

JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release 6 December 2021 National Parliament

JSMP praises the work of Committee A of the National Parliament for managing to finalise the Statute of the Public Prosecution Service via specific discussion and approval

Committee A of National Parliament on 24 November 2021 via a specific discussion and vote managed to finalize Draft Law No. 24/V(3rd) on the Statute of the Public Prosecution Service to revoke the current law which has to date guided the work of the Public Prosecution Service.

The Statute has 301 articles and is separated into three sections that are the same, namely part I deals with the structure of the Public Prosecution Service, the function and regime of interventions including organs of the Public Prosecution Service. Meanwhile part II deals with the composition of the Public Prosecution Service, Functions and Status including obligations, rights and incompatibilities, evaluation, retirement, sessions and suspension of functions and also deals with seniority and availability in relation to disciplinary regimes.

Meanwhile part III sets out the transitory and final provisions on the application of the law when the Statute comes into effect.

"JSMP praises the work of Committee A in finalizing this law promptly based on the calendar of the Committee via specific discussion and approval to present it to the Chair of the National Parliament to facilitate a final global vote. This law is part of a package of laws on judicial sector reform which are a priority of the VIII Constitutional Government before their mandate expires," said the Executive Director of JSMP Ana Paula Marçal.

JSMP hopes that this law will respond to concerns about the work of the Public Prosecution Service which represents the State in exercising penal acts, ensuring the defence of minors, the absent and the incapacitated and to defend democratic legality and also promote compliance with the law.

Also, JSMP recommends for the members of parliament to engage in thorough discussion about the issues that are of concern to JSMP, for example parallelism in relation to judicial magistrates, representation of the Public Prosecution Service, privileges and the establishment of a Recruitment Committee and selection before there is a final global approval.

JSMP also praises Committee A for its initiative to discuss this law and for always involving relevant entities such as the courts, the Public Prosecution Service, Office of the Public Defender, the Police Criminal and Scientific Investigation Unit and JSMP in a public consultation before proceeding with the specific discussion.

The specific discussion was attended by the courts, the Public Prosecution Service and Office of the Public Defender and the Ministry of Justice as the proponent of this proposal and it is hoped that the Specialised Standing Committees in the National Parliament can use this mechanism to encourage the public to participate in the legislative process.

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