



Press Release

15 February 2019

JSMP launches report on challenges facing the civil law process in Timor-Leste

Today, on 15 February 2019, the Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP), with the financial support from of the Australian Embassy through a DFAT Program, launched an important report entitled '**Report and Recommendations for civil law litigation reform in Timor-Leste**'.

This report highlights issues relating to Civil Law in Timor Leste, additional issues from an inhabited civil law jurisdiction in Timor Leste, Police problems facing civil law jurisdiction, snapshot of Identified 2018 challenges in civil law jurisdiction, implementation of reform of civil law jurisdiction and recommendation for reform of civil law jurisdiction.

The initiative to produce this report came from JSMP's findings that access to assistance and trials for civil cases was not available in the courts, and the trial process was inefficient and almost non-existent, especially for cases linked to commercial issues.

The main aim of this report is to recommend and encourage the relevant institutions, such as the Government, National Parliament and the courts, to establish the conditions necessary to respond to difficulties described in the report to ensure that proceedings take place in an efficient and equal manner for the parties involved in the civil law process.

"JSMP is concerned about the current conditions which are linked to services provided for the civil law process within the formal justice system, because JSMP data shows that civil cases are not given serious attention because of a lack of conditions, including the non-existence of a policy to build the capacity of the judicial sector, which undermines the rights of the parties and reduces public confidence in the civil law process," said Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, the Executive Director of JSMP.

This report is a means for JSMP to assess the performance of the justice sector, particularly in civil proceedings, and the potential implications for other sectors within the framework and scope of economic development in our country. The challenges and gaps outlined in this report will not stimulate investors to invest in Timor-Leste because they will not feel safe and will lack confidence in civil proceedings before the courts.

Based on these findings JSMP requests for relevant institutions such as the Government, the National Parliament and the courts to take into consideration the concerns and recommendations contained in this report. This report is available in Tetum and English at: www.jsmp.tl

If you have any doubts or questions or comments or criticism in relation to this report, please contact:

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