



Press Release
30 November 2021
National Parliament

JSMP requests an evaluation on the effectiveness of implementing the gender equality and social inclusion program for the 2021 financial year

The Specialised Standing Committee of the National Parliament has finalised a public consultation on Draft Law No. 35/V (4th) on the State Budget for 2022 which was presented by the VIII Constitutional Government on 15 October 2021 with a budget proposed to the National Parliament totalling US\$1.675 billion.

The 2022 State Budget has 45 programs in six priority areas, namely the development of social capital, and economic development, which are aligned with measures that have been included in the Economic Recovery Plan, the development of basic infrastructure, environmental development and institutional development.

The 2022 budget will finance a gender equality and social inclusion program totalling USD\$129,897,837.00 and this funding will be split amongst 35 institutions including funding for the municipalities and the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno.

“JSMP praises the initiative of the Government to include a gender equality and social inclusion program in the 2022 budget plan and this is considered to be an important step for the nation to comply with its obligations as a State Party that has ratified international human rights conventions. This step is a way to promote and ensure the fundamental rights of vulnerable groups, especially women and disabled persons and will also eliminate acts of discrimination against them by public institutions and members of society in Timor-Leste. However, JSMP also recommends for the Government and the National Parliament to re-evaluate the effectiveness of implementing this program in the 2021 financial year before allocating funds for the 2022 financial year,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

For the 2021 financial year, 14¹ institutions received funding for this program and it is important to conduct an evaluation before reallocating funds in 2022 to State Institutions, municipalities and the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno to avoid unnecessary expenditure and to have a positive impact on the sustainability of this program in the future. JSMP believes that funds can be allocated to ministries or State institutions when there is merit and there are sufficient resources or capacity to implement this program to achieve results in line with indicators or goals that are set out by the Government or the State in the national development strategic plan.

¹ More information is available on the JSMP website: https://jsmp.tl/wp-content/uploads/PrOJEbaPolitikaJENERU_TETUM.pdf

35 State institutions were allocated funding for the program to implement gender policies, namely the National Parliament of US\$50,102.00, Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion with a total budget of US\$1,250,971.00, Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment with a total budget of US\$19,155.00, allocation to the whole of Government USD\$73,000.00, Ministry of Justice US\$5,000.00, Ministry of State Administration US\$26,516.00, Ministry of Health US\$2,000.00, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport USD\$45,000.00, Secretary of State for Youth and Sport USD\$4,232,102.00, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion US\$16,533,588.00, Ministry for the Affairs of National Liberation Combatants USD\$97,245,413.00, Ministry of Transport and Communication USD\$20,000.00, Ministry of Defence USD\$74,881.00, Falintil-F-FDTL USD\$30,000.00, Ministry of the Interior USD\$21,560.00, PNTL USD\$16,750.00, Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno USD\$192,062.00, UNTL USD\$27,800.00, FI USD\$5,126,310.00, KFP USD\$8,000.00, AND USD\$15,000.00, Civil Society Assistance and Social Audit Service USD\$4,000,000.00, Baucau USD\$68,706.00, Bobonaro USD\$85,632.00, Dili USD\$107,249.00, Ermera USD\$43,000.00, Aileu USD\$51,989.00, Ainaro USD\$59,774.00, Covalima USD\$98,215.00 Lautem USD\$61,484.00, Liquiça USD\$56,011.00, Manufahi USD\$61,676.00, Manatuto USD\$62,001.00, Viqueque USD\$46,736.00, Atauro USD\$80,154.00, AND USD\$15,000.00, KFP USD\$8,000.00, FI USD\$5,126,310.00, Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno USD\$192,062.00 and UNTL USD\$27,800.00.

Also, JSMP urges the National Parliament to give priority to discussing the 2022 State Budget in relation to important areas such as Agriculture, Tourism, Education and Health which are crucial pillars that will ensure economic recovery in the country as the economy has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and public disasters and also to reduce the dependency of the Timor-Leste economy on oil and gas in the future.

JSMP also believes that the National Parliament or Government should avoid unnecessary spending such as purchasing vehicles, local trips, and the construction of unnecessary infrastructure and also to avoid giving large amounts of funding to autonomous institutions that do not provide a direct benefit to the State every year and to reassign these funds to the priority areas mentioned by JSMP above.

For more information please contact:

Ana Paula Marçal
Executive Director of JSMP
Telephone: 3323883
Website: www.jsmp.tl

Rua Beco Lakateu, Aldeia Manufuik,
Suku Colmera, Administrativu Vera Cruz
Dili Timor Leste
PoBox: 275

Telephone: 3323883 | 77040735

www.jsmp.tl

ana@jsmp.tl

Facebook: www.facebook.com/timorleste.jsmp

Twitter: @JSMPtl