



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
Jurisdiction of the Suai District Court
20 March 2018

JSMP conducts training with minority target groups of Lesbians, Gays, Transgenders & Bisexuals (LGBT) with Village Chiefs, administrative staff and community members in the Jurisdiction of the Suai District Court

JSMP conducted training for minority groups such as lesbians, gays, transgenders and bisexuals (LGBT) with village chiefs, administrative staff and community members in the jurisdiction of the Suai District Court (TDS), on 7, 13 and 15 March 2018. The Suai District court comprises the municipalities of Ainaro, Bobonaro, Covalima and Manufahi. JSMP conducted training in the municipalities of Ainaro, Bobonaro and Covalima.

“LGTB is a minority group which experiences severe discrimination and are marginalised in the community. This training is part of JSMP's contribution to improve everyone's awareness about the existence of this group, to ensure that this group receives equal and dignified treatment in the community, without discrimination”, said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis Oliveira Sampaio.

"Training for the Village Chief and his administrative staff is also very important to increase their knowledge to understand how they can assist their community in certain cases that need to be dealt with through formal justice mechanisms, in particular how to deal with and treat LGBT equally before the law", he added.

This training targeted the LGTB group, members of the Village Council, Village Police Officers and community members. The training materials covered democracy, the role of sovereign organs, public participation in the law making process and access to formal justice.

The aim of this training was to increase the knowledge of LGTB and community leaders as well as some community members about democracy, human rights, the role of the sovereign organs, public participation in the law making process and access to formal justice.

On 7 March 2018 JSMP conducted training in Suai Municipality for the LGBT group. There were 27 participants, and from the list of participants JSMP identify 1 lesbian, 3 gays & bisexuals, 4 transgenders & bisexuals, 2 women and 17 men.

On 13 March 2018 JSMP conducted training for the village chief, his administrative staff and village police officers, as well as some community members in Cassa Village, Ainaro Vila

Administrative Post, Ainaro Municipality. There were 28 participants, comprising 7 women and 21 men.

On 15 March 2018 JSMP conducted training in Carabau Village, Bobonaro Administrative Post, Bobonaro Municipality for the village chief and his administrative staff, as well as some community members. There were 29 participants, comprising 7 women and 22 men.

The participants demonstrated a strong desire to learn during this training and really appreciated the materials provided by JSMP. During these trainings JSMP also shared information about civil cases such as divorce, responsibility to provide alimony, land disputes and how to receive assistance by accessing formal justice.

The Village Chief of Debos in his opening speech of the training to the LGTB Group in Debos Village, Suai Municipality, stated that *“I feel unhappy if I hear that members of the community mistreat or using insulting words against members of the LGTB group, because such words are very offensive towards members of this group, and therefore this training is very important for the LGTB Group, community leaders and all members of the community to understand the rights of LGTB people and to respect them in the community”*.

Meanwhile participants in Carabau Village, Bobonaro Administrative Post, Bobonaro Municipality in the session on democracy raised the issue regarding the political situation in Timor-Leste after the 2017 parliamentary elections. The participants questioned the decision of the President regarding the formation of the Government and also asked if the dissolution of the National Parliament was constitutional.

In response to these issues JSMP explained that it had submitted an opinion piece to the National Parliament and other relevant institutions regarding the formation of the Government and the dissolution of the National Parliament. In its opinion piece JSMP stated that the decision of the President met the requirements set out in the Constitution, and therefore these decisions were not in conflict with the Constitution.

The participants said that this training was excellent because they learned about their rights and how to process their cases through the courts if a person violates their rights. Also the village chiefs appreciated and thanked JSMP because this was the first time that training using these materials had been held in their villages.

Meanwhile participants from the LGBT group requested for the State of Timor-Leste to recognise their rights especially towards same sex marriage and the right to equal freedom like other communities in this democratic nation.

Rua setubal, Colmera, Dili Timor Leste

PoBox: 275

Telefone: 3323883 |77295795

www.jsmp.tl

Facebook: www.facebook.com/timorleste.jsmp

Twitter: @JSMPtl

JSMP observed that during the training all of the participants were really interested to hear and discuss the materials presented by the facilitators, which showed that the participants considered that this information is really important for them.

This training was made possible due to the financial support from the Government of Australia through the Australian Embassy in Timor-Leste-CARDNO.

For more information, please contact:

Luis de Oliveira Sampaio
Executive Director of JSMP
Email: luis@jsmp.tl
Phone: 3323883 | 77295795

Rua setubal, Colmera, Dili Timor Leste
PoBox: 275

Telefone: 3323883 |77295795

www.jsmp.tl

Facebook: www.facebook.com/timorleste.jsmp

Twitter: @JSMPtl