



Press Release

Dili, 28 January 2019

JSMP conducts training on the rights of the child and access to formal justice for students from the Palaban Public Secondary School in Oekusi

On 25 January 2019 the Advocacy Unit of JSMP conducted training for students in the 11th and 12th grades of the Palaban Secondary Public School in Pante Makasar Sub-Region, Oekusi Region. 30 students participated in this training, comprising 15 girls and 15 boys.

"This training is part of an ongoing activity that was carried out by JSMP last year for students in other districts such as Bobonaro, Covalima and Baucau. This training is aimed at increasing the knowledge of students about the rights of the child, access to the formal justice system and motivating students to choose the faculty of law at university when they graduate secondary school", said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

During the opening session of this training the Principal of the Palaban Public Secondary School, Mr. Cristino Nunes, stated that he was happy with this training activity, because the material is important and can help to further strengthen the discipline of students at the aforementioned school.

During the closing ceremony the Principal also thanked JSMP for facilitating this training for the students and he hoped that in the future JSMP would continue to facilitate such training for other students using these materials.

The students fully participated in the training and expressed their concerns about the rights of the child in relation to parental responsibility and asked how to access the formal justice system if parents do not comply with their obligations.

In response to these concerns, JSMP responded that children are given special rights from the family, society, and the State because children are physically and emotionally immature, and they don't have the capacity to make decisions and can't protect themselves. Parents have the obligation to look after, provide food, supervise and protect children from risk, without discrimination and to provide opportunities for them to develop.

Meanwhile, regarding the issue of parents failing to look after (abandoning) their children, JSMP explained that parents have the obligation to provide food for their children but if a child is not looked after/fed by his/her parents, then the parents are held responsible for the crime known as failure to provide food assistance as provided for in Article 225 of the Penal Code which carries

a penalty of 3 years in prison or a fine and in relation to the exercise of parental power pursuant to Article 1758 of the Civil Code, parents have the obligation to uphold the best interests of their children to sustain their health, take care of their education, represent them and administer their assets.

In relation to children accessing justice (children appearing as victims or defendants) JSMP explained that certain articles provide protection for child victims such as the crime of maltreatment against minors as provided for in Article 155 of the Penal Code, the crime of aggravated sexual coercion as provided for in Article 171 and Article 173 (d) of the Penal Code, the crime of aggravated rape as provided for in Article 172 and Article 173 (d) of the Penal Code, the crime of child prostitution provided for in Article 175 of the Penal Code, the crime of child pornography provided for in Article 176 of the Penal Code, sexual abuse of a minor provided for in Article 177 of the Penal Code, the crime of sexual acts with an adolescent provided for in Article 178 of the Penal Code, the crime of termination of pregnancy provided for in Article 141 of the Penal Code and the crime of infanticide provided for in Article 142 of the Penal Code.

In relation to children appearing as defendants, they are given protection in Article 20 of the Penal Code on exemption from criminal liability by reason of age (a child under the age of 16 cannot be held criminally responsible) because the child is not yet mature, and does not yet have the capacity to make decisions and lacks knowledge about the consequences of their actions.

JSMP observed that this training activity went well and the participants actively asked questions and discussed their experiences in the family and society. This training was made possible through the financial support of the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

For more information, please contact:

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