



## JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME PROGRAM PEMANTAUAN SISTEM YUDISIAL

### *Press Release*

*Period: June 2011*

*Edition: 08 June 2011*

### **JSMP has informal discussion with the Chief of the Baucau District Prosecution Unit**

On 3 June 2011 JSMP had an informal discussion with the Chief of the Baucau District Prosecution Unit, José Ximenes, SH, in the JSMP meeting room. This meeting was also attended by the Director of Fokupers. The aim of this meeting was to share information between the respective organizations, as well as discussing the processing of cases with a particular focus on difficulties and challenges encountered by the prosecution unit in dealing with cases of gender based violence. This discussion took place at the initiative of the VSS and Fokupers who were concerned with a number of cases that are currently being processed.

*The Executive Director of JSMP stated that this discussion was an excellent opportunity and an honor for JSMP because the chief of the Baucau District Prosecution Unit, who is responsible for implementing the law, was able to make time to visit the offices of JSMP to hold a discussion and share his view and perspective on how to strengthen support for victims of gender based violence within the legal framework that exists in Timor-Leste.*

The Executive Director of JSMP also said that the example showed by this law enforcement officer reflects the desire and spirit of cooperation and openness to accept the intervention and participation of other parties in the process of strengthening support for vulnerable groups. Therefore, it is fitting to laud the spirit of cooperation shown by this law enforcement officer, because this type of behavior shows us that issues of justice should be dealt with as a collective effort and all parties have a certain level of responsibility.

During the meeting José Ximenes, SH stated that he felt very proud and it was an honor for him to visit JSMP to share his experiences and discuss the strategy of the District Prosecution Unit under his leadership, as well as the internal challenges that exist.

During the discussion the Chief of the Prosecution Unit also acknowledged the very positive contribution made by the JSMP/VSS and Fokupers who are always ready to help whenever they are required, which includes helping victims travel from their home to the prosecution unit and court.

Recognizing the need for this cooperation as well as the mutual benefits that can be gained, the Chief of the Prosecution Unit requested and encouraged JSMP to continue its commitment and cooperation in the future, and pledged that his team would always be willing to work together to provide and further strengthen support for victims who are seeking justice.

The discussion took place over two hours and JSMP believes that this was a very positive process because it enabled both parties to explain and discuss challenges, difficulties and concerns that they have encountered to date. Also, the discussion helped the two parties to understand the difficulties/challenges faced by the prosecution on the one hand, as well as consideration of the concerns and sentiments expressed by the public in relation to justice, particularly in cases of gender based violence.

This discussion was made possible with the financial support of USAID, through The Asia Foundation (TAF) in Timor Leste.

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