



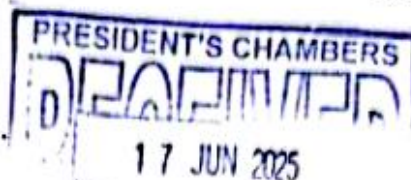
**NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL,  
SUPREME COURT COMPLEX,  
THREE ARMS ZONE,  
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT  
P.M.B 483,  
ABUJA - NIGERIA.**

**CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA  
AND CHAIRMAN**

**Ref. No. NJC/CIR/HOC/II/898**

**16 June 2025**

**To: All Heads of Court,  
Federal and States Judiciaries.**



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1:02 PM*



**NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL POLICY GUIDELINES ON PENDING  
CASES IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF RECORD IN NIGERIA**


The National Judicial Council at its 108<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 30 April 2025, considered various petitions against Judicial Officers at the Federal and State levels, bordering on requests for the transfer of cases, among others. Council observed that when such matters were transferred, they commenced *de novo* to the detriment of the parties and further noted the potential risk of evidence being destroyed, misplaced or tampered with in the process.

2. In view of the foregoing, all Heads of Courts are by this Circular directed as follows:

- (i) Henceforth, matters that have reached an advanced stage or have been adjourned for judgment should not be transferred, irrespective of complaint by any of the parties.
- (ii) Whenever a Judicial Officer is on transfer, he should not be required to obtain a Fiat before delivering a pending judgment. Such a case should proceed automatically.

3. Council also observed that once a petition was written against a Judicial Officer, he automatically stopped further hearing of the matter, until Council finally considered the petition. Council noted that it is not in all cases that a Judge will stop hearing a matter as a result of a petition against him. Accordingly, such matters should be assessed by all Heads of Courts and treated on a case by case basis.

4. All Heads of Courts are advised to bring the contents of this Circular to the attention of all Judicial officers in their jurisdiction, please.

  
Hon. Justice Kudirat M. O. Kekere-Ekun, GCON  
Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman  
National Judicial Council

ACR  
Please circulate to  
all Judges!  
Mij  
P.N.K.N  
17/6/2025