



**THE LAGOS**  
**MULTI-DOOR**  
**COURTHOUSE**

...The ADR Centre...

# ADR AWARENESS SESSION WITH EQUIPMENT LEASING ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (ELAN)

## Brief History and the Success Stories of the LMDC

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# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LAGOS MULTI-DOOR COURTHOUSE (LMDC)

Mr. Kehinde Aina SAN, who was the Executive Director of the Negotiation and Conflict Management Group (NCMG) established the LMDC in response to the pressure of cases in the Lagos State Judiciary and the low level of satisfaction with many of the outcomes obtained in adversarial dispute resolution (litigation)

The NCMG secured formal recognition from the Lagos State Judiciary for the provision of additional ‘doors’ through which disputes can be resolved.

The LMDC, the first court connected ADR Centre in Africa was launched in June 2002.



The objectives of the LMDC include:

- (a) Enhancement of **access to justice** by providing alternative mechanisms to **supplement** litigation in the resolution of disputes
- (b) serve as the focal point for the promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Lagos State
- (c) promote the growth and effective functioning of the justice system through Alternative Dispute Resolution methods.

Section 2 of the LMDC Law 2015

# THE LMDC OPERATIONS UNITS

- Registry
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Unit (Mediation and Arbitration)
- ADR Track
- Lagos Settlement Week (LSW) Programme



# COURT REFERRED MEDIATION

- Where a matter is referred from the Court, the Court registrar or LMDC Registry Staff scans and sends soft copies of the necessary documents in the Court's file (Enrolled Order of Court or Judge's note referring matter to the LMDC, Statement of Claim, Statement of Defence and supporting documents) to the Registry email address.
- File numbers are assigned to each matter.
- The matter is immediately transferred to the ADR Unit by email.
- A Case Manager is assigned to the matter to contact parties and schedule a Mediation Session.



