



Press Release
04 June 2020

JSMP praises the Court of Appeal for appointing another permanent judge to the Oekusi District Court

JSMP praises the Court of Appeal for appointing another permanent judge to the Oekusi District Court to assist the judge Administrator of the aforementioned court, who for a long time has had to attend to cases in this jurisdiction all by himself.

On 2 June 2020 the Court of Appeal swore-in four judges, namely Hugo da Cruz Pui, who was sworn in as the Judge Administrator of the Oekusi District Court, to replace the former Judge Administrator João Ribeiro. Also, 3 trainee judges were sworn in as permanent judges: Yudi Pamukas, Patrícia de Araújo Fatima Barreto Magno Xavier, and Evangelino Belo. The Court of Appeal appointed judge Yudi Pamukas as a permanent judge to the Oekusi District Court, and judge Patricia de Araújo F.B.M. Xavier as a permanent judge to the Suai District Court and Judge Evangelino Belo was appointed to the Dili District Court.

“JSMP praises the decision of the Court of Appeal to appoint another judge to assist the Judge Administrator at the Oekusi District Court who for more than ten years has had to manage all cases heard before a single judge, except for cases heard by a panel of judges with the assistance of two judges from the Dili District Court. It is hoped that with an increase in human resources cases can be dealt with more efficiently at the Oekusi District Court,” said Ms. Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

JSMP has observed that having only one judge present has meant that some trials have had to be adjourned when the judge was ill or participating in urgent meetings in Dili. This situation has also had an impact on trials scheduled to be heard by a panel of judges because sometimes these trials had to be adjourned because two judges from Dili were unable to attend.

In relation to this issue, in its previous reports and a press releaseⁱ, JSMP recommended for the Court of Appeal to increase the number of judges at the Oecusse District Court to facilitate trials before a panel of judges, both at the court itself, and through the mobile court. The Oecusse District Court has been assisted by the Dili District Court to hold trials presided over by a panel of judges at the permanent courthouse. However in 2020 a mobile court program has been active at the Oecusse District Court, and therefore it has been necessary to have at least one more permanent judge when trials have to be heard by a panel of judges, which means only one more judge needs to come from the Dili District Court. This will also help the State save money because it is not necessary to send two judges from Dili to the Oekusi District Court.

JSMP believes that having another permanent judge at the Oekusi District Court will enable the court to share trial responsibilities between the judges, so that one judge can preside over trials while the other judge can use this time to analyse cases, read reference materials to increase knowledge of the law and to participate in important events.

For more information, please contact:

Ana Paula Marçal

Executive Director of JSMP

Email: ana@jsmp.tl

Telephone: 3323883 | 77040735

info@jsmp.tl

Website: <http://jsmp.tl/>

ⁱ Please refer to the JSMP website : http://jsmp.tl/wp-content/uploads/PrJulgamentuMOVELTribunalOEKUSI_TETUM.pdf