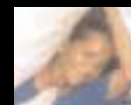


Tais Timor

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12 Heroes at Work



Heeding the call in time for Easter: Some of the 220 returnees who arrived in Dili from Kupang 24 March on board the IOM boat, the Patricia Anne Hotung.



A post-Easter Message for Refugees:

Come Home, and Help Rebuild Your Country

Easter is the most important Christian festival of the year, a celebration of Jesus Christ's return to life following his crucifixion. Christ's revival is known as the Resurrection. Christians believe that the symbolism of the Resurrection is the promise that they, too, can return to new life following death. Easter Sunday is thus a celebration by Christians the world over of rebirth, rebuilding and renovation.

Easter is a feast day and a day when Christians don new clothes. Like many other Easter symbols, the new clothes represent the new life offered through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In East Timor, Easter used to be celebrated solemnly in the days when religion united the people against political repression. Like Christians in all parts of the world, the Easter celebration starts with the Lenten season. During Lent, families observe penitence, reflection and abstinence. On Good Friday, a procession brings a coffin to the cemetery to commemorate the death of Jesus. There is a mass midnight of Saturday and several others during the following day.

On Sunday, families get together for a special lunch that will typically include goat or buffalo meat, even cod. The entire family goes to church sometime during the day to participate in Easter mass.

The Easter season was a particularly good time for the East Timor families still residing in West Timor to consider

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Photo by OCPV/UNTAET

Civil Service Puts Timorese to Work

The Civil Service and Public Employment Office (CISPE) is deploying all its energies and expertise in the timorization process.

"Timorization", of course, refers to the process of establishment of a fully functioning civil service managed entirely by East Timorese. This process involves the recruitment of a sufficient number of capable East Timorese for all positions within the civil service so that they can take full charge of all government serv-

ices and functions within the shortest possible time. The process also involves creating a civil service that is lean, low-cost, highly productive and employs strict accountability and full transparency in all its activities.

This timorization process is well underway, as the facts and figures that follow, clearly show:

By 25 March 2001, about 77 per cent of the 10,554 civil service positions budgeted for the current fiscal year had been filled, which means, 8,163 East Timorese have been recruited for 28 Departments of ETTA. From these, 76.2 per cent are men and 23.2 percent are women.

The positions are distributed as follows:

- Level 1** - 1664 persons (1023 already recruited)
- Level 2** - 765 persons (387 already recruited)
- Level 3** - 4986 persons (4273 already recruited)
- Level 4** - 2299 persons (2263 already recruited)
- Level 5** - 603 persons (138 already recruited)

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First Amendment to Labour Laws

Carmelo Noriel, Head of the Division of Labour and Social Services, was smiling as he gave Tais Timor a copy of the report on the recent talks on proposed labour regulations for East Timor.

And why not? "These new regulations will smooth the process of handling labour complaints and ameliorate the conditions to mediate in disputes," he says.

The East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) held Tripartite Consultations on Proposed Labour Regulations of East Timor from 22 to 26 January in Dili. These consultations were jointly organized by the ETТА Division of Labour and Social Services and the ILO Department for Government and Labour Law and Administration (GLLAD), based in Switzerland.

The first national tripartite consultations on labour law and employment rights were held in April 2000 and various consultations followed. Nonetheless, since 1999, no new regulations have been enacted to replace existing Indonesian labour regulations. Meanwhile, the Division of Labour and Social Services has reported that the number of complaints and disputes have risen and the mechanisms in place to deal with them have been inadequate.

Representatives of the three main groups concerned with labour issues -- workers, employers, and the government (UNTAET and ETТА) -- as well as NGOs, discussed the proposed first labour regulations of East Timor. The main issues were termination of employment, minimum wage fixing, employment and labour administration, and labour relations. Regulations on vocational training and occupational safety and health will be considered in the near future.

The four-day consultation on the labour regulations was a good example of effective social dialogue and a way to achieve consensus among the different parties, says Mr. Noriel. "Not only did the representatives of employees, employers, the UN and ETТА, and NGOs meet separately, all parties came together in order to reach an agreement on the regulations," he added.

There were, not surprisingly, some differences between the participants on a variety of issues. They included the question of whether to establish gender balance on all proposed Labour Boards; the terms for medical leave; whether to institute strict prohibitions against discrimination based on sexual orientation; the terms for severance pay; and the definition of serious misconduct on the job. There was also disagreement among the three parties on the length of maternity leave and whether the working week should consist of 44 or 48 hours. One of the key features of the new draft is the requirement that there be signed employment contracts of which both the worker and the employer would receive a copy.

The Division of Labour and Social Services has found itself overwhelmed with the number of labour disputes with which it must deal. "Because our division is small and works with a limited budget, we have had to work in a reactive mode," says Mr. Noriel. From September to

December 2000, his office received 36 complaints, most of them disputes over termination of employment.

Through mediation, with the assistance of five labour relations officers, 25 of the cases were settled voluntarily, four cases were referred to the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor and seven are pending. According to Mr. Noriel, "With new labour regulations, there would be less cases of misunderstanding between the employers and employees about the terms of, for instance, dismissal. As a result, the chances of social unrest due to bad labour practices on either side would be diminished."

"These new regulations will smooth the process of handling labour complaints and ameliorate the conditions to mediate in disputes"

Luis Lobato, President of the East Timor Nurses Association (ETNA), which represents 1,887 nurses throughout the country, was satisfied with the outcomes of the consultations. "It is important to establish a good guideline on protection and rights of workers, which includes working hours, lunch breaks and maternity leave," he says. "The regulations will also benefit nurses who want to set up their own practice and employ other people".

On the other hand, Eusebio Dias Quintas, Director of Operations of Cooperativa Café Timor and a representative for employers at the labour consultations, says: "Basic protection of labourers must be in place to prevent exploitation, but not to the detriment of the economy." He noted that there are already certain coffee producers who process Timorese coffee beans in Indonesia because labour is cheaper there.

In the end, the labour consultations proved to be an exercise in democracy and dialogue.

In a related development, UN Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello, acting on recommendation by the Transitional Cabinet, signed an executive order that sets out interim procedures to settle disputes arising from the termination of labour contracts. The interim system will establish a National Committee for Arbitration of Labour Disputes, which will serve as a last resort mechanism for both workers and employers. Under current applicable law, they must first attempt to resolve disputes bilaterally, after which they can resort to mediation and then to arbitration. However, under Indonesian law the provision for arbitration was never implemented.

After the Transitional Cabinet reviews the proposed Labour Regulations, they will be forwarded to the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor which will draft the laws, after which the finalized version will be reviewed by the Cabinet and then it will go to the National Council for an endorsement. Finally, the proposed regulations will require a signature of the Transitional Administrator in order to go into effect. The entire process is expected to take around two months. >

Easter continued from pg. 1

coming home. This is the view of East Timor's leaders.

"Lent is the time for penitence, conversion and praying. A time for reconciliation with God and, therefore, with oneself and humanity in general. Men should stop using violence and start getting together for the rebuild of the nation", says Dom Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, Bishop of Dili, referring to this special time of the year. Bishop Belo also calls on the refugees in West Timor who have been away from their homes for so long to come back to re-start their lives and work together to rebuild East Timor.

"Refugees have to come back and be forgiven in the spirit of Easter. Every Timorese has to contribute, and not just ask others to do something, for us to have peace," says Dom Basílio Nascimento, Bishop of Baucau.

Former National Council President Xanana Gusmão also appeals to the refugees in West Timor to come back and work together with others.

"We know that you are suffering there and we want you to come home to work together with us. Some are already here and nothing happened to them. Please come to stay," Gusmão says.