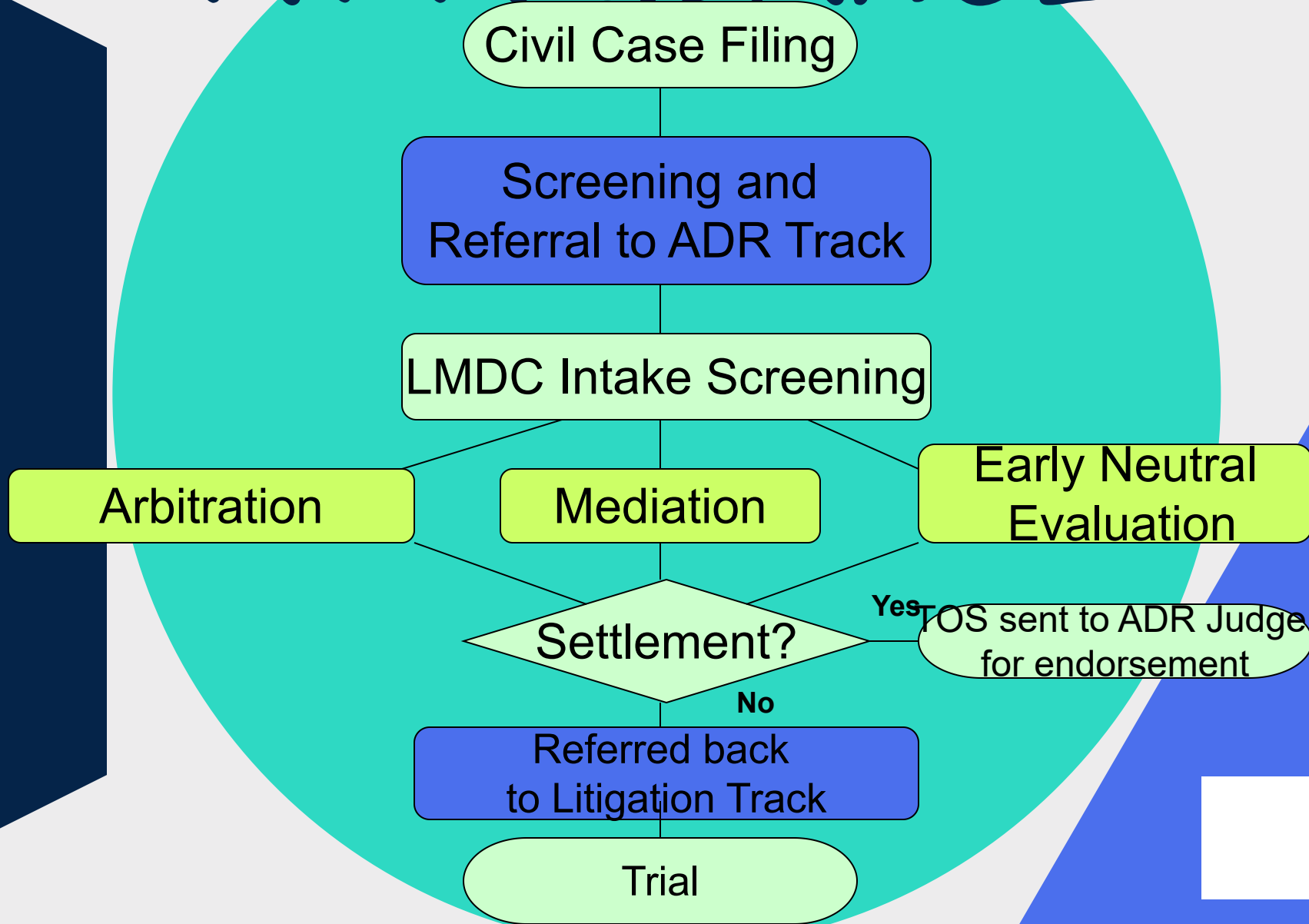
# LMDC ADR UNIT PROCESS

- The LMDC ADR Unit handles all cases screened into the LMDC. The matter commences with a Pre-Session Meeting.
- **Pre-Session Meeting** – This is majorly held for Online Dispute Resolution matters and entails the following:
  - Explanation of the Process
  - Confidentiality Agreement Signed
  - Mediator is appointed
  - Upon parties' confirmation of dates, mediation

