



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
The District Courts
18 March 2020

JSMP expresses its appreciation to the Court of Appeal for providing facilities to the district courts

The district courts are provided with facilities by the Court of Appeal to better facilitate their functioning in accordance with the competencies as set out in the Constitution, namely to uphold justice on behalf of the people.

“JSMP appreciates the support provided by the Court of Appeal and this support can resolve the challenges that the district courts have faced to date,” said Mr. Casimiro dos Santos, Acting Director of JSMP.

The Court of Appeal has been providing these facilities from September 2019 until now based on the needs of the courts, as follows:

The Baucau District Court in January 2020 received facilities in the form of two kobe houses and one container. The two kobe houses are being used by the civil and criminal law sections respectively, whilst the container is being used to store objects of crimes. Meanwhile, the rooms that were previously used to accommodate the criminal and civil law sections are now being used as a room for judges, a court room for cases heard by a single judge and a room for prosecutors and public defenders. Previously, in November 2019 the Court of Appeal provided 15 computers and in September 2019 the Court of Appeal also provided seven cars. 6 cars have been allocated to judges and one car is for operational purposes.

The Suai District Court in January 2020 received facilities in the form of one kobe house and one container, as well as a printer, Air Conditioners (AC) and computers for court officers and translators. Just like the Baucau District Court, the Suai District Court also received cars for judges and a car for operational purposes.

From late December 2019 until now the Oekusi District Court has been receiving facilities from the Court of Appeal in the form of 10 computers, 12 Air Conditioners, a new large printer, a cupboard to store objects of crimes and two operational cars, with one car allocated to the Oekusi District Court Judicial Secretary and the other car allocated for operational purposes.

Meanwhile the Dili District Court received facilities such as laptops for some judges, cars for judges and one car for operational purposes. In addition, the bathrooms that have been in poor condition for several years have been fixed and are now in good condition.

Previously in June 2019 JSMP sent a letter¹ to the President of the Court of Appeal asking for solutions to the challenges faced by the district courts that have impacted on the effective functioning of the courts.

Therefore, once again JSMP congratulates the Court of Appeal for its efforts and serious response to these challenges to ensure justice for all in accordance with the law. JSMP believes that when the courts are able to work in comfort they will perform their work properly and effectively, and this will further strengthen public confidence in the courts and will achieve the goal of the State to ensure the rights of citizens regarding their access to formal justice.

JSMP hopes that in the near future the Court of Appeal will also provide recording equipment to all of the district courts, because recording equipment is an essential component, especially in relation to ensuring that the statements made by parties during the examination of evidence are recorded and also to help the courts in the decision making process.

For more information, please contact:

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¹ <http://jsmp.tl/wp-content/uploads/Relatoriu-Informasaun-ba-Presidente-Tribunal-Rekursu.pdf>