expected, with more resistant structures of the same material, but for outdoor areas.

“The intervention in the ALEGRA center of Comas is level 3, so called because of the refurbishment and expansion of an existing center with an



infrastructure whose legal physical situation corresponds to an agreement (as is the case of Comas with INA-BIF), temporary assignment or that is owned by the Ministry of Justice,” said architect Rosa Gómez, a specialist in monitoring and follow-up of the Project Supervision Unit of the Eje No Penal Program. Considering the center of Comas, six ALEGRA centers have been refurbished by the Eje No Penal Program, with an investment of over one million two hundred and ninety-one thousand soles (S/ 1,291,000.00).

In the first stage, the centers located in Villa María del Triunfo, Villa El Salvador, Santa Anita, San Juan de Miraflores and Lima Centro were improved.

Overcoming the challenge

Alimony lawsuits are the most recurrent in all ALEGRA centers, including the ALEGRA center of Santa Anita where practically 82% are alimony lawsuits.



Above all, ALEGRA centers have a woman's face. According to statistics provided by the General Directorate of Public Defense, more than 90% of the services provided in these centers are requested by women. On the scale, the first place is given to the request for alimony, the increase of alimony or the recognition of children who - unfortunately - have been denied this right. Public defenders seek to vindicate it and guarantee that, through adequate legal guidance and legal defense, no person is exempt from the law, either by omission or negligence.

"Alimony lawsuits are the most recurrent in all ALEGRA centers, including the Alegra center of Santa Anita where practically 82% are alimony lawsuits. They also have cases for custody, parental authority, visitation, among others," said José Manuel Guevara, district director of the Public Defense Directorate of Lima Este.

The strategic alliance between the Ministry of Justice and the World Bank (WB) through the Improvement Program Eje No Penal has made it possible, within the framework of a loan agreement signed between the

Peruvian government and the WB, for three ALEGRA and two Mega ALEGRA centers to be completely refurbished so that public defenders and service users will have adequate spaces to provide quality service.

In this context, the inauguration ceremonies were held in Santa Anita, Cercado de Lima, San Juan de Miraflores, Villa el Salvador and Villa María del Triunfo, with the presence of the Vice Minister of Access to Justice and Human Rights, Luigino Pilotto, who, together with the General Director of Public Defense, Walter Martí-

nez, and Dr. Oscar Zapata, General Coordinator of the Eje No Penal Program, supervised the completed works. In this way, we are making great strides towards modernizing the justice system in Peru, at this first level of assistance. The World Bank has several

other projects in the country in areas such as transportation, with the expansion of Lima Metro Line 2, or water and sanitation. According to the social and environmental safeguards of the cooperating source, access to these basic services is indispensable to

ensure an equitable society.

The Eje No Penal Program is making progress in its struggle to level the field in terms of access to justice, and with the financial support of the World Bank, this major objective is being achieved.



A Mega ALEGRA center for each regional capital

World Bank officials met in Lima with representatives of the beneficiary institutions of the Eje No Penal Program. They discussed progress in the ALEGRA centers in the interior of the country.

The General Directorate of Public Defense of the Ministry of Justice, which manages the ALEGRA and Mega ALEGRA centers nationwide, has achieved the goals set over time. However, the projection is even more ambitious: to implement a Mega Alegra center in each regional capital and, thus, to expand the service to more people. The ALEGRA and Mega ALEGRA centers are free legal offices for people in vulnerable situations and

with limited economic resources. According to statistics shared by the Case Tracking System - DG-DPAJ, in 2022 there were 159,855 requests for new consultations and sponsorships nationwide.

As part of the scope of the World Bank's Eje No Penal Improvement Program, the first Mega ALEGRA center with an intercultural approach will be implemented in Ucayali, considered the Amazon region

with the largest presence of native communities in Peru. It is estimated that the Mega ALEGRA center of Ucayali will serve 20 communities, some of which are in isolation or initial contact. The Amahuaca, Ashaninka, Awajún or Mascho Piro are just some of the native communities of the area that will be served by this Mega ALEGRA center. According to the Ministry of Culture, up to 16 native languages are spoken in the zone.

“The goal is to have a Mega ALEGRA center in each regional capital. The ALEGRA and Mega ALEGRA centers provide a service to the most vulnerable, people who would otherwise not be able to afford a private attorney. “We make our public defenders available to the public and provide free legal guidance,” said the General Director of Public Defense, Dr. Walter Martinez. This project is one of the most emblematic of the World Bank, as its principle is that the money lent to the Peruvian State through a contract improves the lives of the most vulnerable people.



