



Press Release
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**Commemorating International Women’s Day:
JSMP demands that importance should be given to women in terms of
leadership and also to eliminate discrimination against women**

On 8 March 2023, the international community, including Timor-Leste, commemorates International Women’s Day to acknowledge the role and contribution of women to national development in all sectors in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste is a democratic nation that respects and promotes values of equality and inclusion, and continues to uphold the rights of women, therefore each year Timor-Leste celebrates this important day for one year with the theme of “Women are ready to lead.”

Most women in Timor-Leste have already developed themselves, and they have the capacity and ability and involve themselves in a range of areas, such as leading ministries, becoming members of parliament, leading departments and national and international organizations.

“JSMP acknowledges the contribution of women in all areas which is crucial, including political life, economic life, access to justice in our government and our communities jointly women’s contribution, their dedication, their struggle and leadership. However, to promote values of equality and proper inclusiveness we need to acknowledge the importance of the role of women and eliminate violence against women and increase their participation in the national development process”, said Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

The State of Timor-Leste continues to promote and guarantee the rights of women and girls, including a range of initiatives to promote equality to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls, and each year the State foresees budgets for each ministry to guarantee to empower women in all sectors.

However, many women in Timor-Leste especially in rural areas and some urban areas continue to face inequality and discrimination and a range of violence in their daily lives from their partners, family, neighbors and communities. These situations continue to occur because of the social and cultural norms that are firmly rooted in the

thoughts of community members. Women continue to face problems with access to formal justice, and often women do not make complaints against criminal acts that they have experienced because of pressure from the family, they are afraid of divorce or separation, they are afraid that their children will be neglected and other family problems.

JSMP conducts activities for communities in different locations and always emphasizes and reminds communities to respect, love, provide opportunities and treat women as they themselves wish to be treated, because they are human beings, just like men and women are from the moment they are born.

On this important day JSMP wishes to congratulate all women around the world, and women in Timor-Leste in particular, and congratulate men who have started to change their mentality, norms and culture of inequality to respect, love, provide opportunities to women in each of their families, communities, society and to bring about change for women.

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