



**JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME**  
**PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL**

**Press Release**

*21 August 2007*

**2007 JUDICIAL VACATION IN TIMOR LESTE**

Between 19 August and 1 September 2007 there will be a judicial vacation in Timor Leste. During this period there is likely to be a substantial decrease in judicial activities.

When JSMP sought clarification with the courts about this judicial vacation, the President of the Dili District Court, Judge Maria Natercia S.H. confirmed that during the aforementioned period all activities in the District Courts of Dili, Baucau, Oe-Cusse, Suai and the Court of Appeal will be suspended.

President of the Dili District Court, Judge Maria Natercia S.H. pointed out that review hearings and preliminary procedures would continue as per normal in cases that require immediate attention.

The court has arranged for judges and court officials to take their vacation in accordance with a rotating schedule to guarantee that judicial services will be available for urgent matters during the vacation period.

The judicial vacation in Timor Leste is important for court actors so they can refresh their minds while on vacation, because court actors require tireless concentration when they are carrying out their judicial activities in Timor Leste.

JSMP requests for all members of the community to understand the difficulties faced by court actors. They need time and space to get some respite and to ease their weariness as a result of dealing with the problems that have beset our nation.

Finally, JSMP hopes that all the court actors who are taking their 2007 judicial vacation will enjoy their holiday so they will be able to return to work with a different mindset to develop the justice system in Timor Leste.

We hope that all court actors in Timor Leste will use their vacation effectively so that when they return to work court actors will not need to take time off for a variety of reasons that sometimes can seem dubious in nature.

As the saying goes, "even when the world around us is collapsing, the law must be upheld". Likewise, even in times of vacation, expectations about

upholding, developing and perfecting the application of the law in Timor Leste should remain in the thoughts of all court actors. Upon their return from their vacation it is hoped that everyone will have rekindled their spirit to develop the judicial sector in Timor Leste.

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