



Judiciary enters digital age



Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Hj Kifrawi (R) tours the court facilities to see the implementation of the Judiciary Case Management System (JCMS) launched on Monday. The JCMS is for a more effective and systematic way of managing court documents and services and to make these more accessible. BT/Quaratul-Ain Bandial

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BRUNEI'S judiciary entered the digital age yesterday with the launch of a centralised case management system to speed up the court process.

The Judiciary Case Management System (JCMS) aims for a more effective and systematic way of managing court documents and services and to make these more accessible to the public, government agencies and legal practitioners.

The JCMS will cover civil and criminal litigation, bankruptcy, probate and marriage processes in both the Supreme Court and Subordinate Courts.

"Before we had a manual filing and that was very time-consuming... With the paperless system we expect it to improve the speed of cases," said the Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Hj Kifrawi Dato Paduka Hj Kifli during the launch of the JCMS at the High Court.

"With the JCMS we can monitor cases more closely... we will know which cases are still pending or delayed. So the magistrate or registrar concerned can look into why this is and hopefully speed up the process," he said.

JCMS comprises three components, first one is the an online portal called the "e-Filing system" where government agencies and law firms can pre-register cases, file and retrieve court documents and check court schedules.

The second component, the "Case Management System", allows court officials to track and monitor cases, as well as access past records and notes of proceedings.

The third is the "Queue Management System" which will allow members of the public and legal practitioners to obtain up-to-date court schedules via kiosks available in court buildings. Lawyers can also apply for a hearing with a Supreme Court Registrar in chambers through the QMS.

The Chief Justice said the JCMS would experience some teething problems, due to a large volume of archived documents to be uploaded to the system.

President of the Law Society, Mohamad Rozaiman DSLJ Abdul Rahman, said the introduction of JCMS was a "proactive" move to ensure court efficiency and that no documents are misplaced.

"Every firm has been given a user administration code where they'll be able to do things by themselves rather than coming to the judiciary. The beauty about that is less travelling, it's paperless, and helps the environment," he said.

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