



Press Release
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National Parliament

Committee A of the National Parliament includes some considerations from JSMP in the Law on the Creation of a Timor-Leste Bar Association and Approval of its Statute: JSMP strongly praises the work of Committee A in finalizing this law

On 16-17 February 2022 Committee A of the National Parliament, via a special discussion and vote in Aileu Municipality, managed to finalize Draft Law No. 26/V(3rd) regarding the Creation of a Timor-Leste Bar Association and Approval of its Statute.

This Statute comprises 101 articles split into 9 chapters. Chapter I on General Provisions, Chapter II on the Organization of the Timor-Leste Bar Association, Chapter III on the Exercise of Advocacy, Chapter IV on Professional Deontology, Chapter V on Infractions and Disciplinary Sanctions, Chapter VI on a Property Regime, Chapter VII on International Cooperation, Chapter VIII on Lawyers and Trainee Lawyers and Chapter IX on Final Provisions.

“JSMP praises the work of Committee A in finalizing this law promptly via special discussion and vote to present it to the Chair of the National Parliament to enable a final global vote. In addition to helping lawyers exercise their functions, this law also strengthens the justice system to ensure the rights of all people to access formal justice,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ana Paula Marçal.

This Law on a Bar Association is also part of the package of laws to reform the justice sector which are a priority of the VIII Constitutional Government and also the National Parliament during this legislature before their mandate expires.

JSMP hopes that this law can respond to the concerns of lawyers and their work in providing legal aid and advocacy to their clients in criminal and civil cases and at the courts, as well as conciliation or mediation activities involving the parties in accordance with the legal procedures that apply in Timor-Leste.

JSMP also would like to use this opportunity to express its appreciation to Committee A, for including some considerations in this law based on recommendations made by JSMP. These recommendations related to Article 88 on registration and exercise of advocacy in Timor-Leste by trainee lawyers as set out in point 2 which includes or is associated with national lawyers who are practicing as well as Article 89 on casual lawyers with professional titles to also accommodate those lawyers who are not registered to provide advocacy after receiving guidance from the Timor-Leste Bar Association (OATL).

The special discussion and vote of this Draft Law also involved relevant entities such as the courts, the Ministry of Justice, the Public Prosecution Service, Office of the Public Defender, representatives from the Timor-Leste Lawyers Association (AATL) and also Private Lawyers who provide advocacy in Timor-Leste.

Last of all JSMP recommends for the President of the Republic to promulgate Parliamentary Decree Law No. 26/V(3rd) on the Creation of a Timor-Leste Bar Association and approval of its Statute.

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