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JUSTICE SYSTEM PROGRAMME

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Transport Support to Access to Justice Clinics



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On the 12th July, the Justice System Programme (JSP) transferred custody of two motorbikes to Belun to support the work of Access to Justice Clinics which operate under the Public Defender’s Office (PDO) in Baucau and Suai. Through this partnership Belun has been conducting public information campaigns and alternative dispute resolution training in eight municipalities across Timor-Leste.

Construction of AJCs in Baucau

Justice System Programme (JSP) is piloting two Access to Justice Clinics (AJCs) in the districts of Baucau and Suai under the Public Defender’s Office (PDO). The construction of the Suai AJC was recently completed in June 2017, and in July, JSP awarded another contract to a local company in Baucau District to construct a future AJC office which will be situated on the PDO premises. The AJCs will provide extra-judicial services such as legal consultations, mediation, referrals and alternative dispute resolution alongside the existing criminal and civil functions of the PDO. Construction of the AJC in Baucau is expected to be completed in September this year.

Collaboration between Justice System Programme (JSP) of UNDP, Public Defender’s Office and JNJ Advokasia

JSP has allocated resources to a local CSO, JNJ Advokasia to carry out the dissemination of legal information to remote communities in Timor-Leste. This partnership has operated since April, 2017. The objective is to strengthen the legal knowledge of the communities and guarantee that everyone is entitled to access to justice. In August, the information sessions are being held in villages of Ainaro Municipality during the second phase of the programme. The citizens attending the sessions have been actively engaged in discussions identifying the differences between criminal and civil cases amongst other legal matters.



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Training Support to Local Legal Professionals

Through cooperation with the Governments of Brazil and Timor-Leste, UNDP has supported the provision of an international advisor for the Public Defender's Office (PDO). Ms. Alessandra Quines has supported the work of the PDO as well as the Legal and Judicial Training Centre through capacity building initiatives over the past several months.



In particular, she has provided legal training for local public defenders, assisted in the resolution of complex cases, and drafted the statute for the Access to Justice Clinics. She has also taken up teaching duties at the Legal and Judicial Training Centre which is currently running the sixth initial course for judges, prosecutors and public defenders.



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Seminar of Access to Justice Clinics provides inclusive information to communities in Bacau

On Tuesday the 29th of August, the Justice System Programme of UNDP hosted a workshop in Baucau to inform participants of the work of the Access to Justice Clinics. Participants at the one day seminar included xefe de sucos and community police officer of the Baucau PNTL. Participants heard from a range of speakers such as the UNDP's Head of Governance Unit, Public Defender General, President of Baucau Municipality, Public Defender Coordinator, PDO Advisers and representatives from partners NGOs Belun and the Justice and

Peace Commission on the functions of the Access to Justice Clinics. The Access to Justice Clinics will provide extra-judicial services such as legal consultations, mediation, referrals and alternative dispute resolution alongside the existing criminal and civil functions of the PDO. A lively question and answer session also allowed participants to discuss the role of the Access to Justice Clinics within Timor-leste's broader judicial system.



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