

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

On 30 July 2024, through the Community Security Support Program (PASK), the first consultation was held on the preparation of draft Tara-Bandu rules for Lalisuk Village at the village hall in Lalisuk, Pante-makasar Sub-Region, Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (RAEOA).

The aim of this consultation was to hear information about cultural practices for resolving conflict, as well as ideas and suggestion from the administrative structure and community members so that JSMP can facilitate the preparation of draft Tara-Bandu rules for Lalisuk Village to be used to resolve conflict amongst community members in Lalisuk Village or for community members in other villages who have committed an infraction in the territory of Lalisuk Village.

During the opening ceremony of this consultation the Lalisuk Village Chief expressed deep gratitude to JSMP for helping the administrative structure and community members in Lalisuk Village to hold a consultation and write down Tara-Bandu rules for the village, as currently Lalisuk Village deals with/resolves community problems in accordance with customs and culture practiced by community members in this village, therefore often perpetrators are fined based on their own view because there is no basis to establish a fine, for example in some cases the customary elders deal with the matter and impose a heavy fine that does not reflect a person's culpability. The Village Chief also stated that the fines that are normally imposed by the customary elders do not match the formal law, because there is no basis to apply these fines.

The Lalisuk Village Chief requested for the village administrative structure and the neighborhood leaders and community members who participated in this consultation to pay attention and to provide positive ideas and thoughts to ensure that these rules are sound.

During this consultation the participants managed to discuss and approve important issues such as the aim of Tara-Bandu, scope, definitions, community rights and obligations, sacred houses, sacred water and sacred objects, protected areas, issues about peace and stability, acts of theft or people damaging goods belonging to people or the State, damaging a person's good name, infidelity, no responsibility for children, cutting down sago trees or vines, cutting down large quantities of timber without permission, confining and tying up livestock, including a discussion on reducing administrative costs because previously the sub-village paid US\$50.00 and the village paid US\$100.00 to the parties, and during this discussion it was reduced to US\$10.00 for the sub-village and village and these fees are not applicable to victims.

After discussing and approving the aforementioned issues, the participants agreed to further discuss other issues in August because of time constraints.

During this consultation there were 40 participants, comprising 6 women and 34 men. The participants included the Village Chief, Sub-Village Chiefs, customary elders, delegates, catechist, a veteran and community members from Lalisuk Village.

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.