



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

**Press Release**  
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**Members of political parties in Baucau Municipality urge national leaders to eliminate hatred and revenge to bring Timor-Leste towards a prosperous future**

On 18 September 2024 JSMP held a training activity for members of political parties who have seats in parliament, namely CNRT, Fretilin, PD, PLP and KHUNTO in Baucau Municipality.

This training was on the theme of “Transformative Leadership” that covered relevant issues such as the concept of leadership, expert opinions on leadership, notions on leaders, chiefs or bosses, including the types of modalities of leadership, qualities of leadership and ideal leadership. Also, JSMP presented some relevant materials on democracy, the role of sovereign organs and public participation in the political decision-making process and the drafting of laws.

This training was aimed at increasing and reinforcing the knowledge of members, leaders and the administrative structure of political parties, and emphasised quality leadership inspired by experience or examples or good practices as references from other countries to reflect our current context.

“JSMP is aware that internally each party has its own policies on training for its members and followers, however JSMP also believes that it is important to include civil society perspectives to strengthen existing knowledge, especially to explore how to interpret and examine public issues from a common perspective or public interest perspective”, said **Mr. Casimiro dos Santos, Acting Executive Director of JSMP.**

The opening of this training was conducted by the Coordinator of the “Support Office for Civil Society (GASC)”, **Mr. Joaquim da Costa Freitas, B. Eng.** In his speech Mr. Freitas stated that the theme of “leadership” is a crucial theme, and adequate time is required to absorb the relevant materials on what is leadership and its evolution. However, he appreciated the efforts of JSMP for this initiative, especially for identifying the training targets, namely the participants who are members of political parties.

He also added that these forums are important because they provide a space for political parties to have contact and communication/mutual connection, to critique and assess government programs at the municipal level.

In addition, he confirmed that the aim of this training was for political parties to prepare themselves to provide effective leadership in the future. Even though

the training was for one day only, with a limited number of participants, at least they were given an opportunity to gather together to learn about general notions or concepts on what is leadership and its effects. Therefore, he recommended that adequate time be given, as well as an increase in participants, when JSMP holds similar activities in the future, to allow many people to learn together and think together about the future of this nation.

“JSMP anticipated that this activity would be enthusiastically received by the participants because JSMP believed that in addition to participating in this training, the participants who are members of political parties, would utilize this space to express their concerns, criticisms and demands during the discussion and this is very productive because it promotes open dialogue between leaders at the municipal level”, **said Mr. Casimiro dos Santos, Acting Executive Director of JSMP.**

The participants appreciated this initiative, because it can increase the knowledge of members of political parties that have seats in parliament, and they can absorb additional information about their personal development, and at the same time it provides a space for them to interact and engage in dialogue that is open, constructive and communicative. And even if they have different policies, they had the opportunity to present their concerns, regrets and criticisms to contribute to development at the municipal level.

A range of concerns, criticisms and regrets were expressed during the discussion including the behaviour of vendors in Dili, problems with medicine at the hospital, problems with education and the dismissal of contracted teachers and the adjustment and restructuring of positions that was laden with nepotism/family favouritism, as well as direct procurement for emergency projects.

Amongst these concerns, some main issues in the discussion were hatred, revenge and political arrogance between leaders that has a serious effect on Timor-Leste's future. Therefore, the participants urged leaders at the national level to come together to eliminate hatred, revenge and political arrogance to prioritise national interests and transform Timor-Leste so that it will have a more prosperous future. The participants also recommended that it would be better for training like this to be given to national leaders because the biggest problems are at the national level, not at the local level or municipal level.

There were 21 participants in this training, comprising 13 men and 8 women.

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