



Press Release
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National Parliament

JSMP praises the efforts of Committee A for finalizing important laws during the parliamentary recess

Committee A of National Parliament between 28 July and August 2021 managed to finalize the special approval of Draft Law No. 21/V(3rd) approving the Judicial Magistrates Statute and also the draft Law on Judicial Organization.

These two draft laws are part of a package of laws to reform the judicial sector comprising seven laws, namely the Judicial Magistrates Statute, Draft Law on Judicial Organization, Public Prosecution Service Statute, Public Defenders Statute, Legal Regime for a Professional Public Association and the Creation of a Timor-Leste Bar Association and Approval of the Statute.

“JSMP praises the efforts of the National Parliament, particularly Committee A, for giving priority to these laws to accelerate discussion and approval during the parliamentary recess. JSMP believes that these laws are a key element in further improving the work and functioning of the institutions in the judicial sector to bring justice closer to the people”, said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ana Paula Marçal.

JSMP also praises the law making mechanisms used by Committee A to involve institutions from the justice sector in public meetings as well as the special discussion before the Committee, as well as relevant organizations from civil society. These types of mechanisms can ensure that the laws truly reflect the interests and aspirations of many people and can properly and sufficiently respond to the needs of the justice sector.

For a long time JSMP has been advocating for the approval of these draft laws through its findings when conducting monitoring at the courts, as presented in JSMP’s annual overview of the justice sector report to improve the judicial institutions to ensure the quality and effectiveness of their work, and the functioning of institutions in the justice sector, which also brings justice closer to the people.

The discussion of these two draft laws involved the Ministry of Justice, the courts, the Public Prosecution Service, Public Defenders and representatives of Private Lawyers in Timor-Leste.

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