



Press Release
Baucau District Court
01 April 2015

Baucau District Court conducts hearings and examinations through a mobile court in Lautem Municipality

Between 23 and 27 March 2015, the Baucau District Court conducted a mobile court in Lautem Municipality. The court heard a total of 25 cases, including 7 cases of domestic violence. At the same time, the public prosecutor examined/investigated 19 new cases that have occurred in Lautem Municipality.

In addition to these cases of domestic violence, the court also heard other criminal cases, including 7 cases involving simple offences against physical integrity, 5 cases involving threats, 3 cases of property damage, 1 case of minor theft, 1 case of negligent offences against physical integrity and 1 case involving crimes against flora and fauna.

The 7 cases of domestic violence were dealt with in the following manner: in 5 cases the court imposed suspended prison sentences, in 1 case the defendant was acquitted after the charge was amended to the crime of negligent offences against physical integrity, and 1 case is still ongoing.

Several of the cases that did not involve domestic violence were resolved. In one case, a suspended prison sentence was imposed, 2 cases resulted in fines, the court validated settlements in 8 cases, 5 cases were adjourned and 2 cases are ongoing.

“JSMP believes that in relation to Timor-Leste’s current reality, the mobile court is an alternative option that can provide an appropriate response to the challenges faced by rural communities, especially financial limitations and the long distance required to travel to court,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

JSMP observed that this time the mobile court was a little bit different, because in addition to scheduling 25 cases for trial, the public prosecutor also investigated 19 new criminal cases.

JSMP believes that in addition to trying the scheduled cases over five days, the mobile court acted as a mechanism that provided an indirect introduction to the community on the functioning of the formal justice system. Hopefully the regular presence of the court in these rural areas will function indirectly as a mechanism of prevention in the community because they will see and feel for themselves the presence of the formal justice system in their midst.

The mobile court was led by judge Afonso Carmona, in his capacity as the Judge Administrator of the Baucau District Court, and he was accompanied by Hugo da Cruz Pui. The Public Prosecution Service was represented by Domingos Barreto and Alfonso Lopes. The defendants were represented by Public Defenders Jonas Henrique da Costa, Juvinal Yanes Freitas, Jose Caetano Guterres (trainee) and Antonio Fernandes (trainee).

For more information, please contact:

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