



Press Release

15 March 2021

National Parliament

JSMP is concerned that members of the legislative body were yelling and insulting each other simply because of party politics

JSMP is concerned that when members of the legislative body in the National Parliament were making speeches, they did not represent the people and raise concerns and issues of importance to the people, but rather they turned the National Parliament into a venue for yelling and insulting each other due to party politics.

During monitoring conducted on 9 March 2021, during a plenary meeting of the National Parliament, JSMP observed that members of parliament used words in their statements such as “*dumb, senile, frustrated, and assault of power*” which lead to a heated discussion between MPs from KHUNTO, CNRT, and Fretilin.

“The National Parliament is a sovereign organ that represents the people to make laws, conduct supervision and political decision making, and it should demonstrate the quality of its work through political statements using appropriate language, dignifying the National Parliament as a sovereign organ that represents the people, to discuss the problems and interests of the people, not the interests of individuals, groups or political parties. Regarding the issue of party politics in relation to the democratic rule of law, there are appropriate mechanisms and forums to resolve these issues, not the National Parliament,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ana Paula Marçal.

This situation occurred when a MP from KHUNTO made a political statement to reject a political statement from the CNRT Bench which insulted the Vice-Minister of the Interior by saying that he committed an abuse of power and objecting to language used in statements made by MPs from the CNRT Bench saying that the Superior Counselor of KHUNTO was dumb.

Also, an MP from CNRT yelled at the President and the Vice-President of the National Parliament saying there was an assault of power. In response to the accusations made by CNRT, MPs from the Fretilin Bench and the KHUNTO bench said that there was no assault of power and democracy requires intelligence, not the use of force.

On many occasions JSMP has questioned these practices and behaviour through its annual reports as well as press releases, however the members of the legislative body continue to ignore the rules and procedures that apply to the National Parliament.

Article 10.2 of the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure deals with the duties of members of parliament in performing their role, namely, a) to respect the dignity of the National Parliament and of its members, b) to adhere to order and discipline as provided for by the Rules of Procedure and respect the authority of the President of the Parliament, and c) to contribute, with his or her behaviour, to efficiency and prestige of parliamentary proceedings. JSMP believes that the behaviour of these MPs has not adhered to their duties as set out in the Rules of Procedure.

Therefore, JSMP urges the members of the National Parliament to exercise their duties by observing or adhering to the disciplinary rules and their obligations as provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the National Parliament and other relevant laws, so they can maintain the dignity of the National Parliament and promote the efficiency of the work of the National Parliament.

For more information, please contact:

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