



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME

PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL

Press Release

Period: April 2012

Edition: 17 April 2012

JSMP provides workshop on the role of parliament in Ililai Village, Lautem Sub-District, Lautem District

The Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP) through its Sub-Unit the Parliamentary Watch Program (POP) on 12 April 2012 organized a workshop and information sharing activity on the role of the National Parliament di Ililai Village, Lautem Sub-District, Lautem District. This activity was an excellent chance to distribute JSMP publications to residents in the aforementioned village, for example bulletins and Press Releases published by the POP. There were a total of 30 participants, comprising 9 males and 21 females.

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, the Executive Director of JSMP, stated that this activity is part of an institutional commitment to keep increasing and strengthening the knowledge and capacity of people living in remote areas about the legislative process so that they can have a deep understanding about the role of their representatives in the National Parliament.

JSMP believes that information sharing activities such as this one are really important and need to be carried out on a regular basis to bring information about the constitutional role and duties of the parliament and other sovereign organs to each isolated area because the members of the community are still confused about their duties and responsibilities. This fact was evident during campaigning for the first and second rounds of the presidential election. Many citizens expressed their concerns and greater hope in the president during the campaign and the announcement of the provisional results of the general election.

The residents in Ililai Village warmly welcomed the presence of JSMP for organizing this workshop and for sharing this type of information all the way down to remote areas. In addition, they also used this opportunity to express their views and submitted requests to JSMP to be followed up by the National Parliament, namely:

- A request was made for the National Parliament to amend the Law on Pensions for former State officials so that they are not the only ones who benefit when their mandate expires.
- A request was made for MPs to provide oversight all the way down to remote areas to see for themselves the reality and difficulties faced by the community in relation to their daily needs.
- A request was made for MPs and the government to fulfill the promises that they made previously to the community.

Based on JSMP monitoring during the aforementioned activity the members of the community had similar demands. They specifically requested for all MPs to have more contact with residents in remote areas to listen to their aspirations and to see their living conditions.

JSMP hopes that the recommendations and demands expressed by those who participated in the workshop and information sharing activity in Ililai Village, Lautem District can encourage MPs to carry out their duties in a very professional manner so that they can make laws that truly correspond with the living conditions of the people of Timor-Leste.

For more information, please contact:

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio

Executive Director of JSMP

Email: luis@jsmp.minihub.org

Landline: 3323883