



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAM
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
12 February 2020

Committee A of the National Parliament has prepared a schedule for discussing the Draft Anti-Corruption Law

On Wednesday 5 February 2020, in a meeting of Committee A, the MPs within on Committee A examined, discussed and prepared a schedule for discussing pending draft laws including further discussion on the Draft Anti-Corruption Law.

His Excellency MP Adriano do Nascimento from the PD Bench in this meeting suggested that the Anti-Corruption Law be discussed first, because he believed that this Law on Local Power is a new law in this legislature. The President of Committee A, Her Excellency Carmelita Caetano Moniz, said that it was not a case that they did not wish to discuss the Anti-Corruption Law, rather this law has been included in the aforementioned schedule and will be discussed again during the first week of April 2020. The President of Committee A emphasized that the Anti-Corruption Law could be discussed this month but there is no advisor available to take part in the process because the advisor to Committee A is still on leave.

“JSMP really appreciates the efforts of Committee A to reinitiate the laws that expired in previous legislatures so that they can be discussed and approved in this legislature. However, JSMP suggests that Committee A should give priority to the draft Anti-Corruption Law. This is because the Anti-Corruption Law is an important element that compliments the Penal Code and some other relevant laws and it can give more power to the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Public Prosecution Service to carry out their work more effectively in cases of corruption, particularly cases involving legal persons or legal entities,” said the Acting Director, Casimiro dos Santos.

The President of Committee A emphasized that the Anti-Corruption Law includes a new chapter on “prevention” and “declaration of assets” therefore it is necessary to carry out in-depth analysis, but this is not easy with just one advisor. However, Committee A will continue to strive to produce laws of good quality.

JSMP appreciates the initiative of Committee A of the National Parliament to include “prevention” and “declaration of assets” in the Anti-Corruption Law because combatting corruption does not just mean focusing on punishments but also on how to prevent acts that could lead to corruption.

For many years JSMP has advocated for the creation of an Anti-Corruption Law and in 2019 JSMP took part in a public consultation process carried out by Committee A to present JSMP's thoughts and observations in relation to a Draft Anti-Corruption Law. In 2019 JSMP also submitted two opinions to Committee A. The first opinion was on the Draft Anti-Corruption Law^[1] and the second was on the Substitutive Text of the Draft Anti-Corruption Law or Law for Crimes of Corruption^[2].

As stated in its opinions, JSMP recommended for the Anti-Corruption Law to deal with legal persons because many legal persons practice acts linked to corruption in relation to establishment, registration, profiles, public tenders, contracts, construction, acquisition of materials, supervision and verification linked to State agencies and authorities, etc. Therefore, JSMP believes that the Anti-Corruption Law also needs to foresee and regulate such matters in order to provide solutions to these problems, and anticipate greater risks or damages to the State in the future.

Finally, JSMP again recommends that the Anti-Corruption Law needs to be properly developed and defined to produce a robust law that will strengthen national policies on combatting corruption, and also strengthen the work of the justice sector and ultimately protect the wealth of the people and the nation.

For more information please contact:

Casimiro dos Santos

Acting Director of JSMP

Email: santos.cas76@gmail.com | casimiro@jsmp.tl

Website: <http://jsmp.tl/>

Telephone: 3323883

^[1] http://jsmp.tl/wp-content/uploads/PARESER_LEI-ANTI-KORRUPSAUN_TETUM.pdf

^[2] http://jsmp.tl/wp-content/uploads/Paraser-kona-ba-testu-substitutivu-ba-lei-anti-korrupsaun_II_-2019.pdf