



**Press Release**  
**Lautem Municipality**  
**18 March 2020**

**JSMP highlighted the rights of vulnerable groups when providing training in Lautem Municipality**

On 12 March 2020 JSMP held training about democracy, the role of sovereign organs, public participation in the law making process, human rights and access to formal justice in Kuluhan Sub-Village, Fuiloro Village, Lospalos Administrative Post, Lautem Municipality.

The participants included members of the LGBTI community, families of members of the LGBTI community, members of the sub-village administrative structure, community members and also disabled persons. There were 30 participants in total.

“Community training that involved the LGBTI community and disabled persons can increase their knowledge about their rights and obligations in the democratic process and access to formal justice. Also, at the same time this training raised the awareness of family members, sub-village authorities and the community in general that everyone has the same rights and should not be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation or physical condition,” said the Acting Director, Mr. Casimiro dos Santos.

Members of the LGBTI community and disabled persons are often subjected to a wide range of discrimination and violence in society, even from their own family. Therefore, this training can promote their knowledge about their rights so that they can fight against these discriminative practices.

The Lautem Municipality Youth Leader, Mr. Thomas Ely Timor, was pleased and expressed his gratitude to JSMP for holding this training in their sub-village. Mr. Thomas stated that this was the first time that training on democracy and access to justice has even taken place in their sub-village. Therefore, in his opinion this training is very important, and it can help communities when they encounter problems, because to date communities have not dealt with their problems through the appropriate channels.

During this training community members enthusiastically listened to the explanations that were provided and raised their concerns regarding the system of democracy in Timor-Leste and the crime of incest.

In response to the issue of how democracy is applied in Timor-Leste, JSMP further explained the meaning of democracy, the system of governance in TL and the competence of the President according to the constitution. Meanwhile, regarding the crime of incest, JSMP explained the nature of incest and the application of sentencing for such crimes, based on the results of JSMP monitoring. In addition, JSMP used this opportunity to also explain the crime of infanticide, and pointed out that there should not be an assumption that the woman or baby's mother is at fault, but rather third parties such as the father of the child or families or other persons need to be investigated, who might have contributed to the commission of the crime.

This training activity was made possible due to the financial support of the Australian Government through the Australian Embassy in Timor-Leste-DFAT.

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