



**JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL**

***Press Release***

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**All of the courts in Timor-Leste enter their annual judicial recess**

Between 1-15 August 2012 the court actors in all of the courts in Timor-Leste will be enjoying their annual judicial holiday. As a result of this holiday all of the courts in each of the jurisdictions across Timor-Leste will be suspending all trial activities, except for cases categorized as urgent.

The suspension of all trial activities and this judicial recess is provided for in Law No. 20/2012 regarding the suspension of court activities and holidays.

The Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, stated that this judicial holiday is given to the judicial actors so that they can enjoy their right to a break and rest, but at the same time they are given an opportunity to organize themselves properly and improve their work performance in the judicial sphere. This is an important moment to give them an opportunity to have a nice rest so that when they return to their duties they can improve the productivity of their work, both in terms of quality and quantity.

This suspension and judicial holiday is applied to all judges and prosecutors including public defenders and court clerks. All courts will return to normal functioning on 16 August 2012.

In an interview conducted by JSMP on 28 August 2011 with judge Duarte Tilman, the President of the Dili District Court, he stated that all the courts will enter a period of judicial recess. The courts will continue to conduct trials in important cases and those considered urgent. This includes expedited trials, and for cases carrying a sentence of more than 5 years imprisonment, and for witnesses or parties who wish to travel overseas or those that are seriously ill, the public prosecutor can request for the court to conduct an expedited trial, including cases where the defendant is in temporary detention and a trial is required in order to avoid undermining due process.

In addition to criminal cases, this is also possible for civil cases, especially cases of an urgent nature, for example land disputes and temporary injunctions (general and specific) to establish property rights in dispute. During the aforementioned judicial recess judges will be appointed on a rotational basis to take responsibility for all of the aforementioned matters.

Recalling the importance of the aforementioned holiday for judicial actors, JSMP hopes that after enjoying their holiday they will be able to continue their work with new vigor in accordance with their responsibilities and competencies as enshrined in the Constitution and other laws.

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