دائـــرة الـقـضـــاء
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

الخطة الاستراتيجية
STRATEGIC PLAN
2024 - 2026

A justice looking ahead to the future

Contents

Introduction 3

Undersecretary Statement 5

Abu Dhabi Attorney General Statement 6

Strategic Roadmap 7

Strategic Objective 9

Strategic Priorities 10

Strategic Plan 11

Sub-dimensions 12

- Harnessing the power of AI 12
- Transformation of the court services 14
- Encouraging innovation in advancing justice 15

The judicial system in Abu Dhabi operates to ensure the continuation of excellence and leadership in providing judicial and legal services that meet aspirations and future vision.

H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
Vice President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of Presidential Court, and Chairman of the Judicial Department

Introduction

In 2023, the Department underwent significant strategic and operational changes following the conclusion of the previous Strategic Plan 2021-2023, which was developed during worldwide challenging circumstances of the Corona pandemic. Despite the challenges, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi's judicial system displayed resilience and preparedness in managing crises and emergencies. By continuing to provide judicial services without interruption, the Department benefitted from investments in modern technologies, sustainability practices, and business continuity, which were seamlessly integrated into its strategic framework. Moreover, in the previous year, correctional and penal facilities were integrated into the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department, which is anticipated to improve their procedures in the emirate.

Amidst a rapidly evolving technological era, evolving societal needs, and the strategic and operational impacts experienced by the Department, the Abu Dhabi Judiciary is gearing up for a transformative journey with the upcoming 2024-2026 strategy. This ambitious plan outlines a comprehensive roadmap for the Department, focusing on the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, the enhancement of court services' quality and efficiency, and bolstering its role as a cornerstone of justice in Abu Dhabi. The strategy will center around several key aspects, including leveraging the capabilities of artificial intelligence. Such aspects include the following:

1. Harnessing the power of AI

Central to the Judicial Department's strategy 2024-2026 is the strategic integration of artificial intelligence into judicial operations and services. AI will be leveraged to streamline case management, enhance decision-making processes, automate routine tasks, and train staff to effectively address complex legal issues. Additionally, machine learning will play a crucial role in judicial training outcomes, ultimately boosting the Department's judicial knowledge base.

The strategy involves the use of AI tools to simplify trading laws, identify relevant legal precedents, and predict lawsuit outcomes, reducing administrative burdens and expediting justice proceedings. AI chat platforms will offer round-the-clock access to legal information, enhancing accessibility and decreasing the need for physical visits.

2. Improving court services and restructuring procedures

Improvements to court services and procedures are a priority for the Judicial Department, aiming to enhance access, efficiency, and user-friendliness. This includes utilizing innovative technologies to modernize court infrastructure, implementing virtual court proceedings, and expanding electronic services for document filing, hearing scheduling, and fee payments. Courtrooms will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology to facilitate evidence presentation, interpretation, and remote participation of parties and witnesses. Alternative Dispute Resolution methods will be enhanced to promote amicable settlements and reduce the caseload in courts.

3. Promoting innovation in achieving justice

The Judicial Department's strategy goes beyond the courtroom walls, emphasizing collaboration for justice. Partnerships with legal professionals, academics, and civil society organizations will promote a culture of innovation and continuous improvement in the justice system. Collaborations with universities and research institutions will further the development of AI-based legal tools and solutions. Working with legal professionals will ensure that AI technologies adhere to legal principles and ethical standards, boosting public confidence in the justice system.

“We will emphasize improved access to justice through technology and streamlined processes”

H.E. Counselor Yousef Saeed Al Abri,

Undersecretary of Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD)

Undersecretary Statement on the occasion of launching the Strategic Plan 2024 - 2026

Under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of Presidential Court, and Chairman of the Judicial Department, the Judicial Department in Abu Dhabi remains steadfast in its commitment to providing world-class judicial services amidst the continuous era of development and growing legal needs. As we embark on this new strategic plan 2024-2026, we are guided by a vision of excellence and efficiency within an independent judicial system.

The strategy 2024-2026 is built on the strong foundation and vision of our leadership, emphasizing the rule of law, justice for all, rights preservation, and peace within society. Our key values of excellence, customer satisfaction, fairness, integrity, and competitiveness will drive our actions.

This plan outlines our main priorities for the coming three years. We will emphasize improved access to justice through technology and streamlined processes. Investing in the training and development of our judicial and administrative staff will be of utmost importance. We will work towards strengthening partnerships at both regional and international levels, as well as facilitating the exchange of knowledge and sharing of best practices.