The New World Bank president chose Peru as the first place to visit on his tour

Ajay asumió la presidencia del Banco Mundial el pasado 02 de junio de 2023. El empresario indio estadounidense quiere marcar una nueva hoja de ruta en la institución que está a punto de cumplir los 80 años de fundación.

Ajay assumed the presidency of the World Bank on June 2, 2023. The American Indian businessman wants to mark a new road map in the institution that is about to celebrate its 80th anniversary.

His agenda began with a meeting at the Government Palace with President Dina Boluarte. Accompanied by the president of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Ilan Goldfajn, they also analyzed, in a meeting with the Minister of Economy, the projects that both institutions are executing in Peru. The World Bank

has a broad portfolio in our country that includes health, water supply, transportation, justice and other projects. In terms of justice, the World Bank, through the Eje No Penal Program, supports the ALEGRA and Mega ALEGRA centers of the Ministry of Justice. These centers provide free legal advice to vulnerable people, who may not otherwise be able to afford a lawyer and therefore their right to access the justice system would be violated.

Ajay Banga visited the Mega ALEGRA center of Lima Cen-

tro to learn about the positive impact it has on people's lives. "What would have happened to me if I had not filed that lawsuit if I had not dared to demand alimony? I think it would have been fatal because we would live with the minimum", said Magaly López, a user of the ALEGRA centers.

Thanks to the intervention of the Mega ALEGRA center of Lima Centro, Magaly obtained a 40% alimony for her daughter, as well as a 50% seizure of the parent's social benefits. The visit of the President of the World Bank, Ajay Banga, made it possible to highlight the problems and the need for timely access to justice in Peru, as well as the enormous benefits that the alliance formed between the Peruvian State and the World Bank is achieving.



For a justice service with quality and celerity

The Mega ALEGRA center of Moyobamba is ready to serve users in need of a free lawyer.



An hour and a half from the ALEGRA center of Moyobamba, located at Calle Cajamarca and Prolongación Najas s/n, is the Awajún indigenous community whose members also require the services provided by the Public Defense to resolve their conflicts. The presence of this community makes the intercultural approach of ALEGRA center of Moyobamba necessary, which is why some public defenders speak Awajún or otherwise, request the services of an official translator from the Judicial Branch to guarantee the rights of the entire population. The most requested support by this population are aggressions, fondling and alimony. The highest percentage of requests for assistance is made by women.

In order to improve the service, all the administrative areas and the offices where the public defenders work and where people who require free legal advice are received were refurbished. Moyobamba has not been the only center to benefit from physical improvements. In addition to the list of five modernized ALEGRA centers, state-of-the-art microscopes have been acquired to enable the experts to better analyze the evidence and, with this, the public defenders to support their defense arguments.

The Eje No Penal Program acquired nine (09) stereoscopic microscopes. Microscopes make it possible to observe the sample by generating a three-dimensional



image. In the case of allegations of sexual abuse, for example, the result of a thorough analysis of clothing can provide a strong legal argument in favor of the victim who comes to a Mega ALEGRA center for help. The Eje No Penal Program invested more than S/ 2,978,640.00 (two million nine hundred and seventy-eight thousand six hundred and forty soles), which includes the acquisition of the equipment, delivery to the warehouse of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, configuration, installation, training, technical support, warranty and maintenance.

Llapanchikpaq Fair: Justice for all

The fair, which was held simultaneously throughout the country, was organized by the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice of the Judicial Branch.



This year, the fair was held in the town of Patacancha, located in the district of Ollantaytambo, province of Urubamba, in the region of Cusco. Patacancha is a Peasant Community of the Quechua ethnic group and is located about two and a half hours from the city of Cusco.

At the Llapanchikpaq Justice Fair, the Integrated Model of Itinerant Justice, financed by the World Bank, was presented. This

model aims to bring justice closer to the neediest and remote populations of Peru, complementing the free legal assistance services offered by the ALEGRA centers and other public and private organizations. In addition, the project involves providing technological tools and a specific regulatory framework to improve the efficiency of itinerant justice.

During the inauguration, Supreme Judge Inés Tello

Gillardardi stressed the importance of Peruvian judges reaching out to the community to understand their needs and demands to provide an effective response. Tanja Goodwin, manager of the Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions Program of the World Bank, highlighted the importance of the Electronic Judicial File and its complementarity with initiatives such as itinerant justice and the ALEGRA free legal assistance centers.