# LMDC ADR UNIT PROCESS

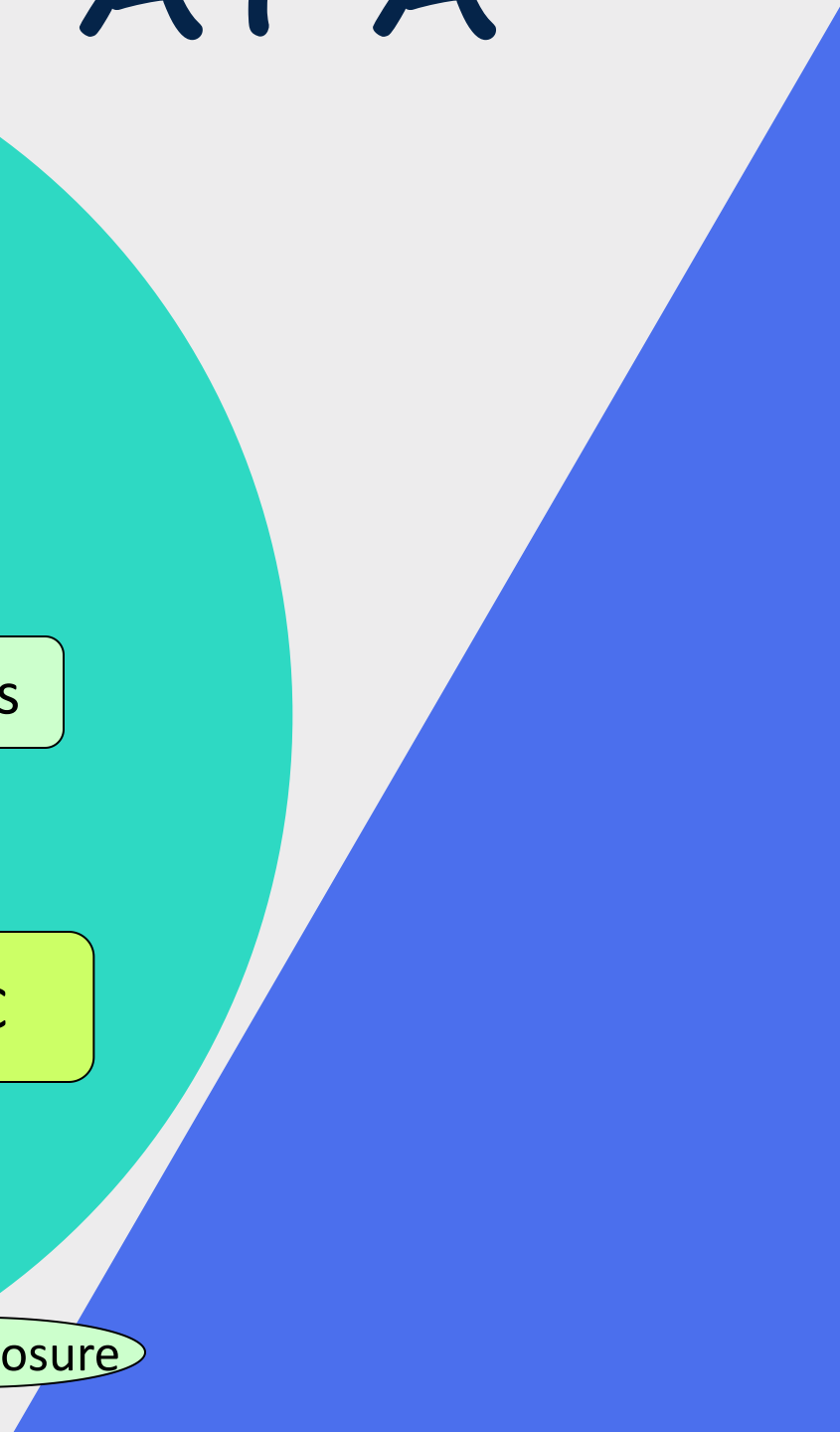
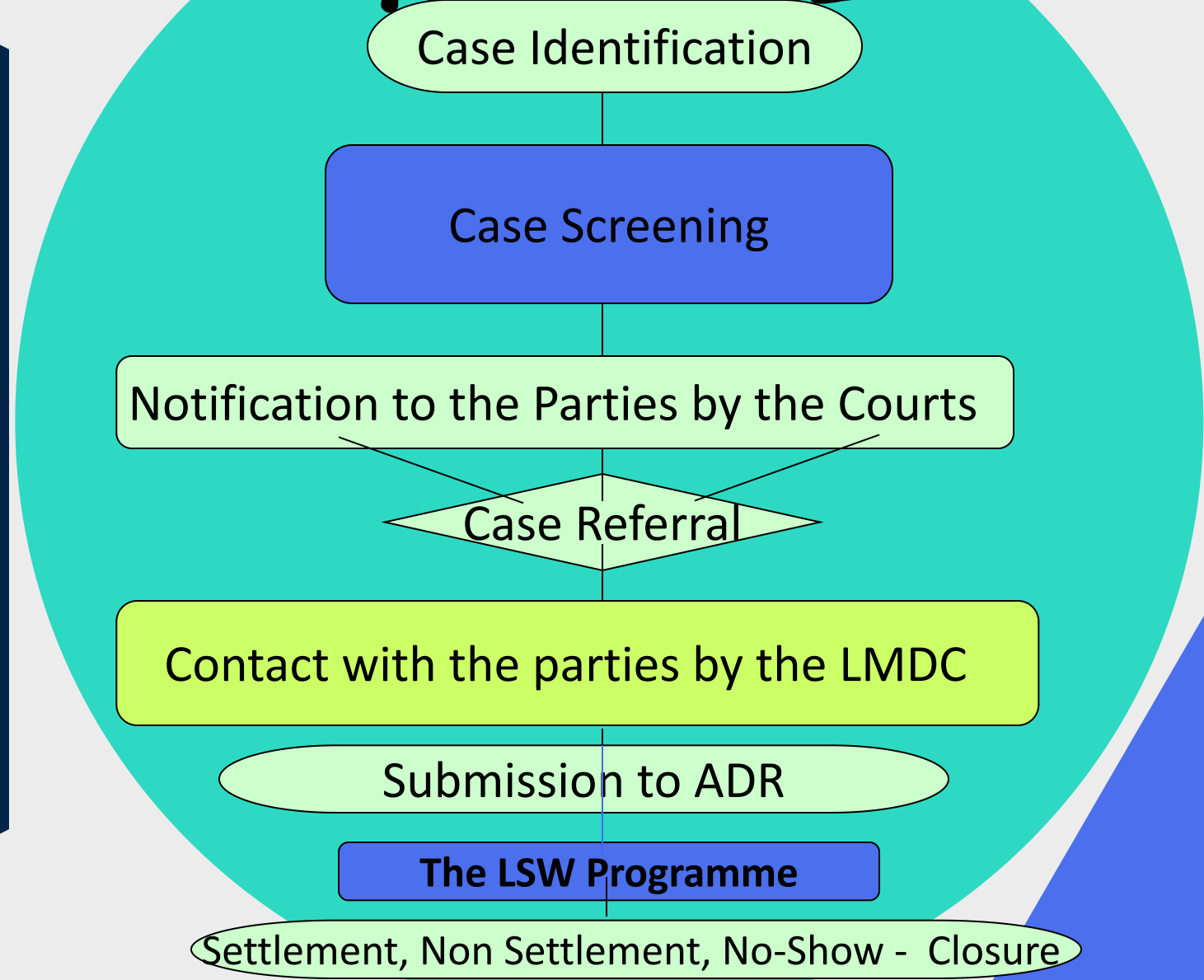
- Mediator facilitate the session from the opening stage to conclusion.
- Settled: Where case is settled, mediator, parties and counsel draft and execute Terms of Settlement. A status report is prepared and sent to Court enclosing Terms of Settlement for adoption as consent judgement.
- For matter walk-in matters, any party to the agreement may initiate endorsement proceedings at the LMDC.
- Not Settled: Where case is not settled, the mediator provides a report on reasons for non-settlement. A report is prepared and forwarded to the referral Court for continuation of Court

