



Press Release
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JSMP praises the open and participative method used by Committee A of the National Parliament during specific discussion on the Draft Law Against Corruption in Manufahi

Committee A of the National Parliament between 24-26 June 2020 held a specific discussion and vote on Draft Law No. I/V/2019 Against Corruption in Same, Manufahi Municipality. This discussion concentrated on Title I regarding Preventative Measures for Combatting Corruption in Chapter I and Chapter II regarding General Measures for Prevention and the Regime for the Declaration of Assets and Interests.

Committee A also invited relevant institutions to participate and convey their views in this discussion, namely the Ministry of Justice (MJ), Anti-Corruption Commission (CAC), The Police Criminal and Scientific Investigation Unit (PCIC), Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice and the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP). Representatives from these relevant institutions participated by conveying their observations, thoughts and recommendations on the provisions proposed for each article.

“JSMP really appreciates the initiative of Committee A to involve the relevant parties and stakeholders in the discussion of this Draft Law Against Corruption. This is extraordinary progress for the legislative sector relating to the promotion of public participation in the the law-making process. JSMP also requests for the other Specialised Standing Committees to adopt this method when discussing relevant laws in their respective areas, so that the laws can properly reflect the realities that exist”, said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

During this three day discussion members of parliament from Committee A of the National Parliament managed to approve via special vote Chapter I on General Measures for Prevention that consisted of Section VIII and Article 25 and Chapter II regarding the Regime for the Declaration of Assets and Interests that only progressed to Article 33.

In addition, JSMP also praises the consideration of the President of Committee A, His Excellency Joaquim dos Santos, regarding JSMP monitoring linked to the work and

sentencing of the courts. Also, the Deputy Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Mr. Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, referred to JSMP's findings, that formed the basis for findings presented by Her Excellency Carmelita C. Moniz linked to Article 14. 4 d) on measures to reduce opportunities for corruption in the judicial sector. The aforementioned MP said that in very similar cases the courts have imposed very different penalties.

Therefore, she considered this to be a serious matter and to avoid such things from happening again in the future, the members of parliament rephrased article 14. 4) d) regarding the application of measures with the aim of reducing unjustified variations in sentencing.

JSMP hopes that the political will of all of the members of parliament will make it possible in the near future for Timor-Leste to have a Law Against Corruption to reinforce the work of relevant institutions in combatting corruption.

According to the agenda, Committee A will continue discussing Chapter II of the Draft Law Against Corruption regarding the Regime for Declaring Assets and Interests between 01 - 04 July 2020, in Aileu Municipality.

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