



**JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN SISTEMA JUDISIAL**

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10 year anniversary of JSMP and the Appointment of the Director and Vice Director for a second term

Every year on 28 April JSMP celebrates its anniversary. This year JSMP celebrated its 10th Anniversary as well as appointing its Executive Director and Vice Director for the next two years, with a mandate from 2011 until 2013.

Actually, the anniversary of JSMP is celebrated every year on 28 April, but for a number of pressing reasons the JSMP team and the members of its Board decided to celebrate this year's anniversary on 26 April and at the same time reappoint the Executive Director and Vice Director of JSMP.

The JSMP Board through a majority vote decided to reappoint the Executive Director and Vice Director pursuant to Article 18 of JSMP's Internal Statute that allows incumbents to be reelected for a second term. This decision had the full support of all JSMP staff, and the decision was reached on 11 January 2011¹ and issued in written form by the JSMP Board after evaluating the activity reports and programs carried out during the first term. Members of the JSMP Board believed that the management team report demonstrated significant changes in the management and leadership of JSMP as well as the contributions made by JSMP to the justice sector.

During the ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary and the reappointment of the two incumbents for the next two years, the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, stated that JSMP will continue to pursue all efforts possible to help strengthen the justice sector by fortifying institutional relationships with the competent authorities and relevant bodies in the justice sector and mobilizing public support to enable the public to contribute to the development and strengthening of the justice sector.

He believes that the justice sector should be seen as a project requiring collective ownership which is the responsibility of all citizens. The general public in Timor-Leste, both collectively and individually, including public and private institutions, observers, academics, practitioners and members of the community must have ownership over the justice sector.

JSMP realizes that the efforts and commitment required to develop and strengthen the principles of the rule of law, the independence of the judicial system and judicial institutions, the separation of powers pertaining to State institutions, the promotion of human rights values and protection of

¹ Pronouncement on the extension of the mandates of the Executive Director and Vice Director of JSMP

vulnerable groups, is not the sole responsibility of just one or two institutions, Rather, these efforts and this commitment are the responsibility of the entire community.

JSMP believes that if all of the institutions working in the justice sector and the general public have effective cooperation and political will, then this will have a significant impact on the justice sector. Therefore, JSMP continues to urge all parties to work together with collective spirit to build and strengthen the justice sector.

JSMP is happy to thank all of the donor organizations, both current and previous, who have given support to JSMP to enable this organization to continue its work that is often controversial and sensitive. With your assistance and support JSMP has been able to exist for 10 years and continue its role of providing guarantees of justice for all.

At this opportunity, on behalf of all of the staff of JSMP, we invite all former staff to continue to support JSMP, based on the time and opportunities available to strengthen and continue to increase the productivity that JSMP has achieved to date.

Also, JSMP would like to use this opportunity to express its deep gratitude and appreciation to the judicial actors² who have pursued every available means to guarantee justice for those who seek it. JSMP continues to encourage all parties, acting in an individual or institutional capacity, who have confronted a range of challenges, to continue to dedicate themselves to fulfill their duties in accordance with the law and the Constitution.

Moreover, JSMP wishes to express its appreciation to all members of the mass media and electronic media for their contribution towards strengthening the justice sector and ensuring that the voice of JSMP reaches the people.

Recalling that the justice sector is still facing a number of challenges, JSMP requests for all organizations and donor institutions who have been contributing to the strengthening of the justice sector, to continue to support JSMP. Because supporting JSMP means supporting work programs that ensure justice for all.

JSMP promises that from 2011 forward, or at least throughout the next term, JSMP will mobilize public support to strengthen the justice sector through meetings and visits, and will establish further communication with relevant authorities, other members of civil society, the church and other religious communities and all parties who belong to or take part in the justice sector, and convince them that a strong justice sector is the key to success in the sphere of national development as a whole.

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² Article 1 (2) of the Timor-Leste Criminal Procedure Code states that judicial authorities are judges and public prosecutors.