



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

Press Release
Jurisdiction of the Baucau District Court
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JSMP conducted training for the minority target group of Lesbians, Gays, Transgenders & Bisexuals (LGBT) as well for Village Chiefs and their administrative staff and community members in the Jurisdiction of the Baucau District Court

JSMP, through its Training and Advocacy Unit on 7, 13 and 16 February 2018 provided training for Lesbians, Gays, Transgenders & Bisexuals (LGTB), targeting the village administrative staff and some community members in the Municipalities of Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem that are part of the Jurisdiction of the Baucau Court.

On 7 February 2018 JSMP conducted training in Baucau Municipality for LGBT. There were 27 participants, comprising 11 women (lesbians) and 16 men (Gay & Bisexual).

On 13 February 2018 JSMP conducted training for the village chief and his administrative staff, as well as some community members in Builale Village, Ossu Administrative Post, Viqueque Municipality. There were 30 participants, comprising 11 women and 19 men.

On 16 February 2018 JSMP conducted training in Lakawa Village, Luro Administrative Post, Lautem Municipality for the village chief and his administrative staff, as well as some community members. There were 30 participants, comprising 11 women and 19 men.

The aim of these trainings was to increase the knowledge of LGTB and community leaders as well as some community members about democracy, human rights, the role of the sovereign organs, public participation in the law making process and access to formal justice.

The participants demonstrated a strong desire to learn during this training and really appreciated the materials provided by JSMP. During these trainings JSMP also shared information about civil cases such as divorce, responsibility to provide alimony, land disputes and how to receive assistance through access to formal justice.

“The LGTB group is a minority group which experiences severe discrimination and they are marginalised in the Timorese community. Therefore, it is important to share relevant information about civil and political rights as well as access to formal justice based on the rule of law and

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democracy in a new country like Timor-Leste, in particular to ensure that these groups enjoy the same rights as other citizens, without discrimination”, said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis Oliveira Sampaio.

‘Training for the Village Chief and his administrative staff is also very important to increase their knowledge to understand how they can assist their community in certain cases that need to be dealt with through formal justice mechanisms, in particular how to deal with and treat LGBT equally before the law’, he added.

The participants said that this training was excellent because they learned about their rights and how to process their cases through the courts if a person violates their rights. Also the village chiefs appreciated and thanked JSMP because this was the first time that training using these materials had been held in their villages.

Meanwhile the LGBT participants said that to date they have experienced a wide range of defamation, pressure and other violations in the community but they did not lodge complaints because they didn't know how and didn't know about their rights as citizens in the democratic country of Timor-Leste based on the rule of the law. Through this training they obtained basic knowledge about the role of the formal justice system and its regular functioning.

JSMP observed that during the training all of the participants were really interested to hear and discuss the materials presented by the facilitators, which showed that the participants believed that this information is really important for them.

This training was made possible with the financial support of DFAT.

For more information, please contact:

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