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Karachi Courts Mirror Justice System's Decline

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Karachi's City Courts, the entry point for most Pakistanis seeking justice, reflect systemic decay in judicial infrastructure. While superior courts handle high-profile cases, these trial courts struggle with crumbling facilities, outdated technology, and overwhelmed staff. The physical deterioration from broken elevators to unsanitary prisoner holding areas

undermines both the dignity of proceedings and public confidence in the legal system.

Operational failures compound the crisis. Poor mobile coverage and malfunctioning video-link systems disrupt basic court functions, forcing judges to use personal devices for hearings. Parking chaos along M.A. Jinnah Road creates daily hurdles for litigants and lawyers alike. More critically, judicial officers often avoid granting innovative relief, constrained by rigid procedural mindsets and fear of appellate scrutiny. This institutional risk-aversion leaves many citizens without meaningful recourse.



Despite challenges, committed professionals work within these constraints. Many judges demonstrate integrity, improvising solutions when systems fail. Court staff occasionally bridge gaps through informal arrangements. However, these individual efforts cannot compensate for systemic neglect. The lack of structured training and resources perpetuates a culture where precedent outweighs justice, and procedural hurdles trump substantive rights.

Karachi's courthouses symbolize a broader truth: no legal system can rise above its foundations. While constitutional courts articulate lofty principles, their implementation falters in these neglected courtrooms. Sustainable judicial reform must start where justice begins with proper facilities, trained personnel, and operational systems that empower rather than hinder the dispensation of justice. Until trial courts function properly, Pakistan's rule of law will remain more aspiration than reality.