



**Press Release**  
**16 December 2021**  
**National Parliament**

**JSMP considers the decision of the President of the National Parliament not to admit the proposal of MP Maria Gorumali Barreto to be against the Timor-Leste Constitution and Parliamentary Rules of Procedure**

On 6 December 2021 the National Parliament commenced a special discussion and vote on Draft Law No.34/V (4<sup>th</sup>) on the 2022 State Budget totalling \$1,675,000,000.00.

The President of the National Parliament, His Excellency MP Aniceto Guterres Lopez, during his speech at the start of the plenary meeting to hold a special discussion on the 2022 State Budget decided not to admit a 10 proposal from MP Maria Gorumali Barreto because in her speech this MP referred to “*The de facto and unconstitutional Government*”. The President of the National Parliament believes that the speech made by the aforementioned MP showed that she did not consider the VII Government to be legal, therefore there was no legal basis to admit the proposed amendment to the Government that she considered to be illegal and he urged the aforementioned MP to lodge an appeal with the court if she does not agree with the decision of the Chair of the National Parliament.

“JSMP believes that the actions of the President of the National Parliament not to admit the proposal of MP Maria Gorumali Barreto because she referred to the de facto and unconstitutional Government in this plenary meeting to be against the provisions of Article 94.1 of the Timor-Leste Constitution and the provisions of Article 8.1 of the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure, namely that members of parliament shall not be held liable for civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings in regards to votes and opinions expressed by them while performing their functions. JSMP also believes that this was an act of terror and political persecution that threatens the existence of democracy in Timor-Leste, especially for the National Parliament as an organ of sovereignty that represents all of the citizens of Timor-Leste and has legislative, political and monitoring powers”, said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ana Paula Marçal.

Therefore, JSMP recommends for the President of the National Parliament to use his competence in accordance with the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure and to not violate the rights of MPs during discussions in the National Parliament including discussion of the 2022 State Budget.

JSMP has observed that this year there have been 161 additional proposals, and 143 additional proposals have been admitted during special discussions and votes, whilst 18 were not admitted because of time and the issue of legality.

The proposal was blocked because of the issue of legality from MP Maria Gorumali Barreto that requested an increase of funding for ministries and State entities, namely increased funds for the Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion for public transfers, civil society support service and social audit in goods and services, requesting an increase for the Ministry of State Administration for goods and services for administrative decentralization programs, the national ambulance service and medical emergencies and requesting an increase in the category of salaries and wages for the primary health care unit, requesting an increase for the Ministry of Health for goods and services, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion requesting the elimination of funds for food subsidies for HIV/AIDS patients and the *bolsa de mae* scholarship for young persons within public transfers, and for the Minister of the Interior for goods and services to request a reduction of gender equality and inclusion programs and for funds to be reallocated to national security programs.

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