PRESS RELEASE - PRADET Annual General Meeting (AGM)

On 10th November 2016, PRADET (Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor) held its Annual General Meeting in the PRADET office in HNGV.

The meeting was attended by partners, Dr Liborio, Director for Administration and Finance HNGV, ALFeLa, Casa Vida, Clinic Bairo Pite, PNTL VPU and Community Police, RHTO, (Raes Hadomi Timor Oan), Representative from Ministry of Health, MSS (Ministry of Social Solidarity), Fokupers, Clinic Café Timor (CCT) and Commander Prison Becora.

Representatives from PRADET’s donors also attended. These included a representative from the Australian Embassy on behalf of DFAT that is funding the Asia Foundation Nabilan program and Program for Human Development (PHD). Other donors who attended included IOM, MSS and TLPDP.

In launching the PRADET Annual Report, the President of the PRADET Board, Dr Silverio Pinto, Director of the Ombudsman Department, welcomed donors and partners and congratulated PRADET staff on a successful and productive year in providing support to their clients. (PRADET clients are people who have experienced mental illness/disability, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking, abandonment and imprisonment.)

Dr Silverio also thanked the donors, especially DFAT, saying” donors are the oxygen of PRADET and without them vulnerable people would not receive the psychosocial services to improve their lives”.

There has been some discussion about PRADET moving from the grounds of HNGV and it was agreed by Dr Liborio that this was still open to negotiation. The existing MoU is until June 2018.

The Director of RHTO said “PRADET is crucial in responding to human rights obligations for people with disabilities especially as PRADET focusses on people with mental illness. There was a recent case of a person with disability who was sexually assaulted and with PRADET’s support the offender is now in prison”.

PNTL Communidade Nasional, Commandante Jose Nunes said “PRADET’s work has an essential connection with the work of the Ombudsman Office”.
PNTL VPU Becora said” we have brought many victims to HNGV for treatment and specifically for a medical forensic examination. Documentation by a Fatin Hakmatek Medical Forensic Examiner is the most valuable evidence for the Tribunal”.

The Director of PRADET Manuel dos Santos commented that “providing support to vulnerable people is not simple and time is needed to measure the outcome. Experience shows that service providers face many obstacles before positive improvement in the person’s condition can be seen. PRADET staff feel motivated and committed because of the good support and collaboration with the Government partners, civil society, families and communities.

Conclusion.

Dr Silverio closed the meeting saying” vulnerable people have many needs and the main objective of all partners including PRADET, is to ensure they receive responsible, safe, professional and holistic support”.

Evaluations and comparisons with services in other countries show this is being achieved.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact;

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