Transitional Administrator Sérgio Vieira de Mello is also asking the refugees to return at this time when the country is preparing for elections and every contribution is needed. "The refugees should not lose this opportunity to return, get registered and vote in the first

election in the now-free East Timor", he says. He also assures the refugees that "they will be treated with respect and security when they come back." >

Some Notes on Easter

Emperor Constantino fixed the date of this festivity, in 325 B.C., to happen on the Sunday right after the full moon after the beginning of spring. The calendar used is the one defined by the Ecclesiastic Tables.

This year, Easter Sunday fell on the 15th of April. Next years' Easter dates are as follows:

2002 -- 31 March
2003 -- 20 April
2004 -- 11 April
2005 -- 27 March

EASTER SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANINGS:

Egg: symbolises birth

Rabbit: symbolises the Church's capacity to produce new disciples at all time

Cross: symbolises suffering and resurrection

Lamb: symbolises Christ, a lamb of God, sacrificed in the name of all the flock

Bread and Wine: Jesus's body and blood; the eternal life

Candle: "Christ, the light of the people"

Timorization continued from pg. 1

Level 6 - 201 persons
(52 already recruited)

Level 7 - 36 persons
(27 already recruited)

Level 1 and 2 cover positions for general services, including drivers, cleaners, operators, clerks and administrative assistants. The minimum requirement for these positions is basic education and a junior high school certificate.

Levels 3 and 4 cover posts for supervisors, technicians, administrative officers, and senior technical level personnel. Minimum requirement for these positions is a senior high school /three-year, post secondary certificate.

Levels 5 to 7 cover managerial positions including heads and deputy heads of departments/divisions/sections. The minimum requirement for these positions is five-years/seven-years post secondary education.

Through its training wing, the Civil Service Academy, CISPE has so far trained or assisted in training over 2,300 East Timorese in critical areas such as: good governance, leadership management (for top civil servants), basic management,

local governance, project management, records management, human resources management, employee induction (for new recruits into the civil service), skills training (computer training and language training in English and Portuguese).

CISPE's Human Resources Development Centre has also been preparing East Timorese men and women for jobs in both the public and private sector. The present focus areas of such skills development activities are in computers, basic office management and language skills.

In seeking a job in the public sector, one should look at the Vacancy Announcements posted on bulletin/notice boards in all districts and many subdistricts, as well as at UNHCR information offices and camps. The vacancy announcements are placed on the notice boards for at least three weeks so as to ensure that it is available to all interested persons.

To apply, submit your Curriculum Vitae with the Vacancy Numbers for the jobs in which you are interested written clearly on the front page. Submit your application to Central Recruitment Office, CISPE, Civil Service Complex, Comoro, Dili - East Timor or to the offices of District Administrators in the districts. >

One hundred "Bali Cattle" arrived by barge in Dili Port on 04 March to be distributed to farmers throughout the country to replenish livestock killed during the 1999 rampage.



Three Women of the National Council

One describes herself as "one hundred per cent religious"; another is an ardent scholar; then there's the young mother who rushes to evening classes at the university. Meet Maria de Fatima Wadhoomall Gomes, Protestant representative; Jesuinha de Oliveira, district representative of Liquica and Maria Teresinha Viegas, farming community representative -- three women who reflect the remarkable diversity of the 13 female members of the National Council of the East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA).

They are, like many other Councilwomen, women who have suffered and survived a lifetime of war and who now, in the country's transition to independence, find themselves in key positions in East Timor's traditionally male-dominated political stage.

All of the three women are soft-spoken, with virtually none of them having the bearing of your typical politician. Nonetheless, when they were tapped for the National Council, they readily agreed to serve - perhaps, with a bit of trepidation about their preparedness for the job, but with solid conviction that they would try to do what is best for the new nation of Timor Lorosa'e.

Maria de Fatima Wadhoomall Gomes, the devout protestant NC member, has been living in the Assembly of God Church house since October 1999, moving there after her home and all her children's homes were destroyed.

"We've had enough war in East Timor. The first three was respected the Church, but this last one did not spare it anymore," she said. The 61-year-old pastor of the Assembly of God Protestant Church and mother of six Timorese, all of whom are well-educated and are employed as professionals, spoke in Portuguese while her son, who is her personal assistant, translated.

Ms. de Fatima Wadhoomall Gomes's late husband was a pastor and for ten years, from 1968 to 1978, the couple spread God's words on the island of Atauro where they were living. When her husband passed away, Ms. de Fatima Wadhoomall Gomes took over as a pastor of the Assembly of God, a job that she said she certainly loved.

From the perspective of a church leader, she sees the women's condition in East Timor as a serious issue: "People are always putting women down, saying that women created the problems starting with Eve. But women are very special, and God respects them, because Jesus Christ was born of a woman. In Asia, women are treated like slaves. We should try to improve the position of women. Women need protection from violence, for example."

In East Timor, Ms. de Fatima Wadhoomall Gomes, who has an open face that exudes the kindness of a favorite grandmother, often finds herself in the role of a pacifier. She exhorts the virtue of patience to agitated young people and reminds them of the teachings of the Bible. She believes in the importance of religion and thinks that the Hindus and

Buddhists of East Timor should also have representation in the National Council.

Jesuinha de Oliveira is making up for lost time and, at 32-years of age, makes the time to study at the National University, taking evening classes in economics, after her work day ends as a member of the National Council and as Secretary of the OMT in Liquica. A mother of three, including two sons and a daughter, Jesuinha didn't get to start her university education until 1998. Her studies were interrupted by the violence in East Timor in 1999.

Prior to East Timor's independence, Jesuinha was also involved in the clandestine movement. Legally or under the Indonesian system, her husband worked as the sub-district chief and Jesuinha supported him by organizing the women.

"Indonesia didn't understand what was going on, but we did. We were clandestines," she said. She added that the women supported the FALINTIL men by distributing medicine, uniforms and other essentials; recruiting new members, and cooking for the CNRT and FALINTIL.

In 1991, Jesuinha's brother, Dodo de Oliveira, was killed in the Santa Cruz massacre. "My brother was going to school at the time in the college near Santa. Cruz. He was 20-years-old."

"After my study, I decided to get involved in the clandestine movement. The future of our country depends on us, the women, not only on the men. There are some things that the men can't do and need the women to achieve,"

The suffering and sacrifice of the past, says Jesuinha, has made her even more determined now. "It's the first time we're free. We should live our lives in the interest of our country, our future. We hope the men will support the women, their mothers...or their sisters wherever they are," she said.

Maria Teresinha Viegas's father, who was a nurse during Portuguese times, instilled in his children that knowledge is wealth. It's no wonder then that Ms. Teresinha Viegas grew up to be a scholar for whom learning never ends. She is the representative of a farming community to the National Council and is an agriculturalist by profession. She graduated from the Farming Academy in Sumarang, Central Java, in 1989, and is currently working toward a degree in Agricultural Engineering at the National University. "As long as I have the opportunity, I will continue studying," she says.

Maria Teresinha Viegas is a staff member of ETVFA (Agriculture, Veterinary, Fisheries and Forestry organization), an NGO that has so far sent ten East Timorese for agricultural training in Portugal, and will soon send another group to Malaysia. From 1991 to 1999, she worked in the Agriculture Department in Dili. Like many other women, she was also involved in the clandestine movement, sending letters and supplies to the guerillas.

"After my study, I decided to get involved in the clandestine movement. The future of our country depends on us, the women, not only on the men. There are some things that the men can't do and need the women to achieve," she says.

