



*Press Release*

*Bobonaro District*

*22 January 2016*

**Students from Senior High School No. 2 Yamato Malibaca-Maliana for the first time receive training about domestic violence and violence against women**

On 19 January 2015 the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP) organized training on “Access to Formal Justice” for students at the Senior High School No. 2 Yamato Malibaca in Maliana Sub-District, Bobonaro District.

31 participants attended the training, comprising 16 females and 15 males.

This training discussed formal justice, and focused on the role of court actors, the applicable law in Timor-Leste relating to the concept of domestic violence and the Penal Code, how to report crimes of sexual violence and domestic violence and the difference between ordinary crimes and semi-public crimes (crimes on complaint).

“This training is a way to continue increasing the knowledge of students in the area of public knowledge and legal information and how they can understand the formal legal process so when certain crimes occur in their area they can help to have them processed through the existing formal justice system,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio

Mr. Ramiro Afonso, who was speaking on behalf of the the School Principal, said that this was the first time that these training activities had been given to students, as well as to teachers. Therefore they considered that this training was very beneficial for the students. To date no organizations have shared information about the justice sector, especially in relation to crimes such as sexual violence and domestic violence. This highlights that to date the students have been very confused that cases like this can be settled through customary law. However this training helped them to understand that domestic violence can only be settled through the formal justice system.

In his welcoming speech he requested for the students to use their time properly so they can hear and understand what was being explained by the facilitators and if they had any doubts or uncertainties, they were encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification. He also requested for the students to pass on this information to their parents, members of the community and their friends who were unable to attend this training.

JSMP observed that the students had difficulties in understanding the mechanisms for processing cases of domestic violence and sexual violence. The students admitted that to date violence has occurred in their home involving members of their family as well as their parents, but they did not know that such acts were crimes and they understood how to make a complaint. In addition, they also asked about how to process sexual violence committed by minors and how they would be held responsible for their actions.

In relation to these questions, the facilitators provided explanations and referred to Article 20 of the Penal Code on exemption from criminal liability on age and Article 3 of the Law Against Domestic Violence when the aforementioned criminal act occurs in the domestic sphere, which constitutes a public crime, and also includes crimes involving biological parents.

After receiving clarification from facilitators, the students started to gain an understanding of these acts and how they could be processed. In addition, the facilitators also provided case studies to test the students' understanding of the materials.

The training ended with the handover of JSMP Newsletters and Brochures to Mr. Raimiro Afonso who was representing the local Principal, to then be passed on to other students.

This training was made possible due to the support of the Canadian Embassy in Indonesia.

For more information please contact:

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