# ADR TRACK AT A GLANCE





# GLANCE





# THE LAGOS MULTIDOOR COURTHOUSE (LMDC)

Over the years, the LMDC has facilitated amicable resolution in various sectors such as Banking and Fin-Tech Institutions, Aviation, Telecommunications, Construction, Oil and Gas, Sports, Family, Real Estate, Debt Recovery and Insurance amongst others.

This has contributed to the decongestion of cases that would have ordinarily lingered in the court's docket bringing relief to the Judiciary and succor to the residents of Lagos State

# THE LMDC SUCCESS STORIES

The LMDC received 19,274 cases over an 8-year period (2017-2024)

The speedy recovery of the sum of over N39,860,272,357.44 (Thirty-Nine Billion, Eight Hundred and Sixty Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty-Seven Naira, Forty-Four Kobo) in monetary claims within an 8-year period

An Administration of Estate case that had been in Court for about 29 years was resolved in two mediation sittings at the Lagos Settlement Week (LSW) 2018 Programme.

A land case that had been in Court for about 38 years was resolved in one (1) mediation sitting during the LSW 2019 Programme

During a District Settlement Week (DSW) Programme which held in Epe in 2022, 64% of cases received from a financial institution were mediated out of which 100% of these cases were settled



# CONCLUSION



It is safe to say that the LMDC has successfully conserved valuable court resources, time, and manpower that would have otherwise been spent on prolonged courtroom proceedings.

This achievement has significantly enhanced the socio-economic well being of residents in Lagos State, Nigeria, and beyond.