It was through her clandestine activities that she met Antonio Joao Gomes da Costa or Mahuno (his guerilla nom de guerre), the Secretary of FALINTIL, and eventually married him. Shortly after they met, in April 1993, he was captured. They got married in Dare three years later while Mahuno was under the custody of the Indonesian military. They now have three children.

It has not been an easy and simple married life, she said, set as it was against the backdrop of a revolution. In November 1999, her husband suffered a stroke from which he has still not completely recovered. Getting her husband medical treatment remains one of Maria Teresinha Viegas's main preoccupations.

Even with such daunting familial commitments, she is active in advancing the role of women in Timor Lorosa'e. "Women should get involved, make decisions...not only at home but also in government. We should give them training, civic education. We must start with the family. The future of the country depends a lot on the East Timorese mother."



Women speak out their mind about the recently passed electoral law.

The Quota Issue

Without a doubt, if an angry demonstration by Timorese women is to be believed, the most controversial aspect of the recently signed Regulation on the Election of a Constituent Assembly passed by the NC is the elimination of the proposed quota for women.

In late February, the NC adopted the recommendation of CNRT that women should form a minimum of 30 percent of candidates in the upcoming Constituent Assembly elections. UNTAET, however, recommended instead a provision of conditioned assistance to political parties that are fielding women candidates, which many members of the NC found objectionable as commercializing women. In the end, the Regulation was passed without mention of the quota for women's participation at all.

On the day the law was to be signed, women of the East Timor Women Network (REDE) rallied in front of the Governor's Office against the slashing of the proposed quota.

"The defeat of the 30 per cent women's quota has set the women's movement back. A lot of work has to be done to pick up the pieces," said Milena Pires, REDE representative in the National Council, in an interview with Tais Timor.

Ms. Pires added: "The transition is a process of redefinition, when women need to establish and defend their place in society. If they want to break the barrier that binds them, it has to be now."

On UNTAET's part, Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello said during the signing of the law later that afternoon: "I favored the principle of incentive-based quota...and so I regret that it was deleted from the final version of the regulation. But as I have explained to many Timorese women who have approached me, it is a principle of democracy that we should respect even, and especially, the decisions we disagree with taken by the majority."

The Transitional Administrator underscored the importance of the regulation by pointing out that the Timorese people have been waiting for clarity on this issue. Also, the regulation will finally provide a good framework for the East Timorese people to write their own constitution and carve their own path to independence.

"But let me tell the East Timorese women that they have already achieved a very important goal: to place this question - their role in Timorese society - at the core of this fundamental debate," Mr. Vieira de Mello said.

The Transitional Administrator added the following paragraph to the Regulation's preamble: "Encouraging the equal participation of women and men at all stages of the electoral and constitutional process, and undertaking to promote the full enjoyment by women of their civil and political rights."

He also announced some elements of the Transitional Administration's strategy to ensure the equal participation of men and women in the election process despite the elimination of the quota:

- Make broadcast time available equally to men and women candidates
- Encourage the political parties to have at least 30 per cent of their list of candidates made up of women.
- Direct ETTA's Gender Affairs Unit to identify 100 potential women candidates for election to the Constitutional Assembly and to organize a special training for these candidates.
- Direct the Electoral Commission to provide employment to Timorese women in all levels, including the most senior ones.

East Timor will elect an 88-member Constituent Assembly. Each district will elect one representative on a majority basis and 75 members will be elected on a proportional basis. The elected assembly will prepare and adopt a constitution of an independent and democratic East Timor in a period of 90 days. >

ETTAnews

East Timor Transitional Administration

Waiting to Register on Atauro island

More than 6,000 East Timorese were registered in the three days following the start of national civil registration on 16 March. All 65 registration sites in all sub-districts will be fully operational by the end of March.

On 27 February, hundreds of people showed up at the civil registration sites set up on Atauro Island for a week-long pilot project. Around 150 people received their registration cards and hundreds more were informed of what is needed to register. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, United Nations Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and Joachim Hütter, director of Asia and Middle East Division of DPKO, visited Atauro on 1 March to observe the operation.

In addition, *Televisão Timor Lorosa'e*, conducted a two-day test of a civic education program in Vila, Atauro's main village. The show was watched by hundreds of people.

Four registration sites were set up on the island, where eight registration teams were deployed, each consisting of one international and two East Timorese Registration Officers.



Photo by OCP/UNPAET

First Democratic Election to be Held on 30 August 2001

Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello announced on 16 March that the first democratic election in East Timor will be held on 30 August 2001, after signing the election regulation.

The regulation on the Election of a Constituent Assembly to Prepare a Constitution for an Independent and Democratic East Timor had been approved by the National Council on 13 March.

"This electoral law and its provisions for the participation of political parties are surely the most open and democratic in the world," Mr. Vieira de Mello said.

CNRT/National Council President Xanana Gusmão witnessed the signing ceremony side by side with the Transitional Administrator, before members of the Transitional Cabinet, National

Council, the Bishop of Baucau, Basílio do Nascimento, and the diplomatic corps.

"This is an historic moment. I can state here, as a simple East Timorese citizen, that all political leaders and all of East Timor are fully committed to this process and are well aware of the difficulties we face," said Mr. Gusmão.

The regulation establishes that East Timor will elect an 88-member Constituent Assembly. Each of the country's 13 districts shall elect one representative on a majority basis and 75 members on a proportional basis. The elected assembly shall prepare and adopt a constitution of an independent and democratic East Timor in 90 days.

The regulation also establishes an Independent Electoral Commission, with exclusive electoral authority. The Commission will be composed of a Chief Electoral Officer and five voting Commissioners, two East Timorese and three internationally recognized experts in electoral matters, who will be appointed by

the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Independent Electoral Commission will be responsible for the organization and conduct of the electoral process.

The regulation also establishes the rules for registration of political parties. One of the rules is that a minimum of 500 signatures are required in order to be eligible to register. Also, political parties are prohibited from adopting names or symbols which are "likely to incite hatred or violence" or which are the same as or similar to the flag of another nation or a previously registered political party.

All persons 17 years old or above are eligible to vote, as long as they were born in East Timor; have at least one parent who was born in East Timor, or persons whose spouses fall under either of the above categories.

Transitional Cabinet

On 14 March, the East Timor Transitional Cabinet discussed possible mechanisms for consulting with the East Timorese people and gathering their views on the future Constitution so that these will be available to the democratically elected Constituent Assembly. The consultation aims at both educating the people and drawing their views from the grassroots level upwards.

Cabinet also endorsed a proposal outlining a regulation to formally establish the East Timor Police Service and the Police Academy. The regulation will, among other things, define the overall responsibilities and structure of the police services and the duties and powers of police officers. A regulation will be finalized for Cabinet's endorsement, and thereafter submitted to the National Council for its consideration.

Cabinet also agreed that the Transitional Administrator sign, on ETTA's behalf, a US\$900,000 agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency, which will provide technical assistance to the Central Fiscal Authority.

Department of Justice

Prosecutor Service

On 8 March, Carlos Soares Carmona was convicted by the Special Panel for Serious Crimes at the Dili District Court for murder on 28 May 1999 in Asulau village, Ermera District. He killed a man after accusing him of killing his children by witchcraft. Mr. Carmona was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment.

On 7 March, two additional preliminary hearings on serious crimes took place. The case of an Alpha militia member accused of murder and attempted murder on 25 September 1999 in Lautem sub-district, Lospalos, was postponed to April 26, because the legal representative of the accused was absent.

The trial of a Halilintar ("Thunder") militia member suspected of killing a man in Memo, Bobonaro District, was set for 12 June. In the preliminary hearing, the public prosecutor requested an amendment to the indictment. The court asked the public prosecutor to clear the indictment before the end of March.

