



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
27 April 2023

JSMP launches 2022 Annual Reports on the Justice Sector, Legislative Sector, and Institutional Sector and thematic reports on the Recognition of Marriage according to the Civil Code, Young Persons in Conflict with the Law and the Rights of Disabled Persons as part of the celebration of JSMP's 22nd Anniversary

On 28 April 2022 JSMP celebrates its 22nd anniversary and at the same time launches 6 reports, namely the **2022 Overview of the Justice Sector Report, the 2022 Parliamentary Watch Report and 2022 Institutional Report as well as thematic reports on the Recognition of Marriage according to the Civil Code, Disabled Persons and Young Persons in Conflict with the Law.**

These three annual reports provide results of regular observations carried out by JSMP at the courts and the National Parliament, advocacy and legal aid activities for female and child victims, training and capacity building, meetings and the expenditure of JSMP in relation to activities during 2022.

There are three thematic reports. One of these thematic reports relates to the provisions of Article 1475 of Civil Code on the recognition of marriage, another thematic report is on Disabled Persons and the other thematic report is about young persons in conflict with the law.

Like previous years, each year JSMP celebrates its anniversary, and launches two important reports relating to development, progress and challenges in the judicial system and legislative process. This year JSMP also offers the results of some advocacy work through the thematic reports that relate to the issue of recognition of marriage, disabled persons and young persons in conflict with the law. JSMP also has a plan to prepare and publish some thematic reports on the issues of incest, corruption and cases of gender based violence. Meanwhile the other report discusses JSMP activities that were implemented in 2022," said Ms. Ana Paula Marcál, Executive Director of JSMP.

The Overview of the Justice Sector Report discusses progress and challenges in the justice sector, and discusses cases involving gender based violence, and reports on JSMP's legal aid activities for female and child victims, and also includes statistics about cases processed by the district courts and the Court of Appeal during 2021.

The Parliamentary Watch Report discusses the functioning of the National Parliament in relation to the productivity of the parliament regarding legislation and analyses political influence on the legislative process in the National Parliament.

The JSMP Institutional Report discusses JSMP activities performed throughout 2021 including institutional cooperation at both the national and international levels. This report also outlines funding support that JSMP received from donors which provides legitimacy and public accountability.

In relation to the three thematic reports, one report relates to civil marriage and this report highlights and reports on the issue regarding the provisions of Article 1475 of the Civil Law which raises concerns about other religious faiths in addition to the Catholic faith, because it is believed that this law does not guarantee and promote the rights of all persons, is unfair and legalizes acts of discrimination against East Timorese persons who are not Catholic when they wish to obtain a Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste certificate or a Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Marriage Certificate. Also the thematic report on Disabled Persons highlights and reports on problems that disabled persons face, issues in relation to accessibility and also funds that are not specifically allocated to the disabled and another report about young persons in conflict with the law, which focuses on adolescents who are currently in Becora prison and are not really receiving adequate follow up support from defence lawyers.

These reports conclude with a number of important and relevant recommendations that are addressed directly to the competent organs and institutions for their consideration. JSMP hopes that these important recommendations will be given consideration in order to improve the functioning of the formal justice system and legislative system now and in the future. These reports can be accessed on JSMP's website <https://jsmp.tl/>

In addition to the celebration of this anniversary and launch of these reports, JSMP also received messages from the relevant parties that generally continue to support JSMP in the performance of all of its activities.

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