



Press Release
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National Parliament

**CNRT Bench walks out of the plenary:
JSMP requests for all parties to find a solution so as not to
undermine the work of the Parliament**

During a solemn session of the plenary at the National Parliament on 15 September 2020, the CNRT Bench walked out of the plenary after the President of the Republic, Francisco Guterres “Lu-Olo”, opened the third legislative session of the fifth legislature, and after the CNRT party read out its political statement.

However, before walking out, the CNRT Bench provided justification for walking out of the plenary, after questioning the “legality of the Chair of the of Presidency of the National Parliament and the process used to establish the current Government”. The 8th Government was formed based on the AMP coalition, therefore if the AMP no longer exists then the Government can no longer exist. .

“JSMP believes that the political action of walking out of the plenary of the National Parliament is a common practice in democratic nations. A walk out is a form of silent and non-violent protest when someone disagrees with something. Even so, JSMP believes that it is important for all relevant parties to contribute their thoughts to find the best and appropriate solution for all parties, especially to uphold the national interest and avoid any political misunderstandings that could undermine the work of the National Parliament and national development,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ana Paula Marçal.

In relation to these issues, the CNRT Bench explained also that the CNRT Bench also had the opportunity to submit its concerns through the media but was still waiting for a direct explanation from the President of the Republic. For these reasons the CNRT Bench decided to walk out from the plenary before the President of the Republic gave his speech.

Based on JSMP’s observations, even though the CNRT Bench walked out of the plenary, the other members of the opposition, namely PUDD, UDT, FM and PD, continued to participate in the plenary and the meeting went smoothly and the President of the Republic finished his speech.

The statements of the other parliamentary benches focused on the political dynamics happening in the country and the economic situation caused by COVID-19 and how to find a solution to this situation.

The President of the Republic, Francisco Guterres “Lu-Olo”, in his speech spoke about the political situation in the country from 2018 until now.

The President of the Republic also asked all parties with seats in the parliament to engage in dialogue with good intent and openly to find a solution that could ensure the continuity and stability of the Government so it can do its job properly and improve the welfare of the people.

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