

## **JSMP holds second consultation on the preparation of draft Tara-Bandu rules in Lalisuk Village**

On 14 August 2024, through the Community Security Support Program (PASK), a second consultation was held on the preparation of draft Tara-Bandu rules in Lalisuk Village. This activity took place in the village hall in Lalisuk, Pante-makasar Sub-Region, Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (RAEOA).

The aim of this consultation was to continue listening to ideas, suggestions and good practices to resolve community disputes in Lalisuk Village from the village administrative structure, church leaders and community members, to help JSMP prepare draft Tara-Bandu rules for Lalisuk Village to be used in resolving community disputes in the aforementioned village or for community members in other villages who have committed an infraction in the territory of the aforementioned village.

During his speech the Lalisuk Village Chief, Mr. Hermelindo Lalisuc, again thanked the Executive Director of JSMP and the entire structure for continuing with this commitment to hold a consultation on Tara-Bandu rules in Lalisuk Village, and the Village Chief believes that these Tara-Bandu rules can provide a basis for the village administrative structure to better resolve community problems in the village. To date the village administrative structure has been resolving community disputes, however many of them have not been resolved in accordance with formal justice procedures, and often the sanctions are unfair because they are only based on customs. However the Village Chief believes that these written Tara-Bandu rules will resolve community problems in accordance with these rules and cases will be channelled in accordance with their procedures.

The Lalisuk Village Chief also stated that he has serious questions about cases involving couples getting divorced, problems of child neglect and problems of domestic violence in Lalisuk Village, however the Village Chief believes that these rules will make it possible to better resolve community problems in the future.

During this consultation the participants managed to discuss and approve important issues such as forbidding shifting cultivation, forbidding the planting of crops in protected areas, forbidding people from letting their animals loose, forbidding the incorrect disposal of rubbish, rules that apply to Catholics, mechanisms to present complaints, conflict resolution, use of money from fines, administration costs, subsidiary norms and articles regarding the approval of these rules.

During this consultation there were 17 participants, comprising 3 women and 14 men. The participants included the Village Chief, Village Police Officer (OPS), Sub-Village Chiefs, customary elders, delegates, a youth representative, neighbourhood catechist and community members.

This activity was conducted by JSMP through the Community Security Support Program (PASK), through collaboration with The Asia Foundation (TAF) which is financed by the Embassy of New Zealand in Timor-Leste.