I am confident that, thanks to the dedication and expertise of our employees, and the constant support from our leadership, the judiciary will remain a beacon of justice in Abu Dhabi. We are committed to playing a vital role in the ongoing development of the emirate, and ensuring a safe and prosperous future for all.

“The criminal dossier is crucial in achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the 2024-2026 plan”

Counselor Ali Mohammed Al Blooshi,
Attorney General of the emirate of Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi Attorney General Statement on the occasion of launching the Strategic Plan 2024 - 2026

The Strategic Plan 2024-2026 serves as a guide for our dedication to upholding the law and safeguarding the rights of individuals in the emirate. The focus of the new strategy is on enhancing public prosecution services, building on past achievements. Our commitment to justice will continue to be at the core of our mission, ensuring public safety and security through a strong legal system.

The criminal dossier is crucial in achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the 2024-2026 plan. We have full confidence that the Public Prosecution in Abu Dhabi will maintain its efforts to lead globally, following the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

We believe that the exceptional team of prosecutors and staff in the Public Prosecution Office, supported by colleagues across all sectors in the Department, is well-prepared to accomplish the ambitious objectives laid out in the strategic plan. Through dedication and adherence to the highest legal standards, we will continue to contribute significantly to the stability and prosperity of Abu Dhabi.

Based on the above, and by integrating the findings from analyzing the internal and external factors, along with government guidelines and benchmark studies, the Department has developed a strategic roadmap outlining its vision and mission for the next stage.

Strategic Roadmap

In light of the aforementioned and through integrating the outcomes of PESTLE & SWOT analysis with the government orientations and benchmark studies, the Department defined its vision and mission for the next stage:

Vision

To make Abu Dhabi a global hub for justice with a cutting-edge and sustainable legal system.

Abu Dhabi…… a capital for global justice.

The emirate that offers a modern and durable legal system fulfilling the expectations of both local and international communities, guaranteeing fairness and adherence to laws.

With this simple and clear statement, the Department expresses its ambitious vision, aiming to make the Emirate of Abu Dhabi a global center for justice providing an advanced and sustainable judicial system that meets the aspirations of both local and international communities, ensuring justice and the rule of law.

To realize this vision, the Department plans to enhance its judicial system, improve judicial efficiency, promote legal awareness, and collaborate with international and regional organizations in the field of justice.

Through these initiatives, the Department aims to strengthen Abu Dhabi's position as a global center for justice and boost its status as a prime economic and investment destination.

Mission

To abide by the rule of law, ensuring justice, and offering distinguished judicial services.

The Department expresses its strategic message through this brief statement, aiming to achieve three main objectives:

- **Ensuring justice** by providing a just and transparent judicial system that upholds the rights of all members of society.
- **Upholding the rule of law** by applying it universally without bias and ensuring compliance from everyone.
- **Enhancing community security** by protecting society from crime and providing a secure environment through correctional and rehabilitation facilities.

The Judicial Department will operate based on a set of institutional values that serve as the foundation for judicial work in the emirate:

Institutional Values

Justice

Justice is at the core of the judiciary's mission and is essential for the development of any civilized society. The Department is dedicated to providing a just and transparent judicial system that protects the rights of all individuals in society, irrespective of their gender, race, religion, or social standing.

Competitiveness

The Judicial Department aims to be a leading institution in the justice sector and compete with other institutions globally. In order to achieve this, the Judicial Department plans to enhance services, improve efficiency, and encourage innovation.

Sustainability

The Judicial Department is dedicated to attaining sustainability in its activities and services through the utilization of top technologies and resources in a responsible manner, safeguarding the environment, and encouraging social progress.

Societal Responsibility

The Department believes that its role is not limited to achieving justice, but also extends to supporting the community and improving the lives of its members by ensuring rights, enforcing contracts, supporting businesses, rehabilitating and guaranteeing the reintegration of inmates into society in a flexible and smooth manner.

Innovation

The Department believes that innovation is the key to success in the future. The Department will strive to encourage creative thinking, support research and development, and enhance collaboration with external entities.

Exploring the future

The Department believes in the importance of foreseeing the future in order to plan ahead for future challenges and opportunities.

