



JUDICIAL **SYSTEM** MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA **SISTEMA** JUDISIÁRIU

*Press Release*

*17 February 2015*

**The Sixth Constitutional Government must ensure judicial independence and the separation of powers**

On this day, 16 February 2015, Timor-Leste wrote a new page in its history in the process of building and strengthening the sovereign State with a ceremony to swear in the Prime Minister of the Sixth Constitutional Government, Dr Rui Maria Araújo, along with the other ministers. This swearing in ceremony was led by President Taur Matan Ruak, and took place at the State Palace “*Palasio Nobre-Lahane*” in Dili, Timor-Leste.

JSMP congratulates the new Prime Minister and his ministers, and encourages the Prime Minister to restore the credibility and independence of the justice sector. To date, the justice sector has faced challenges due to political influence and interference and the new government must restore power to the courts so they can carry out their functions freely because the justice sector plays a fundamental role in ensuring good governance and combating corruption.

JSMP was very happy to hear the Prime Minister commence his inauguration speech by underlining his political commitment and loyalty to adhere to the Constitution, the law, the separation of powers and respect for other State sovereign organs, including the judiciary.

JSMP believes that in a democratic state no sovereign organ has greater political power than other sovereign organs, and the courts are an important institution that must be respected by all parties.

“It's really important for the courts to regain their confidence and independence as enshrined in the Constitution, and to ensure that there is no interference in judicial independence or violation of the principle of separation of powers in a democratic state,” said Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, Executive Director of JSMP.

JSMP encourages the Sixth Constitutional Government to make every possible effort and explore other alternatives to restore the justice sector. The government needs to make a bigger investment in human resources in the courts through strengthening the Legal Training Centre, providing proper working conditions for the justice sector, including security for the courts. It also needs to implement the Law on Witness Protection, amend the current Penal Code to better

Rua setubal, Colmera, Dili Timor Leste

PoBox: 275

Telephone: 3323883 | 77295795

[www.jsmp.tl](http://www.jsmp.tl)

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

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

Twitter: @JSMPtl

protect women and children affected by sexual violence, sexual abuse, incest and other forms of gender based violence, and empower the courts to try corruption cases.

JSMP believes that the Sixth Constitutional Government which has been trusted to carry out its mandate for the next two years will do everything based on the norms and principles set out in the Constitution to restore the sovereignty of the democratic institutions and, in particular, to improve public confidence in the justice sector and restore the good name of Timor-Leste in the international community.

For more information, please contact:

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio  
Executive Director JSMP  
E-mail: [luis@jsmp.minihub.org](mailto:luis@jsmp.minihub.org)  
Telephone: 3323883 | 77295795