Department of Economic Affairs

Investment Institute

In early March, ETTA's investment institute launched a research project in order to prepare Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) profiles of all 13 districts of East Timor. The profiles will be used in order to promote and facilitate investment in East Timor and will be posted on ETTA's website.

In order to compile an accurate profile of the local investment climate, the investment institute is gathering information about each district's infrastructure, local industries, and accessibility to ports, airfields, and markets.

The Investment Institute now has an Investor Welcome Pack available, which contains a brochure on investing in East Timor and up to date information pertaining to the issues of applying for authorization to do business; investment legislation; government contracts for investors; fisheries permits; customs and immigration and import/export regulations; travel advice and more.

Department of Police and Emergency Services

Civilian Police

Two prisoners who had escaped from Dili and Gleno, Ermera District, prisons on 1 and 3 March were taken to Becora prison in Dili on 13 March. A 30-year old man charged with rape was re-arrested following an undercover operation conducted by East Timorese Police Officers and United Nation Civilian Police in Dili. A 28-year old man convicted of manslaughter was re-arrested in Atsabe, a sub-district of Ermera District. He is serving 12 years imprisonment.



Jose Ramos-Horta signs on as a National Council member at a 31 March press conference.

Come Home!

Together, We'll Rebuild Timor Lorosa'e

Some Answers to Questions for East Timorese living in West Timor.



The Easter season represented a unique time for refugees in West Timor to consider returning to their homes in East Timor. The Easter season is a period of rebirth and renewal - for individuals, families and communities. This year, it marked a time when all of Timor Lorosa'e is in the process of renewal and rebirth. The nation is on the rebound, economically and spiritually, and a process of civil registration is underway in preparation for all Timorese to participate in the creation of a constitutional assembly and, ultimately, in the formation and effective functioning in their new government. East Timor is being rebuilt with lives and livelihoods restored. It's happening in the most secure climate the country has experienced in decades.

You are much needed now in East Timor. Help rebuild the country and participate in the political process that will guarantee your nation's independence and guide its democratic future.

Hopefully this article will answer key questions you have about conditions in Timor Lorosa'e and help you and your family make the decision to respond to the call of tradition and return home.

What You Can Expect On Your Return

Is it safe for me and my family to return? The sense of physical security and confidence in East Timor is at an all-time high. The patrols and security operations of the 8,000 UN Peacekeepers have proven highly effective. The operations of the 1,485 UN Civilian Police (CivPol) and the hundreds of East Timorese national police recruits who patrol beside them, have also provided citizens a renewed sense of security and well-being.

Returnees routinely been welcomed back into their communities. However, if you should have any concerns about your security, a number of people will be able to offer you assistance. The UNHCR has staff based in the district, and UNTAET has District Human Rights Officers who monitor the human rights of returnees and assist when there are threats or actions against returnees. Any threats or violence against returnees that are brought to the attention of UNTAET are investigated by the police.

Safe houses have been established in some districts of East Timor for the temporary protection of returnees who feel at risk on their return. Making use of a safe house is an entirely voluntary process on the part of the returnee. The safe houses have been placed as close to CivPOL or PKF premises as possible. The returnee typically remains in the safe house for a short period of time -- until safe reintegration into the community is assured and the returnee is happy with the circumstances.

What kind of reception will I get when I cross the border? UNTAET and the East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA) welcome the return of all refugees. It is your right, under international law, to return in safety and dignity. When you return you can expect to go through a brief registration process at the border and to have your possessions searched for weapons and military items. Nothing else will be confiscated. Nor will there be any charges or taxes on your possessions or livestock. You will be escorted by UN Civilian Police (CivPol) and, if you need it, provided protection upon your return to East Timor.

You will receive food, temporary shelter materials and some household items, to help re-establish your home, and you'll be transported back to your community. The UN and other relief agencies are working in East Timor to help you rebuild your lives, just as they have already assisted thousands of other Timorese who have returned before you.

Refugees who wish to repatriate should register with Sattgas (refugee taskforce) in Kupang or Atambua or with the Jesuit Relief Service in Betun. They will inform you of the time when you will be picked up by truck (paid for by IOM) and transported to one of the official border crossings.

Where is the best place to re-enter East Timor? Refugees should ideally cross back at the official crossing points at Bobonaro, Covalima or Oecussi.

How successful has the returnee process been thus far? Since October 1999, more than 170,000 refugees have re-entered Timorese society. A number of the returnees are former militia, TNI or POLRI. They too have been welcomed back, with very few incidents of anger or revenge upon their arrival. East Timor is committed to peaceful reconciliation. The nation's criminal court has indicated a willingness to consider a degree of leniency for those individuals who took part in serious crimes but are forthcoming in their admission of responsibility and who co-operate in providing testimony.

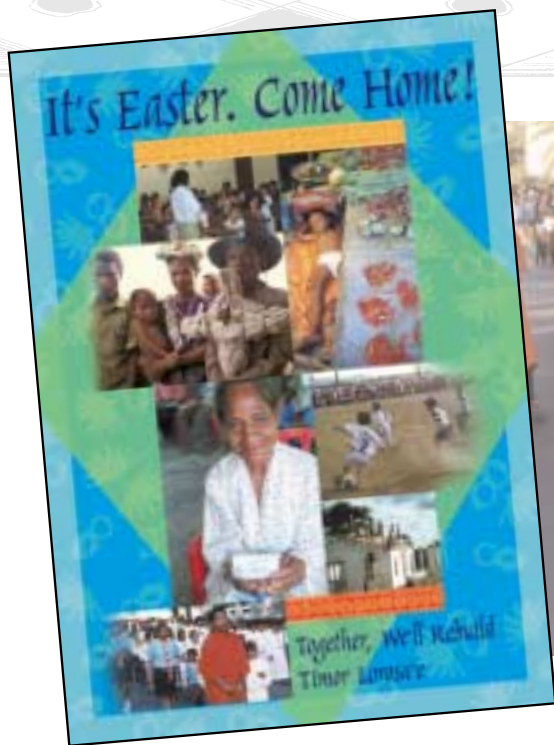
If I am suspected of committing a crime, what will happen? The same rights and guarantees are provided to you as to any one in East Timor suspected of committing a crime. If you are suspected, for example of committing a crime before leaving East Timor in 1999, you can expect the following: CivPol or Investigators attached to the Serious Crimes Unit will investigate your case, conduct interviews and collect evidence. If the evidence justifies it, the Prosecutor will request that a warrant be issued for your arrest by the Investigating Judge. (Only CivPol and the Timor Lorosa'e Police Force have the right to arrest or detain people who are suspected of committing a serious crime). If there is sufficient evidence, your case may be brought to trial.

In all cases, you have the following rights: the right to be presumed innocent, until and unless proven guilty in a fair trial before the court; the right to a lawyer to protect your rights and to assist in your defence before the court; the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or imprisonment. (For example, you cannot be arrested for your political opinion or because you supported pro-autonomy groups in 1999).

What can you tell me about a Truth and Reconciliation Commission that is being established? A proposal for a Commission for Return, Reconciliation and Truth has been adopted by the UNTAET Cabinet and is currently being considered by the National Council -- the legislative body in East Timor. If it is approved and adopted by UNTAET, the Commission will provide a mechanism to assist people who were involved in minor crimes during 1999. Such individuals will be able to return to their communities and participate in a programme in which they may agree to do some community service work or other act of reconciliation to prove to the community that they want peaceful reconciliation. If they complete the agreed work, or other acts of reconciliation, they would not be able to be prosecuted for their minor crimes at any time in the future.

