



**JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME**  
**PROGRAMA MONITORIZAÇÃO BA SISTEMA JUDICIÁRIO**

***Press Release***

**17 December 2013**

**Courts commence their annual recess for one month**

All of the courts in Timor-Leste commenced their annual recess for a period of one month between 15 December 2013 and 15 January 2014.

During this period the courts will stop/suspend all trial activities, except for urgent/important cases such as expedited trials, pre-trial examinations or cases that must be continued in accordance with the rules of procedure so that they are not deemed null and void.

The processing of expedited trials is carried out by dividing up the work between each of the courts which has a turn at being responsible for handling these matters.

Law No. 20/2012 on Suspensions and Holidays stipulates that each year court activities will be suspended between 15 December -15 January, during Easter and between 1 - 15 August (Article 1).

*“This practice occurs every year and JSMP hopes that this recess will give the law enforcement officers and public defenders enough time and space to reenergize themselves after devoting themselves to the interests of justice,”* said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

The judicial actors carry out a very crucial role in ensuring that other public sectors can function in a way that fulfills the public interest and public expectations. Therefore, the judicial actors are deserving of respect which is provided in the form of proper working conditions which include annual holidays and other conditions.

JSMP hopes that after enjoying their annual holiday the judicial actors - namely the judges, prosecutors, public defenders and court clerks - will once again take on their role with a new level of spirit and energy to continue performing their functions in accordance with their institutional responsibilities as established in the law.

Through this opportunity JSMP would like to say thank you and express its appreciation for the cooperation provided in 2013 and we hope that this cooperative spirit will continue to be strengthened in the future to ensure justice for all.

For more information, please contact:

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio  
Executive Director of JSMP

E-mail: [luis@jsmp.minihub.org](mailto:luis@jsmp.minihub.org)

[info@jsmp.minihub.org](mailto:info@jsmp.minihub.org)

Landline/Mobile:3323883 Website: [www.jsmp.tl](http://www.jsmp.tl)

Face book : [www.facebook.com/timorleste.jsmp](http://www.facebook.com/timorleste.jsmp)

Twitter: @JSMPtl