

JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release 14 September 2022

Visit of the President of the Republic to JSMP: Discussion to promote the work and functioning of the justice and legislative sector

On 14 September 2022 JSMP was officially visited by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Timor-Leste, Dr. Jóse Ramos Horta at the office of JSMP, Kolmera, Dili. This visit was a historic event, as this is the first time a historic leader and President of the Republic of Timor-Leste has made an official visit to JSMP.

The aim of this visit was for the President of the Republic to observe, listen and hold a joint discussion about the work and contribution of JSMP to the justice and legislative sector and to explore the possibility of working together with the Office of the President to better contribute or to improve and promote the work and functioning of the justice and legislative sector. This discussion took one hour.

The Delegation of the President comprised members of the legal team and staff. The JSMP team comprised the Executive Director, Program Manager, coordinator and staff.

"JSMP considers the visit of the President of the Republic to JSMP as a significant honor and a historical moment for JSMP as a civil society organization that to date has been observing and providing advocacy for the work and functioning of the justice and legislative sector. The President of the Republic is an eminent lawyer of the State, and this meeting and discussion can strengthen JSMP's role in providing advocacy to improve and promote the work and functioning of the justice and legislative sector to ensure justice that is accessible and fair all people who seek justice," said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

During the discussion with the President of the Republic, JSMP used this opportunity to convey its general observations about the justice and legislative sector with a presentation to the President of the Republic about alarming situations and concerns that exist in the society of Timor-Leste in relation to cases of gender based violence, especially violence against women and girls. JSMP presented these circumstances based on statistical data from JSMP monitoring at the courts in Timor-Leste and also statistical data from legal aid provided by JSMP to women and girls who have been victimized from mid-2020 until now. This situation requires the full attention of relevant parties and stakeholders, including the Office of the President.

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In addition to making a presentation and discussing work, JSMP also presented problems and challenges that the institution has faced in implementing its programs.

Before the discussion ended, the two parties agreed to conduct a joint national seminar on the effectiveness of the justice sector.

After the discussion, JSMP handed over its 2021 annual report on the justice and legislative sector and also provided a souvenir from JSMP to His Excellency the President of the Republic.

This official visit was based on the initiative of the President of the Republic, after JSMP had a meeting with the President of the Republic several months ago to hold a detailed discussion about how to better promote the development of work in the justice and legislative sector, including issues linked to cases of gender based violence in Timor-Leste.

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