



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL

Press Release

Period: January 2009

Edition: January 2009

JUDGE'S SCHEDULED VISIT OVERSEAS CAUSES DELAYS IN COURT HEARINGS

During the month of February scheduled activities at the Oecusse District Court did not take place as per usual because the judge assigned to this court was supposed to travel overseas. As a result of this planned trip hearings scheduled for this month were delayed. JSMP was able to confirm this fact with the judge assigned to the Oecusse District Court, Dr. Antonio Helder, who stated that during the month of January no trials had been scheduled because of a planned overseas trip. The aforementioned judge explained that the scheduled activity was cancelled due to ill health. He explained the court activities would return to normal next month (February).

Although no trials were scheduled at the court, JSMP observed that daily administrative tasks were being performed as usual. JSMP also observed that the court building is currently being renovated (court room and fence).

In addition, JSMP interviewed the Oecusse District Police Chief of Investigations on the work performed by the police that is directly linked to the work of the court. The Oecusse District Police Chief of Investigations, Mr. Bernardo, said that the police have a good cooperative relationship with the court although they have encountered difficulties and obstacles that often impede their work. These obstacles include transport and computer facilities to assist the work they perform in the field. Also, the facilities they have been using to date belong to UNPOL (they are reliant on UNPOL).

In relation to investigations into criminal matters, the Oecusse District Police Chief of Investigations said that statistics gathered during 2008 indicate that 102 crimes have been registered. Of these cases, 28 have been processed and handed over to the prosecution unit, 12 cases were currently being investigated and 62 cases have been settled (case closed).

Between the period between January-December 2008 the most common crimes were assault (25), domestic violence (22) and theft (10). Other cases recorded

included attempted murder, making threats, assault on a minor, human trafficking, sexual assault, sexual abuse, torture, damage to property, a self-inflicted hanging, arson, abuse of power, the discovery of a body and corruption. These accounted for just a small number of cases (less than 10).

The Oecusse District Police Chief of Investigations recommended for the relevant ministries and the national office of the PNTL in Dili to pay attention to their needs, for example the provision of facilities and other means of support described above to enable them to perform their work in the field more efficiently and effectively.

For more information please contact:

Roberto da Costa Pacheco

Coordinator of Legal Research, JSMP

E-mail: bebeto@jsmp.minihub.org

Landline: 3323883