



Press Release
15 July 2020

JSMP praises the National Parliament for extending its normal functioning to finalise important laws

The normal working hours of the National Parliament are set out in Law No. 15/2009 on the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure. Article 45.2 (a) of Law No. 15/2009 states that the normal functioning period of the National Parliament shall commence on 15 September and end on 15 July without prejudice to suspensions that Parliament deliberates on by a majority of two thirds of elected Members of Parliament.

In a plenary meeting on 13 July 2020, the National Parliament discussed and approved a resolution to extend the functioning period of the Parliament until 30 July 2020. The aim of extending the functioning period was to discuss and approve the Law Against Corruption or Law on Preventative Measures for Combatting Corruption, the Law on Civil Protection and the Exclusive Budget of the National Parliament.

“JSMP has high praise for the decision of the National Parliament to further extend the normal functioning of the Parliament until 30 July 2020 and considers this decision to be very positive because the Parliament is giving priority to the interests of the State and to sacrifice the rights of members of parliament to a recess in accordance with the law. JSMP hopes that such this culture and exceptional practices like this will continue in the future,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

When this issue was being discussed, JSMP observed that no MPs were for or against the matter, because all of the MPs considered this agenda to be crucial towards upholding the interests of the State. Regarding the vote on this resolution, from a total of 53 MPs in attendance, 51 MPs voted in favour, there were 2 abstentions and 0 against.

The President of the National Parliament in his speech stated that even though the National Parliament will have a recess after 30 July 2020, if there are circumstances requiring urgent issues to be addressed, then the Members of Parliament need to come together by convening meetings of the Standing Committees.

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