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Photo by OCPI/UNTAET



Public/Private Sector Employment Opportunities

Will I be able to get a job when I return? Some returnees have difficulty securing immediate employment as the commercial enterprises that provided jobs were virtually all destroyed. However, the nation's infrastructure is being rebuilt. Roads, ports and electric and water systems are being redeveloped; a health and medical system re-established; and schools are being refurbished and are already back in session.

If you are an entrepreneur, economic opportunities are plentiful in urban and rural areas alike. If you are a farmer, much land remains idle and ripe for cultivation.

What employment prospects are there in the public sector? The East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA) Civil Service is established and hiring. The National Council has approved for the East Timor Civil Service the recruitment of 10,554 permanent employees for level 1 to 7 positions.

Levels 1 and 2 cover positions for general services including drivers, cleaners, operators, clerks and administrative assistants. Minimum requirement for these positions is basic education and a junior high school certificate, respectively.

Levels 3 and 4 cover posts for supervisors, technicians, administrative officers, and senior technical level personnel. Minimum requirement for these positions is a senior high school/three-year, post-secondary certificate, respectively.

Level 5 to 7 covers managerial positions including heads and deputy heads of departments/divisions/sections. The minimum requirement for these positions is five-years/seven-years post secondary education, respectively.

As of mid-March 2001, a total of 6,512 persons -- approximately 62 per cent of the projected staff level -- have been recruited, mostly at the lower levels in the departments.

What is the selection process for these jobs? In seeking a job in the public sector, one should look at the vacancy announcements posted on bulletin/notice boards in all districts and many subdistricts, as well as throughout Dili and at UNHCR information offices and camps. The vacancy announcements remain on the notice boards for at least three weeks ensuring that they are seen by all interested persons.

To apply, applications should submit a curriculum vitae with the vacancy numbers for the available jobs in which you are interested written clearly on the front page of the application. Applications should be submitted to the Civil Service and Public Employment Service (CISPE) in Dili or to the District Administrator Offices in the districts.

A shortlist of qualified candidates is then selected and they are invited to be interviewed. The short list of names is announced on radio UNTAET, placed on notice boards throughout the country, and made available through UNHCR.

The interview process ensures that candidates are graded on relevant areas of competence required for the job. The highest scorer is then selected for the job. Selection is purely on merit.

Is there any effort to help prepare people for jobs in the public/private sector? A skills-training project has been established with the Civil Service Campus in Dili, to prepare people for jobs. The Human Resources Development Center (HRDC) provides training in computing, office skills, languages and basic administrative skills. These skills are not only useful for employment in the public sector, but also for jobs in the private sector, such as the banking sector and smaller businesses.



Loans for Small Enterprise Development

Are loans available for entrepreneurs who return to start small businesses? Commercial loans are available and some small, low-interest enterprise loans are provided through a World Bank assisted programme administered by Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU). These loans are for US\$1000 up to US\$50,000 and must be paid back. In order to apply for these loans, an application must be filled out at BNU.

An Asian Development Bank Micro Finance Development Project is being developed and in the future will provide credit to about 21,000 poor rural families - with particular emphasis on women, in order to help them develop knowledge and skills in income-generating activities. The loans will be much smaller than those of the World Bank and therefore more useful for agricultural and small-business enterprises.

There are also other loans available, through certain non-profit organizations and BNU.

Educational Opportunities for School-Age Children

Are primary and secondary schools currently functioning in East Timor? Yes. Schools reopened in October 2000 with an increased enrolment from 190,000 to more than 200,000 primary and secondary school students. In addition, about 5,000 students are studying at the university level.

Almost 5,000 teachers were hired in October 2001, and an additional 1,000 teachers are currently being recruited to ease currently high teacher-student ratios. More than 3,000 classrooms are being restored to basic operational level through re-roofing and repair of doors, windows and floors; and textbooks, school furniture and supplies are being provided.

If we are returning refugees can our children attend school? Your children are guaranteed primary schooling. Primary schools are located in most villages in East Timor. They are also guaranteed a secondary education - provided that the family is able to physically get their child to the nearest secondary. All

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Timor, have continued to receive their normal pensions, through the Kupang and Atambua branches of Bank Rakhyat Indonesia (BRI). Several hundred families have benefited from this facility.

Monthly retirement benefit payments from the Indonesian Government are expected to be available from BNU in Dili in the near future.

The Indonesian government has agreed to continue the pension payments it was making to people employed by the state in East Timor prior to the Popular Consultation in August 1999. The TASPEN and ASABRI retirement savings schemes cover officials employed under the Civil Service Agency (BKN), and members of TNI and POLRI. Recipients of these benefits will continue to receive payments on the same scale as before, adjusted upwards to reflect a general increase in the level of Indonesian state pensions since 1999.

Will these payments last forever?

No. Indonesian state pensions will end when East Timor gains full Independence.

Do former employees of Indonesian firms receive retirement benefits?

Yes. Many people who formerly worked for Indonesian state-owned companies, like Merpati Airlines, or PT Telkom, but have now retired, are eligible to receive pension payment.

Some of these people had pensions through PT Jamsostek. It has promised to meet its commitment to all its account holders, regardless of their citizenship or place of residence. It has also agreed not to apply its usual rule that an applicant must have completed five years in the scheme before making a claim.

Over the next several months, the Indonesian Government will finalise plans to formally terminate the employment of former employees who either wish to return to East Timor, or who are already resident there and intend to become citizens there at independence.

Every former employee will be given a choice, as to whether he or she wishes to rejoin the Indonesian Government or to

resign. Once that choice has been made, and the forms completed, the former employee will get back his or her accumulated savings under TASPEN's life endowment policy (THT) programme and its housing savings scheme.

What about those people who have life insurance coverage?

Life insurance coverage for former state employees, provided for under the TASPEN and ASABRI programmes, will continue as before -- during the transition period and after independence. And if your husband or wife used to be a member of these schemes and has recently died, you are entitled to receive a payment from the Indonesian Government. When you return to East Timor, you will be informed by UNTAET how to apply for and receive such payment.

Who do I contact for additional information?

For those people living or temporarily residing in Indonesia, contact your nearest TASPEN (state agency for civil servants' life insurance and social welfare), ASABRI and BKN (Civil Service Agency) and BRI (Bank Rakhyat Indonesia).

For those people residing in East Timor, contact the BNU (Banco National Ultramarino) and UNTAET in Dili.

Land and Property Concerns

How are land and property issues being dealt with in East Timor?

UNTAET has a Land and Property Unit which administers all public land and private land which was abandoned after 30 August 1999. If people want to occupy land or a building which does not belong to them, they can apply for temporary use of this property from the UNTAET offices in each district. A temporary use agreement does not give a person an ownership right to the land or property.

districts and many of the sub-districts have their own public secondary schools. However some subdistricts do not.

ETTA is currently providing free primary and secondary education (and even university education, though this policy may be reviewed later). East Timor's current education policy is anchored by the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child which guarantee to everyone, particularly to children, the right to education, as well as the right to be free from any form of discrimination, harassment and violence.

What about university education?

The current policy is to make university enrolment accessible to all students on the basis of capacity and merit, and to give priority enrolment to students who have only a few semesters or courses to complete to obtain their degrees.

Are there any scholarships available?

Some scholarships are being given to students previously enrolled in Indonesian universities so that they can complete their studies. There are also a number of scholarships, funded by bilateral donors for East Timorese to study abroad. Children of refugee families are eligible for such scholarships provided they meet the general criteria for admission.

Will our children face harassment in school?

Specific measures are being taken by the ETTA Division of Education to ensure that your children feel welcome. School principals and district education officers will be issued guidelines to facilitate the enrolment of children of refugee families and to guard against any form of discrimination or harassment against them.

