



Press Release
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Courts start judicial recess **Court actors receive training on Gender Based Violence**

Each year from 1 August until 15 September the courts have a judicial recess and they restart trials on 16 September 2023. As per normal, during the judicial recess the court actors always fill in this time with training to further increase their capacity in relation to the law and how to deal with cases properly and effectively.

During this year's recess (2023), training has started for public defenders and judicial officers on how to provide services and better protection to victims of gender based violence (GBV). This training is facilitated by UNDP. Also, prosecutors and judges will continue to attend training on the same issue overseas, which is facilitated by the ADB and the Government.

"JSMP really appreciates the court actors for continuing to organise themselves during the recess to participate in training on the issue of GBV which JSMP considers to be extremely important because this training can raise the awareness of the courts in relation to cases of GBV to ensure that prosecutions, defence and decision making are of good quality in cases of GBV, as recommended by JSMP to date," said Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

During the judicial recess the trials of urgent cases will continue, such as summary proceedings, defendants in detention and first questioning, and protective orders in civil cases and also ongoing proceedings, so that efficiency is maintained. The court actors (judges, prosecutors and public defenders, as well as judicial officers) who are on shift will continue to work to attend to urgent proceedings. Meanwhile for judicial officers who have just recently been sworn in, they do not have the right to take leave and they will continue to work and attend to urgent cases. Therefore, there will be no implications on the rights of defendants and victims to obtain justice.

JSMP hopes that after the judicial recess the court actors will return with renewed spirit to continue to carry out their work to ensure fair justice for parties who are seeking justice.

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