



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU



Press Release

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Cases of domestic violence have increased in Holsa Village: The community has requested for the government to raise awareness about the Law Against Domestic Violence

On 13 January 2015 the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP) through its Outreach Unit and its Women's and Children's Justice Unit (WCJU) facilitated a training on "Access to the Formal Justice System" for community members in Holsa Village, Maliana Sub-District, Bobonaro District.

30 people participated in the training, comprising 15 men and 15 women.

The aim of this training was to realize JSMP's commitment to disseminating relevant information on how to process a case through the formal justice system for community members who find it difficult to obtain information.

"This training is a follow-up activity to help the community obtain information on how to process their case through the formal mechanisms that are in place," said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

JSMP believes that the issues (concerns) raised by community members are very relevant, especially concerns regarding the increase in the number of cases involving domestic violence. Therefore the government is obliged to continue introducing and disseminating information about the Law Against domestic violence to the community.

The Holsa Village Chief, António Santa Cruz, in his opening speech stated that JSMP is a civil society organization that plays a really important and strategic role. JSMP is also a partner to the government, therefore he believes that JSMP needs to help the government to spread information that relates to the rights and responsibilities of citizens. This ensures that the community can obtain information about how to process their cases through the existing formal justice system.

Mr. Santa Cruz urged the participants to utilize this information properly because this information is a reference for the participants in the future. Therefore, he encouraged the

Rua setubal, Colmera, Dili Timor Leste

PoBox: 275

Telephone: 3323883 |77295795

www.jsmp.tl

info@jsmp.minihub.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/timorleste.jsmp

Twitter: @JSMPtl

participants to be more proactive in asking questions and conveying their concerns relating to the reality and situations that the participants face on a daily basis.

JSMP observed that the participants were really active and showed their interest in asking questions and issues relating to cases of domestic violence, cases of adultery that have resulted in violence and divorce. In addition, the participants also raised the issue of cases involving incest which they believe cannot be tolerated and serious penalties should be imposed on defendants to have a deterrent effect in the future.

The participants also requested for the government and the National Parliament to not only draft laws but to think about how the government can raise awareness about the aforementioned laws, especially the Law Against Domestic Violence. The participants were concerned because although the aforementioned law has been approved and came into force in 2010, in reality many community members do not know about it or how to obtain correct information about this law.

In response to these issues, JSMP explained about the justice process for cases of domestic violence and cases of sexual violence in accordance with the provisions of the the Penal Code which is in effect. JSMP also told them that JSMP will convey their concerns and recommendations to the government or relevant institutions through a meeting or in writing.

This training was made possible due to the financial support of the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta.

For more information, please contact:

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio
Executive Director of JSMP
Email: luis@jsmp.miniub.org