The fair offered all the services provided by the Peruvian government, this time located in one place to facilitate access to Peruvians living in the town

of Patacancha and other districts of Ollantaytambo. Institutions such as RENIEC, the Peruvian National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, social

programs such as Juntos or Pensión 65 and, of course, the Mega ALEGRA center of Cusco, which provided free legal assistance to the villagers, were present.



For cultural diversity and Human Rights in Ucayali

20 communities will benefit from the services provided by the renovated Mega ALEGRA center of the General Directorate of Public Defense and Access to Justice of MINJUSD.

This first Mega Alegra center with an intercultural approach marks an important milestone because, through the free legal advice and sponsorship of the MINSJUD Public Defender's Office, the protection of the rights of more than 32,000 inhabitants of our indigenous communities will be guaranteed. The language gap will be narrowed and their cultural diversity will be respected.

This achievement ensures that the vulnerable population seeking free legal advice feels integrated and has access to quality legal services while promoting respect for the region's cultural diversity.

The Center has 48 professionals, including public defenders specialized in intercultural approach, who are knowledgeable in the Shipibo Conibo language and can serve the native population in

their mother tongue, facilitating effective communication.

The Eje No Penal Program has invested more than one hundred and fifty thousand nuevos soles (S/ 150,000) in the physical refurbishments of the Mega ALEGRA center. Now the new headquarters of the first Mega ALEGRA Center with intercultural approach, located in Jr. Luis Scavino No. 241 Pucallpa, has modern and functional spaces, with new



furniture that allows a better service. In addition, a specially designed space has been created for children accompanying their mothers, guaranteeing their care and facilitating early childhood care.

All environments are properly signposted in Spanish and Shipibo Conibo, thus facilitating information to users who come every day to the renovated intercultural Mega ALEGRA center in the Ucayali region.



Mega Alegra centers in Abancay and Cusco will provide services with an intercultural approach

The Eje No Penal Program has completed the renovation of three free Legal Assistance Centers: Ucayali, Abancay and Cusco.

With the presence of the Minister of Justice, Eduardo Arana Iza, the new Mega ALEGRA Centers with an intercultural approach were inaugurated in Abancay and Cusco. These fully upgraded centers have been designed to provide legal advice and representation to those most in need, guaranteeing their right to defense and access to justice in an efficient, timely and quality manner.

Minister Arana highlighted the importance of cultural and linguistic inclusion in the provision of these services. Users are attended by public defenders whose mother tongues are Quechua and Aymara, guaranteeing comprehensive attention that is respectful of cultural diversity.

With the opening of these modern Mega ALEGRA centers in Ucayali, Aban-

cay and Cusco, the aim is that more Peruvians in vulnerable situations begin to have access to free legal advice services in their mother tongue. The intercultural Mega ALEGRA center of Ucayali will benefit 32,000 inhabitants of indigenous or native communities.

Public defenders specialized in areas such as Legal Assistance, Victim Advocacy, Extrajudicial Conciliation and the Multidisciplinary Team, they guarantee the right to defense and access to justice for all Peruvians in vulnerable situations.



Improvements to the Constitutional Court courtroom

The highest body that interprets the Peruvian Constitution is moving forward to provide an optimal service.

The Improvement Program of the Justice Administration Services - Eje No Penal, with the support of the World Bank, has signed a contract for the refurbishment of the Courtroom at the center of the Constitutional Court, located at Av. Arequipa No. 2720 of the district of San Isidro. The total investment amounts to S/ 381,900.27 and includes a variety of improvements, including the supply and installation of electrical panel, air conditioning, emergency lighting and other essential equipment.

The main purpose of these refurbishments is to

allow the Plenary Session of the Constitutional Court to resolve and hold public hearings in person. This will facilitate oral reports on factual and legal grounds, benefiting citizens who use the Court by providing adequate, modern and secure space. In addition, these improvements will contribute to strengthening accessibility and efficiency in the administration of constitutional justice, ensuring an environment conducive to the protection of the fundamental rights of all citizens participating in judicial proceedings before the Constitutional Court.



Through these refurbishment works; the Constitutional Court reflects its ongoing commitment to excellence and constant improvement to provide fair and transparent access to constitutional justice. It is worth noting that the Constitutional Court is one of the institutions that has managed to digitize all of its files, offering swift justice without delays.

The Eje No Penal Program boosts the work of the experts in Mega ALEGRA centers with state-of-the-art forensic technology

State-of-the-art stereoscopic microscopes were delivered to the forensic experts of the General Directorate of Public Defense.

