



Press Release
Vikeke Municipality
24 March 2020

Uagua Village Chief: Training provided by JSMP was very beneficial for community leaders as well as community members in Uagua Village, Vikeke Municipality

On 19 March 2020 the Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP) provided training to community leaders as well as community members in Uagua Village, Ossu Administrative Post, Vikeke Municipality on ‘democracy, the roles of sovereign organs, public participation in the law making process and access to formal justice’.

“This training is a mechanism to raise the knowledge and promote the work of members of the village administrative structure so they can better contribute to national development at the village level, especially in relation to dealing with issues facing community members,” said Casimiro dos Santos, Acting Director of JSMP.

There were 30 participants in this training, comprising 18 men and 12 women. The participants included members of the village administrative structure, Village Police Officers and community members, as well as two disabled persons.

The training was split into two sessions. The first session dealt with democracy, the roles of sovereign organs and public participation in the law-making process. The second session dealt with access to formal justice in Timor-Leste, and also dealt with the role of Judges, Prosecutors, Public Defenders, Private Lawyers and the Police.

In each session the participants were given an opportunity to ask questions, make comments and raise concerns. In the session about democracy the participants asked questions and raised concerns about the political system and monarchy and

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republic models, and asked why elections were not held for the position of administrative post administrators, and why a Ministry of Religion has not been established and what happens if community members do not follow a decision made by the village chief regarding land rights.

In the session about access to justice, community members raised concerns about police behavior which is always accompanied by violence, and also how to process cases of child neglect.

JSMP gave clear responses to all of these issues and the participants understood the information provided by JSMP.

The Village Chief, Mr. Aguilis Ximenes Guterres, in his speech stated that he was very grateful to JSMP for giving priority to Uaguia Village and providing training to the community on such important issues, especially to members of the village administrative structure, in order to increase their knowledge about issues of democracy and formal justice.

The Village Chief added that this training can help the local authorities in the village to make decisions based on the law, and also can allow them to better collaborate with the formal justice system.

During the closing ceremony JSMP also asked the participants to pass on the information they were given to other community members who did not attend the training. Therefore, the information could be passed on to everyone in Uaguia Village.

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