Strategic Objective:

A fair and successful judiciary for a safe and stable society

A secure and steady society is one where individuals feel safe and reassured, have access to justice, and participate in the progress of the economy and society. In order to accomplish this objective, the Judicial Department aims to improve its judicial system, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its services, increase legal awareness in society, and strengthen collaboration with international and regional organizations in the justice sector.

Strategic Priorities

The goal will be implemented through 4 strategic priorities:

First Priority:

An advanced judicial system that guarantees rights and achieves justice in society

The Department will focus on enhancing local legislation, civil and commercial litigation systems, and improving the judicial infrastructure, capabilities, and competencies involved in the judicial process. Meanwhile, efforts will be made to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of litigation procedures, increase transparency and integrity, and strengthen international cooperation with international and regional organizations. This will also emphasize the emirate's role on the global stage in the judiciary sector.

Second Priority:

A sustainable and qualitative criminal justice system

The Department aims to enhance and expedite investigation systems and criminal courts, promote the independence of the criminal judiciary, and address criminal issues in society without bias. This will be achieved by enforcing the law equally for all individuals, promoting legal awareness through educational programs, and improving collaboration with media organizations.

Third Priority:

Distinctive correctional facilities that apply the best international practices in care, rehabilitation and reintegration into society

This priority focuses on improving the infrastructure of correctional facilities, including building new facilities and upgrading existing ones. It also includes enhancing the programs and services offered within correctional facilities, such as vocational rehabilitation, education, training, and psychological and social counseling. The Department also aims to provide continuous training for staff and improve collaboration with educational and research institutions.

Furthermore, the Department is committed to working closely with government and semi-governmental agencies to facilitate the reintegration of inmates back into society upon their release. This involves coordinating and providing reintegration services to help inmates successfully transition back into society.

Fourth Priority:

Integral and futuristic services that exceed customer expectations

This key focus is aimed at implementing integration and proactiveness within the services provided by the Judicial Department, with the intention of reaching the following objectives:

- Delivering integrated and uniform services to all parties involved, such as litigants, attorneys, key partners, and civil society organizations.
- Offering proactive services that align with stakeholders' expectations, by foreseeing their requirements and providing assistance prior to their requests.

Objective

A fair and efficient judicial system for a safe and stable society.

Vision

To make Abu Dhabi a global hub for justice with a cutting-edge and sustainable legal system.

Mission

To abide by the rule of law, ensure justice, and offer distinguished judicial services.

Strategic Priorities

The goal will be implemented through 4 strategic priorities:

First Priority:
An advanced judicial system that guarantees rights and achieves justice in society.

Second Priority:
A sustainable and qualitative criminal justice system.

Third Priority:
Distinctive correctional facilities that apply the best international practices in care, rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Fourth Priority:
Integral and futuristic services that exceed customer expectations.

Values

- Fairness
- Sustainability
- Innovation
- Competitiveness
- Social Responsibility
- Future-scanning

Sub-dimensions

Harnessing the power of AI

a. Utilizing AI for case management and decision support

AI is set to streamline case management and offer decision support to judges. AI-driven systems will have the capability to:

1. Streamline repetitive tasks like scheduling hearings, assigning judges to cases, and handling court paperwork.
2. Analyze extensive legal data to pinpoint relevant precedents, forecast case results, and offer judges valuable insights to aid in their decisions.
3. Detect and address potential biases in judicial judgments by scrutinizing past data and recognizing patterns that may suggest unconscious bias.

b. AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants

The use of virtual assistance tools powered by AI will be expanded to provide access to legal information and guidance 24/7 to clients and the public. These virtual assistants will have the ability to:

1. Respond to common inquiries concerning legal processes, court costs, and other pertinent subjects.
2. Provide detailed guidance on submitting court paperwork, arranging hearings, and completing payments.
3. Direct users to appropriate personnel if they require more specialized help.

c. AI for evidence management and translation

AI will be implemented to improve the handling and translation of evidence in legal proceedings. AI-driven technology will have the capability to:

1. Automatically transcribe audio and video recordings of court sessions and depositions, thereby saving time and resources.
2. Translate legal documents from one language to another, aiding in communication between parties and judges of diverse backgrounds.
3. Analyze and extract essential information from extensive amounts of evidence like emails, social media posts, and financial records.

d. AI for automating courtrooms and remote participation

AI will be utilized in courtrooms to streamline operations and enable remote involvement of individuals. AI technology will be capable of.