Retirement Benefits

Who is entitled to receive retirement benefits?

Portugal and Indonesia have been making regular pension payments to their former employees ever since the United Nations (UNTAET) assumed responsibility for East Timor in September 1999. They will continue to make such payments until the nation's transition to full independence.

Today about 1,600 former Portuguese government employees receive a monthly payment through the Dili branch of the Portuguese bank, Banco National Ultramarino (BNU). This payment will continue for the rest of the lives of the recipients.

Those East Timorese who had already retired from Indonesian Government service at the time of the Popular Consultation in August 1999, and who then left for West

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Will I be able to get my house back if I return? If you have lost the official documents for your house it does not mean that you have lost your rights to your land and home. However there is no system in place to register rights to land and property. The process of determining land ownership will be left for a democratically elected government to decide.

If you want to make a claim for your house the Land and Property Unit is accepting claims, and as soon as a system is established to register rights on land, then the claims will begin to be processed.

If someone is living in my house or using my land to grow food, what can I do about it? It is difficult to get that person to move from your house or land because there is no simple evictions procedure. You can ask the person to allow you to reoccupy your house or land. You can also discuss the issue with the local village leaders to attempt to find a solution to the problem. If that does not work, you can approach the district Land and Property officers or the office of the district Administrator for assistance. You can also go to the court and ask it for an order to have the person evicted.

If my house has been destroyed, where can I live? You should approach your local Land and Property Officers, the office of your District Administrator or NGOs working in your area for advice and assistance.

The Electoral Process

When will East Timor become truly independent? When a freely elected East Timorese Government has taken office, replacing UNTAET. The election of the Constituent Assembly is the next critical step on the road to independence.

What is a Constituent Assembly? A Constituent Assembly is an assembly of representatives of all the people of a country, charged with preparing and adopting a Constitution for an Independent and democratic East Timor. East Timor's Constituent Assembly will have 88 Members.

What is a Constitution? A Constitution is the supreme law of a country.

How are the 88 members of the Constituent Assembly elected? The 88 member's of the Constituent Assembly are selected as follows: One District representative from each of East Timor's 13 districts; (the candidate that receives the most votes in the District will be elected) and 75 National representatives will be elected on a nationwide, proportional representation list. (Parties will win seats in proportion to the share of votes that they receive for national representation.)

Who is eligible to vote in the elections? As for the Popular Consultation, the following persons, aged 17 years or above by the end of the Civil Registration period, will be eligible to vote in the election for Constituent Assembly:

- Persons born in East Timor
- Persons born outside East Timor, but with at least one parent of East Timorese birth
- Persons whose spouse fulfills either of the above condition

If I meet the eligibility criteria, do I need to do anything else in order to vote? In order to vote in the Constituent Assembly election, eligible voters must appear on the voter lists that will be established from the data collected during the Civil Registration exercise. So even if you are eligible to vote, you must still register with Civil Registration in order to vote.

Do I need to be living in East Timor to be eligible to vote? No, however, you need to register with Civil Registration in East Timor and be present in East Timor on election day to be able to cast your vote.

Where will I be able to vote? Voting will take place only in East Timor. Voters will vote at polling stations to be established near the place where they registered with Civil Registration.

Will I be able to vote for both National and District representatives? All eligible voters who appear on the voter lists will be able to vote at their designated polling station for National representatives. To vote for a District representative, an eligible voter will need:

- to have registered with Civil Registration in that District;
- to have a home in that District; and,
- to be present to vote at their designated polling station in that District

When will this election take place? The date for the election will be August 30 2001.

Is voting compulsory? No. No one is obliged to vote. UNTAET encourages all eligible East Timorese to take part in the election of the Constituent Assembly, as this is one of the most important steps in the creation of a new nation based on the will of the people.

Who can be a candidate for the Constituent Assembly? Any East Timorese who is eligible to be a voter is also eligible to be a candidate. You can put forward your name as an independent candidate from your district or nationally. To be a candidate from your district you need the signatures of 100 voters in your district. To be a national candidate you will need the signatures of 500 voters. Alternatively, you can ask one of the registered political parties to include you on their list.

Who is responsible for the administration of the election? According to UN Security Council Resolution 1338, administration of the elections is the exclusive responsibility of UNTAET. For this purpose, UNTAET has created an Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to be the supreme and exclusive authority on electoral matters. The IEC is headed by five Electoral Commissioners and a non-voting Chief Electoral Officer who are appointed directly by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Three Commissioners will be internationally-recognized electoral experts, and two Commissioners will be East Timorese.

Who will provide security during the elections? The Peacekeeping Force (PKF) will ensure a peaceful environment in East Timor for the elections. CivPol will enforce law and order during the election period.

Will there be observers during the electoral process? Yes, there will be national and international observers, as well as political party agents.

Can I register to vote in East Timor and still keep my Indonesian citizenship? Under Indonesian law citizens of Indonesia cannot also be citizens of another country. If you register in the East Timor civil registry this does not automatically grant you East Timorese citizenship, but it is likely to be the key source of information for the eventual designation of citizenship. Please note that you may have to give up your Indonesian citizenship to become an East Timorese citizen. For more information on Indonesian citizenship, please contact a representative of the Government of Indonesia

What is the 1 May registration for? On 1 May 2001, the Government of Indonesia will conduct a registration of all East Timorese in West Timor to determine whether they wish to return to East Timor or whether they wish to settle permanently in Indonesia. This registration does not affect eligibility to register in the Civil Registry of East Timor.

The Civil Registration Process

If I register does this automatically make me a citizen of East Timor? Neither registration nor the issue of an identity card by the Civil Registry pursuant to the present Regulation shall confer upon any person the right of citizenship of East Timor or the entitlement to claim the right of citizenship of East Timor.

Who needs to register? Registration is mandatory for every resident of East Timor. During the registration process, the entire population of East Timor (babies, children and elderly persons included) will be registered. Every resident of East Timor who is at least 16-years-old, or whose 16th birthday occurs in 2001, must appear in person to register. Parents or family members must register children under 16 and persons with mental or legal incapacity.

What is the period when Civil Registration takes place? Civil registration begins on 16 March and ends on 20 June 2001

How do I register and what documents do I need to bring with me? Bring to the registration office, as you did in 1999 to register the popular consultation, documents that prove your identity and also give the Civil Registry additional information such as your marital status and the names of your parents. One or several registration teams will be working at each registration site, with each team consisting of one international Civil Registration Officer and two Timorese Officers.

What are the most suitable kinds of documents to bring? There are a variety of suitable documents to prove your identity. The best is to bring an official document issued by any government that contains a photograph and your signature or fingerprint. Some of these docu-

ments might include an ID card, passport, or official travel document.

Registration Officers may accept other official documents issued by other state agencies, church or religious organizations or by an agency or organ of the United Nations, if they are satisfied that they are legitimate. To be safe, try to bring two or more of the required documents.

What happens if I do not have the proper documents? If you do not have any documents that can prove your identity, you will need to bring two witnesses with you who have already successfully registered (i.e. proven their own identities with official documents) before they can testify to your identity.

What if I still have an old registration document? The new register will be the first for an independent East Timor and will override any previous registry. Therefore, you must still register but you should bring any old registration document with you to help prove your identity and status.

How will the registration information be used? The process will simultaneously gather information needed to determine the roll of eligible voters for the upcoming elections and to create a pool of important general information to be used by ETTA and, eventually, the independent East Timorese Government. For example, it will provide data for the electoral list, planning health and education policies and for monitoring general socio-economic trends.

