



Community leaders from Ma'abat Village are committed to opposing domestic violence in their village and are also committed to working with JSMP in the future

Residents of Ma'abat Village, Manatuto Sub-District, Manatuto Municipality, together with newly elected community leaders are committed to reducing cases of violence against women (domestic violence) in their community. They voiced this commitment during training activities that took place on 1 December 2016.

There were 30 participants at the training, comprising 15 women and 15 men. The participants were from Soraha and Ma'abat Lor Sub-Villages. This training was aimed at increasing their knowledge and encouraging them to use the formal justice system.

“This commitment is a positive sign and an important step for villages and brings new hope for women that they will not be subject to violent practices that are strongly rooted in the family and the society. It is hoped that this commitment will be solidified through action plans at the village level and will ensure the application of the Law Against Domestic Violence so that the community will be integrated in village work plans in relation to this commitment,” said Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, Executive Director of JSMP.

In addition to discussing the Law Against Domestic Violence and relevant provisions on gender-based violence, the training also discussed the role of Judges, Prosecutors, Public Defenders, private lawyers and the police. The training also provided information about how to access and contact women's organisations and legal organisations that provide assistance on how to access the formal justice system.

During this training the participants discussed problems that they encounter such as domestic violence and sexual abuse against minors, which often occurs to children at Junior High School. However, because the participants don't have enough information about the crimes set out in the applicable laws, they do not pay attention to violence against women and children. The participants also conveyed their concerns and questions about authorities/officials intervening and using their authority.

The participants and newly elected community authorities believe that it is very important to continue using mechanisms for disseminating information such as this in the future.

Communities in isolated areas face structural obstacles in accessing information about important developments, including new laws that provide protection to women and children. In light of the aforementioned considerations, the participants requested for JSMP to continue same activities in the future, especially considering that newly elected community leaders need to adjust to the law, in accordance with the existing legal framework. The participants considered that the legal information which JSMP brought to their villages and sub-villages was a unique and new experience in their village.

A member of the Manatuto Sub-District Administration, Senor Gaspar Henriques da Silva, in his welcoming speech requested for the participants, and the newly elected community leaders from Ma'abat village, to fully participate so that they can learn new things and absorb new knowledge to improve long standing practices that are in conflict with the law.

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For more information please contact:

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