



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
Bobonaro District
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Students from the Bobonaro Agricultural Vocational Secondary School were happy to attend a training activity about the rights of the child and the Law Against Domestic Violence in their School

On 8 November 2018 the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP) facilitated a training activity about the rights of the child and access to the formal justice system for students from the Bobonaro Sub-District Agricultural Vocational Secondary School in Bobonaro District.

This training covered issues about the rights of the child, access to formal justice, guarantees for the rights of the child in accordance with international law, and in particular the Convention on the Right of the Child and relevant applicable laws and also crimes that constitute crimes against children in Timor-Leste and the Law Against Domestic Violence. In addition, JSMP also introduced the role of Judges, Prosecutors, Public Defenders, Private Lawyers and the Police, in accordance with the Timor-Leste formal justice system. 30 students participated in this training, comprising 15 girls and 15 boys.

“Students in rural areas face a range of challenges in accessing credible information about their rights and the role of public institutions in the field of justice. Therefore, training activities enable them to increase and improve their knowledge so they know about their rights and they can help their friends when they have a problem” said Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, Executive Director of JSMP.

In a society where formal education is poor and access to information is limited, children are quite often extremely vulnerable because they don't know their rights so they can't defend themselves.

Antonio de Jesus Borges, who is the Principal of the aforementioned school, in his speech said that this training activity on the right of the child and the Law Against Domestic Violence is very important because it will help the students to know their rights. So far no organization has distributed information about the justice sector, especially relevant issues about the rights of the child and the Law Against Domestic Violence.

Mr. Borges was grateful that JSMP visited his school to share this very useful information to the students. Also, he asked the students to use their time effectively to listen carefully and to try and understand the materials presented by the trainers, and he encouraged the students to immediately ask for clarification if there are any doubts or

something is unclear. He also asked the students to share this information with their parents, members of the community and school friends who were unable to participate in this training.

JSMP observed that most of the students who participated in this activity did not understand or did not have adequate information about the Convention on the Rights of the Child that has been ratified by the State of Timor-Leste as well as other national laws that protect their rights, as well as the most prevalent crimes committed against children.

Therefore, JSMP introduced basic and key principles from the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is a United Nations (UN) treaty that provides more detail and acknowledgement of the rights of the child. The Convention on the Rights of the Child reflects the basic rights of all children in the world, including the right to life, development, right to protection against negative influences, the right to be free from torture and exploitation, and the right to actively participate in family, cultural and social life.

In particular, Article 2 (1) and (2) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child state that State Parties shall respect and ensure that children shall not be subject to any form of discrimination and States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination.

JSMP also provided an explanation about acts that constitute crimes and violence against children in accordance with the applicable law and the prosecution of perpetrators. These crimes including hitting, threatening, sexual abuse against minors (including sexual abuse categorised as incest), mistreatment of minors, and the implications of crimes on their development.

This training also included a session where each group discussed a case study and after the discussion each group presented their results.

The training ended with JSMP handing over brochures to the Principal to be distributed to the students who did not participate in this training.

This training activity was made possible with the support of the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta

To obtain more information, please contact:

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