Where can I register? Registration site will be located in all of East Timor's 65 sub-districts. The registration sites opened on 16 March and will stay open throughout the entire registration period.

In order to make it easier for people in remote areas to register, mobile registration teams will go there to register people. Sites to be served by the mobile teams will be set up and open only until the population of that particular area is registered. Most sites will open in areas where the polling stations for the 1999 popular consultation were located.

Are there different types of resident? Yes. One type is a "habitual resident." This is a person who was either born in East Timor or outside the country, but with at least one parent who was born in East Timor. A "habitual resident" also includes a spouse of someone who was either born in East Timor or outside the country, but with at least one parent who was born in East Timor.

A second type of resident is a "long-term resident." This is a person, other than a habitual resident, who has resided in East Timor for more than 182 cumulative days within any 12-month consecutive period.

Representatives of foreign missions/governments and officials of United Nations organizations or other governmental organizations are excluded from registration. >

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Disturbances in Viqueque

Some violent disturbances took place in Viqueque, culminating on 12 March in the death of two Timorese and the burning of 40 houses, of which 20 were completely destroyed.

A mob of about 100 people from the village of Makadiki, about 25 kilometers east of Viqueque, converged on Viqueque town. The Jordanian Rapid Response Unit (RRU) from Baucau and Portuguese RRU from Dili were sent to Viqueque to patrol the town after the incidents.

UN international and local staff, and representatives of non-governmental organizations and Portuguese teachers, stayed overnight at the UN offices. At least 600 people were displaced, 350 of whom stayed at the Peacekeeping Force compound in Viqueque town. ETTA's Disaster Management Team and UNHCR Baucau provided relief supplies to the displaced persons.

UN Civilian Police (CivPol) reported that one of those killed belonged to a martial arts group known as the Magic Monkeys, which was involved in the disturbances against another martial arts group in Viqueque.

On 14 March, one tonne of food arrived from Dili for the hundreds of displaced persons. No further incidents were reported and, after visiting the district, UNTAET's Chief of Staff, N. Parameswaran, said that the situation was back to normal.

Investigation Team Appointed for Baucau Incidents

On 9 March, Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello appointed an investigation team to look into the incidents that took place on 7 March in Baucau.

On that day, Baucau District Administrator Marito Reis was attacked while driving a car with five UNTAET/ETTA staff, both East Timorese and internationals. The group of attackers then proceeded to the mosque and burnt it to the ground. The day started

out with an incident between the Jordanian Rapid Response Unit (RRU) who released tear gas on a group of East Timorese that had set up a road-block and burnt tires. The day before, RRU arrested 16 people, releasing all but three.

The team will investigate the manner in which the Rapid Response Unit dealt with demonstrations, the way the United Nations Civilian Police district office coordinated the operations and the relations of those two units with the public.

Deputy Transitional Administrator Jean-Christian Cady and Police Commissioner José Luis da Costa e Sousa met on 9 March to discuss further action, after an assessment team returned to Dili the night before. They decided to establish a District Operations Center and to hold weekly meetings in Baucau between the local leaders, youth and UNTAET.

In a meeting on 8 March in Baucau, Cabinet Member for Political Affairs Peter Galbraith expressed deep sorrow over the destruction of the mosque to the head of the Baucau Muslim community. He also stated that "religious intolerance and destruction of places of worship have no place in a civilized society."

A five-hour community meeting was held on 12 March in Baucau between local leaders, UNTAET/ETTA staff, PKF, and CivPol, in order to discuss the incidents. There was a demonstration on 12 March of 300 people in front of UNTAET's office in Baucau, but it dispersed without incident. The Transitional Administrator said that UNTAET will fund the reconstruction of the mosque and stressed that the attack was not a majority-against-minority type of violence.

East Timor Defence Force Receives Taekwondo Materials

The Republic of Korea donated US\$22,000 worth of Taekwondo materials to the newly established East Timor Defence Force. A symbolic handover by the Commander of the National Korea

Contingent was held on 21 March at the ETRF headquarters in Aileu District. The materials include 800 uniforms, 2,800 Taekwondo belts, 80 pieces of protective gear, 30 mats and 700 pairs of shoes.

In addition, about 20 ROK Battalion troops took part in the Blue Angels operation from Lospalos to Aileu. Operation Blue Angels is the humanitarian component of Korean Battalion, which includes a medical clinic, dental service, a barber and a special Taekwondo class.

The Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Lee Joung-Binn, also informed Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello of his Government's decision to establish the Mission of the Republic of Korea in Dili in the first half of this year.

Districts Clean Up Villages

On 9 March, Suai and Viqueque Districts started a new project to clean up the villages on a permanent basis. Both districts have established one fixed day of the week when the community, District Administration staff and PKF will collect garbage and clean the roads.

The project idea came from the District Advisory Councils' meetings with the community, ETTA, and the heads of villages. Similar projects have been implemented in Baucau, Covalima and Manufahi Districts.

Funds for Human Rights Training

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has approved a US\$200,000 programme of technical cooperation with UNTAET.

The project provides for human rights training for Timorese Human Rights Officers in the Human Rights Unit (HRU); for the translation, production, and dissemination of human rights materials and a human rights training program for CivPol trainers and East Timorese Police and Timorese NGOs on law enforcement and human rights. The project will also provide human rights training for the Timorese judiciary (judges, public defenders and prosecutors); specialist human rights advice to the HRU; and assistance with the establishment of the Truth, Reception, and Reconciliation Commission.

Official Visits

The Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Sun Guangxiang, please check his name!! arrived in East Timor on 19 March for a three-day visit. Mr. Sun met with Mr. Vieira de Mello, followed by informal meetings with Chinese Civilian Police. On 20 March, Mr. Vieira de Mello and Mr. Sun signed an agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between China and UNTAET under which China will build the future Foreign Affairs Ministry building in Dili. The project is worth US\$4 million.

The United Nations Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Hedi Annabi, arrived on 19 March in East Timor for a four-day visit, accompanied by the Deputy Director of Asia and Middle East Division of DPKO, Louise Laheurte.

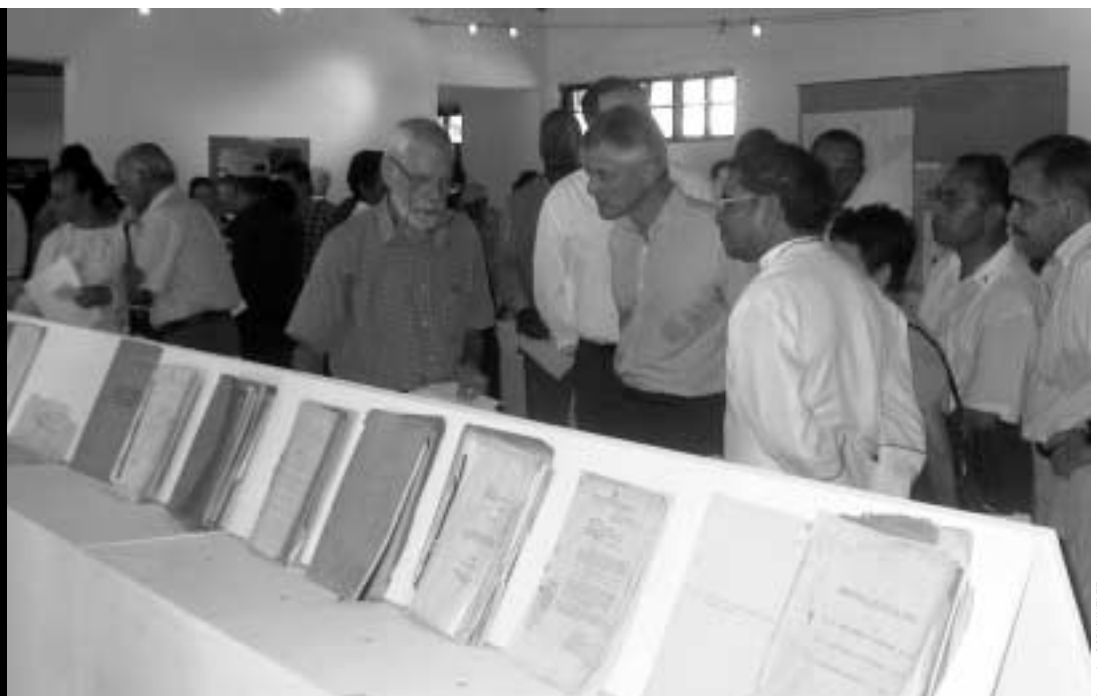
Upon their arrival, the delegation met with Mr. Vieira de Mello, followed by meetings with Deputy Transitional Administrator Jean-Christian Cady and Force Commander Lt. General Boonsrang Niumpradit. The delegation also met with UNTAET's Chief Electoral Officer Carlos Valenzuela and Cabinet Members and visited Oecussi District on 21 March and Suai District on 22 March.

