

Legal Challenges: Examples in Dominica

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Introduction

- Overview of Dominica's legal system.
- Why examining legal challenges is important.
- Objectives of this presentation.



Overview of Legal System

- Constitution of 1978 – Supreme Law.
- Based on English common law.
- Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court jurisdiction.



Challenge 1 – Delays in the Justice System

- Backlog of cases in courts.
- Insufficient judicial resources.
- Delays affect public trust and justice delivery.



Challenge 2 – Access to Justice

- Legal aid is limited in scope and availability.
- Rural communities face geographic barriers.
- Cost of services hinders access to justice.



Challenge 3 – Outdated Legislation

- Laws from colonial era still in effect.
- Gaps in cybercrime, digital evidence laws.
- Need for comprehensive law reform.



Challenge 4 – Enforcement and Policing

- Concerns over use of force by police.
- Allegations of arbitrary detention.
- Importance of training and accountability.



Challenge 5 – Prosecutorial Discretion

- DPP's discretion under Section 72.
- Public confusion when cases are discontinued.
- Need for transparency and consistency.



International Human Rights Concerns

- Issues with detention and prison conditions.
- Delays in trials affect due process.
- Need to align with international standards.



Efforts at Reform

- Digitizing court systems.
- Regional support from OECS and CARICOM.
- Judicial modernization initiatives.



Recommendations

- Improve judicial infrastructure.
- Expand legal aid and review and amend outdated laws.
- Promote civic education on legal rights.



Conclusion

- Legal reform is essential for progress.
- Collaboration and political will are key.
- "Justice delayed is justice denied."



Q&A

- Thank you for your attention.
- Any questions or comments?