Public Defense experts play a crucial role in the justice system by providing specialized services to people who cannot afford legal advice. Their work includes reviewing forensic evidence, interpreting evidence and presenting specialized reports that contribute to the development of solid arguments in court cases. With the acquisition of these stereo microscopes, the experts now have a very important tool that improves the quality of their analysis, thus benefiting the public. The Eje No Penal Program acquired these microscopes for the Public Defense experts working in the Mega ALEGRA centers. With an investment of more than S/ 2,978,640.00 nuevos soles, thanks to the financing provided by the World Bank. This investment includes the purchase of the microscopes, delivery, installation, training, technical support, warranty and maintenance. As it is known, the Peruvian Government signed a loan agreement with the World Bank, so mo-

ney from the cooperating source and from the national treasury is available to strengthen the justice system. In this way, the Eje No Penal Program reaffirms its commitment to improving the services of the ALEGRA and Mega ALEGRA centers of public defense, for the protection of the rights of vulnerable populations, promoting the implementation of state-of-art technologies that seek to strengthen access to justice in the country.

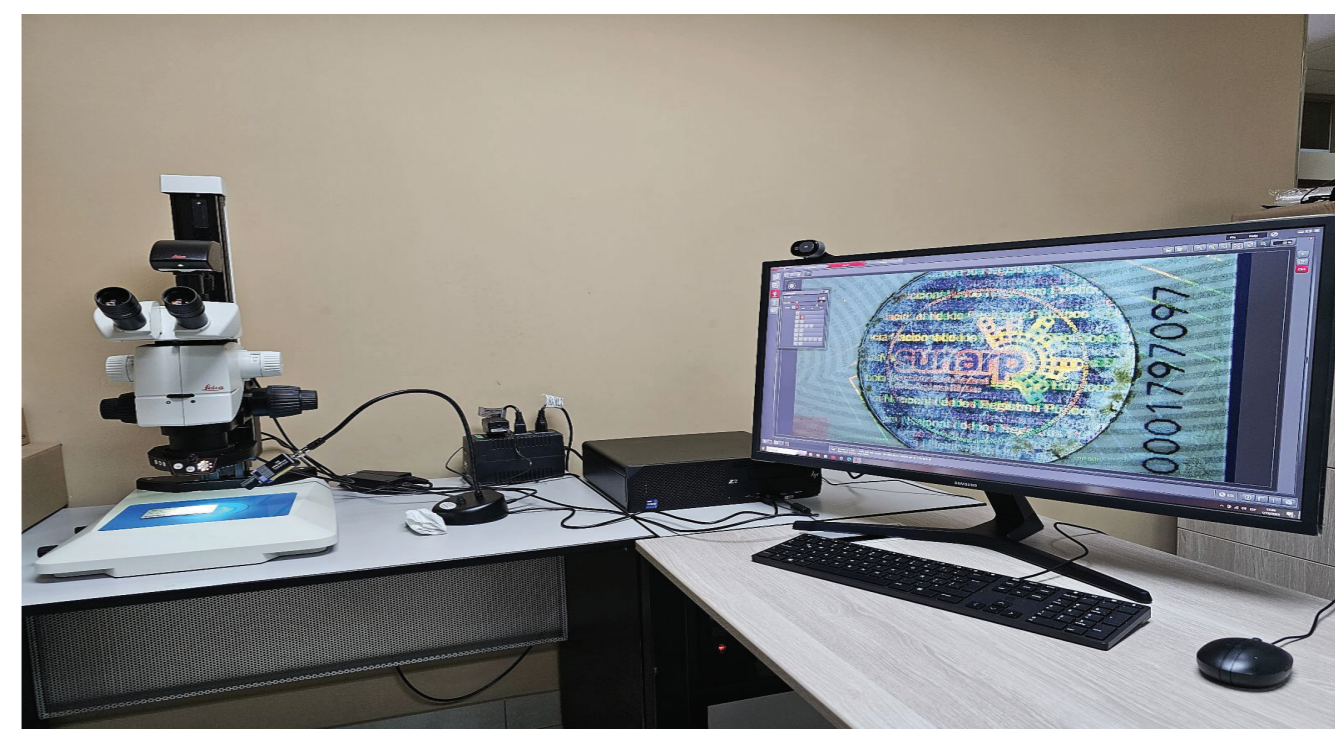
Stereo microscopes are essential tools in foren-



sics and are used to examine forensic evidence such as hair, fibers, tissue and fingerprints, among other materials. Its stereoscopic vision, varia-

ble magnification, built-in illumination, among other features, provide valuable information in case resolution. Among the cases handled at the

Mega ALEGRA centers are complaints of physical abuse or sexual violence, and the microscopes are a vitally important tool for obtaining justice for the victims.



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