1. Automating various tasks including the management of court documents, presenting evidence, and documenting hearings.
2. Providing real-time translation services to ensure all parties can participate regardless of language barriers.
3. Identifying potential disruptions in court proceedings and reporting them, such as unusual behaviors or violations of courtroom protocol.

e. AI will simplify work processes

AI will be used in re-engineering service steps to ensure efficiency and ease as follows:

1. Involving streamlining operational procedures
2. Analyzing customer feedback to drive continuous improvement.
3. Future data reading and extraction of valuable insights.

f. Ethical considerations and human supervision

Those are important aspects that the Judicial Department is focused on while incorporating AI in the legal system. The Department aims to establish and enforce specific guidelines on the ethical use of AI, with measures in place to safeguard privacy, avoid bias, and maintain human oversight.

Furthermore, the Department plans to provide training for judicial staff and legal professionals to enhance their understanding of the ethical considerations related to AI and promote responsible use of AI technologies.

Sub-dimensions

Transformation of the court services

a. Virtual court proceedings

The Department will expand the use of virtual court proceedings to facilitate access to the justice system and reduce the need for in-person appearances. This includes:

1. Conducting virtual hearings for routine issues in lawsuits.
2. Expanding allowing parties to participate in remote hearings via video conferencing.
3. Expanding the provision of interpreters for virtual hearings to ensure that all parties understand the procedures.

b. Expanded electronic services

The Department will expand the range of electronic services available to litigants and the public. This includes:

1. Providing online access to court documents and records.
2. Enhancing interactive filing and enabling online submission of documents, such as pleadings and applications.
3. Expanding the implementation of electronic payment systems for court fees and fines.
4. Automatic procedures and shortening of service provision steps.

c. Promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution Solutions

The Department will encourage the use of dispute resolution mechanisms to encourage amicable settlements and reduce the number of cases before the courts. This includes:

1. Providing training and resources to judges and lawyers on alternative dispute resolution techniques.
2. Expansion of business scopes Mediation and arbitration committees to facilitate dispute settlement procedures.
3. Develop public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the benefits of alternative methods.

Sub-dimensions

Encouraging innovation in advancing justice

a. Working together with legal experts

To bolster the justice framework, the Department will strive to improve its collaboration with legal experts such as attorneys, judges, and legal scholars to ensure that the justice system meets the demands of society. This involves:

1. Creating regular platforms for discussion and collaboration between the Judiciary Department and legal experts.
2. Collaborating on research regarding evolving legal matters and developments.
3. Offering training sessions and workshops to legal experts on new technologies and methodologies.

b. Collaboration with academics and researchers

The Department will work together with universities and research institutions to support the advancement of AI-based legal tools and solutions. This involves:

1. Providing financial support for research projects that explore the application of AI in the legal system.
2. Engaging in joint efforts to create prototypes and conduct experiments related to AI.
3. Setting up shared research facilities that concentrate on legal technology.

c. Contacting with civil society organizations

The Department will collaborate with civil society organizations to build trust in the justice system. This involves:

1. Holding community forums and workshops to educate the public on the justice system.
2. Working together with civil society groups to increase the availability of legal aid.
3. Creating public awareness campaigns to advocate for access to justice and the significance of the rule of law.

d. International cooperation and sharing of knowledge

The Department will work together with international organizations and foreign judicial entities to exchange best practices and gain insights from other legal systems. This involves:

1. Attending international conferences and workshops focusing on the implementation of technology in the legal system.
2. Enhancing exchange initiatives for judges and legal experts.
3. Collaborating on the creation of global standards and recommendations for utilizing artificial intelligence in the legal system.

e. Creating a culture of innovation

The Department will work on promoting a culture of innovation within the Department by encouraging employees to exchange ideas, develop new solutions, and experiment with new technologies. This includes:

1. Establishing innovation centers and incubators within the judicial department.
2. Providing training and resources to employees on innovation methodologies.
3. Recognizing and rewarding employees for their innovative contributions.

By enhancing the system of justice, the Department aims to create a fairer and more equitable society for all.

Based on those foundations and key aspects exploring the future of judicial and legal work over the next three years, the judicial system in the Emirates is also required to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the external and internal environments in which the department will have to implement strategic activities related to those foundations

Strategic Planning and Organizational Development Division

All rights reserved to Abu Dhabi Judicial Department, ©2024

600 599 799 600 599 799 info@adjd.gov.ae

@adjd_official www.adjd.gov.ae