



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

**Press Release**  
**Oekusi District Court**  
**15 January 2020**

**The Oekusi District Court conducts a mobile court for the first time,  
JSMP suggests for a permanent judge to be deployed.**

The Oekusi District Court conducted a mobile court for the first time since the mobile court program was set up in Timor-Leste. This first ever mobile court took place over three days (8 - 10 January 2020), in Abani and Malelat Villages, Pasabe Sub-Region and Usitasae Village, Bobometo and Usitaqueno Villages, Oesilo Sub-Region, Special Administrative Region of Oekusi -Ambeno.

To date, mobile courts have only been conducted in the jurisdictions of the three courts, namely the Dili District Court, the Baucau District Court and the Suai District Court.

“JSMP really appreciates the initiative of the Court of Appeal to include the mobile court as part of the activities conducted by the Oekusi District Court and suggests that it continues to do so in the future because this is a way of bringing justice to the people,” said Casimiro dos Santos, Acting Director of JSMP.

Based on information that JSMP obtained from victims and defendants, they feel satisfied with the mobile court program because it facilitates justice and reduces their expenditure on transport, especially expenses related to the transport of witnesses. What is worse, when they go to the court they have to sleep at the market or any place near the public road so they can use transport that is not readily available.

In its previous reports JSMP has recommended for the courts and the national parliament to ensure that there are funds for mobile courts because this program enables remote communities or those in rural areas to access formal justice that is often difficult and expensive for them.

Also, JSMP is concerned that there is only one judge at the Oekusi District Court who now has to assist the mobile court program.

JSMP suggests for the Court of Appeal to deploy another permanent judge to the Oekusi District Court to make sure there are no delays in hearings before a panel of judges that are heard at the court building itself or conducted via the mobile court. To date the Oekusi District Court has been supported by the Dili District Court when hearing matters before a panel of judges at the

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court building itself, however with the introduction of the mobile court program there is a desperate need for at least one permanent judge, so that when a hearing is scheduled to be heard by a panel only one more judge needs to be sent from the Dili District Court.

In addition to supporting cases heard by a panel of judges, the presence of other permanent judges (at least one judge), will mean that the judges can share trials, so that when one judge has a scheduled hearing the other judge can analyse cases and read reference material to increase his/her knowledge, and also participate in important events.

The mobile trial heard 17 cases including 11 cases involving simple offences against physical integrity characterized as domestic violence, 4 cases of simple offences against physical integrity, 1 case of property damage and 1 case of illegal gambling. From these trials, the court managed to finalise or decide 10 cases. Meanwhile 6 cases are still being processed, and 1 case has been adjourned.

The mobile court was conducted at the Pasabe Police Station Meeting Room and the Oesilo Sub-Region Administration Meeting Room, Special Administrative Region of Oekusi -Ambeno. The trials were presided over by Eusébio Xavier Vitor, and the Public Prosecution Service was represented by Mateus Nesi and Matias Soares. The defendants were represented by Calisto Tout and Marcelino Marques Coro from the Office of the Public Defender.

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