



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

**Press Release**

**30 April 2021**

**JSMP requests for the Government and competent entities to ensure that funds for Covid-19 and natural disasters are executed in a transparent and accountable fashion in accordance with the law.**

On 23 April 2021 the National Parliament, through an extraordinary plenary meeting, held a vote on the Draft Law to approve the first amendment to Law No. 14/2020 on the 2021 State Budget with 44 votes in favour, 0 against and 20 abstentions.

The purpose of this rectification budget is to finance expenditures relating to the work of preventing and combatting Covid-19, and also for the adoption of measures to mitigate impact on the economy. Therefore, with this amendment the COVID-19 Fund will reinforce the financing of the main measures to be adopted, namely employment support, a moratorium on credit, support to students, food security, support to front line professionals and support for the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19.

Also, this amendment introduces this budget, by reinforcing the Contingency Reserve Fund to respond to challenges caused by the floods on 4 April 2021.

“JSMP considers these funds to be important and urgent to finance Government programs to prevent and combat Covid-19, to improve the economic circumstances of the people and the private sector who have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the floods. Therefore, JSMP requests for the Government and competent entities to ensure that this budget is executed in a transparent and accountable fashion in accordance with the law,” said Ana Paula Marçal, Executive Director of JSMP.

In relation to the execution of this budget in a proper, transparent and accountable fashion, JSMP requests for the competent entities, namely the National Parliament and the Anti-Corruption Commission (KAK), to provide maximum oversight to ensure that the execution of this budget adheres to the law and effectively combats Covid-19 and supports the community and the private sector who have been affected by public disasters and to repair infrastructure damaged by the floods.

To ensure proper and effective oversight or monitoring, JSMP suggests that the National Parliament should create an Ad Hoc Committee to focus on monitoring the execution of this budget.

JSMP also requests for the Anti-Corruption Commission (KAK) to establish a “*task force*” with members from relevant institutions to oversee and ensure that this budget is executed in a transparent and accountable fashion.

The Covid-19 Fund totalled US\$31,000,000, and has been increased by US\$256,641,793 for a new total of US\$287,641,793.

Meanwhile, the Contingency Fund previously totalled US\$23,763,372 and has been increased by US\$41,388,428 for a new total of US\$65,151,800.

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