



Press Release
National Parliament
19 May 2020

JSMP is disappointed and concerned with the unruly behaviour of members of parliament and demands for members of parliament to respect the law in order to uphold the dignity of the National Parliament

JSMP is concerned with the unruly behaviour of members of parliament that occurred on 18 and 19 May 2020 in the plenary room of the National Parliament (PN), when the two Vice-Presidents of the National Parliament, her excellency Maria Angelina Lopes Sarmento, and his excellency Luis Roberto da Silva, who tried to substitute the President of the National Parliament at the Chair of the National Parliament.

In response, members of parliament from the CNRT Party did not allow the two Vice-Presidents to sit in the chair of the President of the National Parliament which caused a commotion and a massive argument occurred where people spoke and acted unethically. The members of parliament from the CNRT Party, Fretilin, PLP and KHUNTO said unpleasant things and also gestured angrily towards each other.

“JSMP is very disappointed with these inappropriate acts and considers the behaviour of the members of parliament to be unethical and uncivilized and they have undermined the dignity of the National Parliament as a body that represents the people in public and to the entire world with their inappropriate behaviour which included damaging the chairs and tables of the National Parliament”, said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

Therefore, JSMP requests for members of parliament to display correct ethical and political behaviour to the public as representatives of the people to comply with the laws and the Rules of Procedure of the National Parliament to resolve misunderstandings between members of parliament in relation to the request for dismissal.

JSMP acknowledges that the request for dismissal adheres to the rules set out in Article 16-B, but it is important to adhere to the procedures that are set out in the Rules of Procedure to facilitate the process of removal and avoid misunderstandings and force the plenary meeting to take place to discuss and vote on the dismissal of the President of Parliament. The process for discussion and vote did not follow the procedures set out in the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure.

JSMP also requests for the President of the Republic to take strong action in accordance with his constitutional competencies to ensure the regular and normal functioning of democratic institutions and to resolve this political situation according to the provisions of Article 74.1 of the Timor-Leste Constitution that the President of the Republic is the Head of State and represents and guarantees national independence and unity of the State and the smooth functioning of the democratic institutions.

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