



Press Release
22 July 2020

JSMP praises the political will of the National Parliament for unanimously approving the Law on Preventative Measures and Combatting Corruption

On 20 July 2020 the National Parliament held a final discussion and unanimously approved Draft Law No.1/V (1st) on Preventative Measures and Combatting Corruption with 61 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

When members of the parliamentary benches made their speeches, most of them provided their full support for this legislative initiative to ensure good governance and combat corruption in Timor-Leste.

JSMP really appreciates the very high level of political will of the members of parliament of the VI Legislature to anonymously approve this law. JSMP would also like to specifically praise Committee A for fully endeavouring to prioritise the discussion of this law so it could be finalised quickly within this legislative session, and it was eventually approved in the plenary. This is a positive step in the history of Timor-Leste which marks another step in State policy to prevent and combat corruption,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ana Paula Marçal.

JSMP also praises this legislature, and the previous President of Committee A, Her Excellency Carmelita Caetano Moniz, the current President of Committee A, His Excellency Joaquim dos Santos, and all of the members of Committee A who for two years have given their utmost to collaborate in open discussions with the public and relevant entities including JSMP¹ and managed to finalize this draft law with final approval reached in the plenary.

In his closing speech the President of the National Parliament, His Excellency Aniceto Guterres, said that the final approval of the Law on Preventative Measures and Combatting Corruption marks the end of the debate on the Anti-Corruption Law. Therefore, it will be sent back to Committee A to prepare a final draft before being submitted to the President of the Republic for promulgation.

JSMP has long been advocating² for the creation of a separate law for preventing and combatting corruption and this has finally been achieved in this legislature. JSMP hopes that

¹ JSMP managed to provide two opinions to Committee A:

https://jsmp.tl/wp-content/uploads/PARESER_LEI-ANTI-KORRUPSAUN_TETUM.pdf

https://jsmp.tl/wp-content/uploads/Paraser-kona-ba-testu-substitutivu-ba-lei-anti-korrupsaun_II_-2019.pdf

² JSMP provided advocacy through meetings with relevant institutions such as the National Parliament and the Government. JSMP provided advocacy through seminars, debates on the television and radio. JSMP also provided advocacy through its publications such as annual reports, opinions and press releases to make recommendations to the Government and National Parliament to accelerate the process of creating an Anti-Corruption Law.

after this law is promulgated by the President of the Republic, it will be properly implemented to save our country from acts of corruption and can therefore guarantee the sustainability of the State for future generations.

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