



Press Release
26 February 2021
National Parliament

**National Parliament approves proposal for a legal regime for voluntary arbitration
to amend the Civil Procedure Code**

On 22 February 2021 the National Parliament, through a plenary meeting, held a final global vote on Draft Law No.11/V(2)) on a Legal Regime for Voluntary Arbitration to amend the Civil Procedure Code. For the final global vote there were 36 votes in favour, 6 against and 5 abstentions from a total of 47 MPs who were present.

The discussion of this law saw an appeal initiated by MP Francisco Vasconcelos in relation to the many civil cases pending at the courts, that will take a long time to be resolved due to their complex nature, therefore a request was made to maintain the proposal of the Government.

There was a proposal to amend Article 56 on the arbitration process, going back to 12 months. This draft amendment was approved with 29 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

“JSMP appreciates the work of Committee A in finalizing this law promptly via a discussion and approval so it could be presented to the Chair of the National Parliament for a final global discussion and approval. It is hoped that this law can respond to public concerns about civil cases, especially cases involving commercial disputes that are still pending with the courts. It is also important for the Government to create the necessary conditions and prepare adequate and qualified human resources to properly implement this law,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ana Paula Marçal.

JSMP also appreciates the initiative of Committee A regarding the discussion of this law because they always involved relevant entities, especially JSMP, in the public consultations before moving on to specific discussion. It is hoped that the Specialised Standing Committees in the National Parliament, particularly Committee A, will continue to use this mechanism to encourage the public to participate in the legislative process.

For more information please contact:

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