



Press Release
Covalima Municipality
12 February 2024

**Through a regional seminar JSMP presented results of a survey on
“Perceptions and Satisfaction of Users and Service Providers in the
Formal Justice System relating to Cases of GBV”**

On 8 February 2024 JSMP held a regional seminar to present the results of a Survey on Perceptions and Satisfaction of Users and Service Providers in the Formal Justice System relating to Cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) for parties such as the local authorities, the police, students, partners and some communities in Covalima Municipality.

“The aim of this seminar was to introduce or present the results of the survey which was carried out by JSMP and KOICA between March and June 2023 and was launched on 23 November 2023. This survey was carried out to have a deeper understanding about services provided in the formal justice system in cases of GBV and the challenges that need to be improved in the future. This survey also included a number of recommendations so that relevant institutions can improve their services to guarantee a justice system that can respond effectively to cases of GBV”, said Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

During the opening ceremony, His Excellency Prosecutor Pascação de Rosa Alves, the Coordinator of the Office of the Public Prosecutor at the First Instance in Covalima, thanked JSMP for holding this regional seminar and was grateful because JSMP continues to monitor the work of the courts and the work of professionals, especially the judicial authorities in the performance of their activities.

The aforementioned Prosecutor added that formal justice can be effective and efficient when there is a strong and effective system of monitoring, which is currently being carried out by JSMP. This can help the courts improve the quality of services. The aforementioned Coordinator Prosecutor added that sometimes corrections and criticisms must be made, and as a prosecutor he acknowledges that sometimes in the application of sentences in GBV cases, JSMP and communities often say that the sentences imposed in cases of GBV favor the defendant/convicted person and there is no satisfaction for the victim, but the judges apply sentences in accordance with the law, and sentencing needs to consider if the penalty is appropriate or not, professional or not, and sufficient or not. This principle must be considered in sentencing. Even so, the aforementioned prosecutor suggested that criticisms and recommendations must be made in relation to gaps, so that they can be further improved in the future.

Then the results of the survey were presented by Mr. Casimiro dos Santos, the JSMP Program Manager, and the participants conveyed their appreciation for this survey and stated that it is true that community members who submit their cases to the formal justice system experience lengthy delays and there is no information for community members, so they don't know how their cases are progressing. Therefore, the participants requested for JSMP to keep working with community members, to follow up the cases of community members at the courts, and to help inform them of how their cases are progressing.

The participants also asked about a case of incest that has been with the courts for a long time, and there isn't a decision yet. Also, they asked about crimes of smuggling.

Pascacio de Rosa Alves observed that the results of this research acknowledged problems in the justice sector for providers, however recommendations need to be made to the relevant institutions to create the necessary conditions, because in reality the courts lack human resources and facilities and there are issues about how cases are progressing, and in addition to lacking human resources, sometimes the progressing of cases is affected by parties who are seeking justice, or justice users, who don't collaborate effectively with the courts, or do not attend hearings on the scheduled dates.

This ceremony was attended by 33 people (13 women and 20 men) such as the prosecutor and his team, a judge representative from the Suai Court of First Instance, a representative for the Suai District VPU, Village Chiefs from Matai Village, Camnasa Village, Oques, Debus and Maudemo, representatives from KOICA, Fokupers, PRADET, Uma-Mahon Salele, ALFeLa, students from UNPAZ Paralelu Suai and the media.

This regional seminary was made possible with the budgetary support of KOICA through the UNDP Program of "Together for Equality".

For more information, please contact:

Ana Paula Marçal
Executive Director of JSMP
Email: ana@jsmp.tl
Telephone: (+670) 33238883 | 77040735
Website: <https://jsmp.tl>
info@jsmp.tl