



Press Release

Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (RAEOA)

07 March 2024

JSMP and the administrative structure of Lalisuk Village sign a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration through the Community Security Support Program

On 28 February 2024 JSMP expanded its Community Security Support Program (PASK) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lalisuk Village, Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno.

“JSMP thanks the Lalisuk Village Chief and his entire administrative structure for accepting the presence of JSMP in Lalisuk Village to collaborate through the Community Security Support Program for the next six (6) months, and it is hoped that the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding can ensure that activities will be properly implemented and to give support to the village administrative structure and communities to access justice including supporting the review and implementation of Tara-Bandu rules”, said Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

The Deputy Commander of Pante-Makasar Police Station, Mr. Damião da Conceição, stated that he was ready to support this JSMP program because it could help communities to access justice, because in Lalisuk Village there are many cases, especially civil cases, however community members rarely inform the village administrative structure to engage in mediation, and all cases are referred to the police to be processed in accordance with formal justice, because community members think that all cases need to go to court. Therefore it is hoped that the presence of JSMP can help community members understand the workings of community justice and justice at the national level.

The Lalisuk Village Chief, Mr. Hermenegildo Lalisuk, in his speech stated that he was very grateful for the presence of JSMP in Lalisuk Village because for many years the community has been waiting for this program to support community members with information about the law because there are many cases in Lalisuk Village and community members want to take all cases to the courts, even though some cases can be resolved at the village level. The Village Chief also believed that the presence of JSMP could further improve Tara-Bandu rules in Lalisuk Village to organise community members so they can live well.

This program aims to help local communities and stakeholders in the national justice system to properly and fairly improve their systems so that all people can have access at the community level with the following activities:

1. Observing the process of community based dispute resolution and conducting local research
2. Providing information to help review Tara-Bandu Rules
3. Sharing information about the progress of cases from the police, the courts, the prosecution service to specific villages
4. Advocacy to further improve the links between communities and formal justice
5. Sharing information about access to the formal justice system
6. Will introduce a Case Log for Village Councils and Village Police Officers (OPS) about how to fill out case forms

This MoU was signed by the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, and Lalisuk Village Chief, Mr. Hermenegildo Lalisuk, in the presence of JSMP Program Manager, Mr. Casimiro dos Santos, and the Commander of Pante-Makasar Police Station, Mr. Damião da Conceição. This ceremony was attended by Sub-Village Chiefs, delegates, representatives of female and male youths, customary elders and trainee students from UNPAZ.

This training activity was conducted by JSMP through the Community Security Support Program (PASK), through collaboration with The Asia Foundation (TAF) and financed by the Embassy of New Zealand.

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