Jean-Marie Guéhenno, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, visited East Timor from 26 February to 2 March. He said that his visit was a signal of the United Nations' continued commitment to stand by the East Timorese people, who have made the choice of independence in a clear and uncontested election. Joachim Hütter, the Director of Asia and Middle East Division of DPKO, came on the same visit and left East Timor on 5 March.

"I am very pleased with the partnership that has been established between the mission, the leadership of Sergio Vieira de Mello and the Timorese leadership. We are here to serve and support the process of independence," Mr. Guéhenno said to the press before his departure.

Mr. Guéhenno and Mr. Hutter visited Baucau and Viqueque districts and Mr. Guéhenno also visited Atauro Island, where a pilot project on civil registration was being conducted. >

Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello takes a look at some of East Timor's historical documents on display from 24-31 March at the East Timor Cultural Center. "East Timor: Past and Present" was the first exhibition of the East Timor National Archives and featured documents found in the attics of Governor's House and Fomento Building in Dili.



Voices of Timor Lorosa'e

Your Thoughts on Violence



Belarmino Correia
Unemployed
Baucau (Fatumaca)

I do not know what causes violence, but I have recently seen a documentary about it. Of course, violence isn't good. The international community already thinks that there is no unity in Timor. What will become of us when the peacekeeping forces leave East Timor? Brothers and sisters, we have to come together in peace and reconcile with one another so that we can live in peace.



Eugenio Barreto
Head of household
Veiramar (Fatu-Hada)

We Timorese must learn not to hate each other. If we fight, we lose everything in the end. The time for hatred was in the past when the enemy was still here. We weren't allowed to live freely and so we drove them out. That objective united us. Now we must be united again in rebuilding the nation left to us by our mothers and fathers. Put your trust in the intellectuals to work for peace.



Domingos Gabriel Fernandes
Senior High School Student
Taibessi

I am one of the young people of East Timor, and I would like to make an appeal. If possible, we Timorese mustn't fight with each other. Then we will show the world that we're truly ready to govern ourselves in 2002. If violence continues, and if we keep fighting among ourselves, journalists will focus the media's attention on such conflict and tell the world that East Timor has no unity.



Mateus da Costa
Farmer
Baucau (Watulari)

I'm from the country, but am now trying to make a living in the city. As for food, those of us who live as cleaners eat like lords; and those of us who live as lords eat as cleaners. Things change, so friends, do not be afraid of living together without resorting to violence or trying to copy other cultures like the malae culture that can make our culture disappear. Let's use the same motto we used before with Indonesia, "together in body and mind." Only with such unity did we manage to overcome Indonesia's invasion of East Timor.



Joana Monis
University Student
Fatu-Hada

Violence has emerged because so many problems still exist in East Timor. As university students, we must analyze the situation and think of ways to put a stop to the violence. The future of the nation rests in our hands. Whatever the agendas of the political parties, they must make sure they do not instill fear in the people or repress them, so that they are able to help the nation by pursuing their livelihoods and educating their children. The youth must make an effort to stay positive, not create additional conflicts within the country and amongst its people.



Rosa da Costa Fernandes
Housewife
Becora

Violence inside the country is still tremendous. I heard that in Viqueque recently the situation in that district caused the ordinary people moved to the church, some to mountains or to places that could protect them from danger. I also heard that on 19 March 2001 there was a quarrel or killed each other just because of people from Loromonu were saying that Indonesian emptied official houses left were all only occupied by people from Lorosa'e (furaku). Thus we have to ask information from UNTAET as at the moment it is responsible for the transitional government. UNTAET has to be responsible of the people's suffering. About peace, we have to ask yourself and to whom I quarrel with whether he is Timorese or not.



Cicilia
University Student
Bairo Pite

Violence has been a problem since the Indonesian times but no attempt was made by the leaders to curtail it. This caused the people to lose respect, for women's rights, for example, and that is why all this violence occurred with total impunity. It's why, even now that we are independent, we are still afflicted with the problem. Violence is affecting women in particular because parents are too concerned making a living and their daughters are left at the mercy of evil-doers. With parents preoccupied with other concerns, their kids think that they can do anything they want, like, for example adopting western values. Violence in any nation is undesirable. This nation belongs to us all, given that we all fought for it. We have to find a way to unite with our leaders so that we can speed up the transition period. We will only come to regret it later if we keep fighting amongst ourselves. To put a stop to violence, parents must get more involved in the affairs of their children.



Americo Antonio
Seller
Bebonuk

We have to find ways to unite people. If there is a problem that seems to have no solution, we must try to find ways to solve it peacefully; we cannot kill each other because only as a united front did we drive the invaders out. They committed all sorts of violence on the East Timorese who wanted to express their right to self-determination, and many perished because of this. But how do we ask our compatriots not to hate each other? The years of hate are gone, so how do we insure it does not flourish again? I urge our political leaders not to provoke the people so that we don't see a repeat of the events of 1999.



Simon da Silva
Former Falintil
Taibessi

Violence should no longer exist. If it continues, what will become of our new nation? To end violence, we must respect one another. It should start in our own homes and then spread from there. Only then will we be able to achieve great things for our new nation.



Januari Castro
Head of household
Manleuana

Youth of Timor Lorosa'e, I am an old man and ask you not to cause problems. Don't kill one another, beat up each other or destroy the things that others have struggled so hard to get. Make an effort to regard each other as brothers. Don't you know that our people died because they did not want to our nation to be oppressed? This is why we have to be united in all aspects, good or bad, so that one day our children can grow up in peace and love.



Agrefina dos Santos
Housewife
Bemori

I believe violence had its hey-day during the Indonesian times. The Timorese can't afford to hate each other now. The more we keep fighting one another the longer the malaes will need to remain in East Timor, and the longer we will have to wait to rule the country ourselves.



Sr. Rosantina, FDCC
Canossian Sister
College Ossu

I do not know much about violence, however I am able to talk about whatever I hear and I know. When we talk about violence, I would say that it does not come from all people as every individual has his own ideas and different vision. That's why we have to work together in order to reach the reconciliation and dialogue in the society leading to forgiveness and peace. Thank you for your attention.

Tiu answers questions about... Civil Registration

Hello once again, my friends. I hope all is well with you during this Easter period, a period of reflection and renewal for all of us. And it's not just a period of rebirth for us as individuals, but for our new nation as well. Right now, East Timor is undergoing a very important process of rebirth and renewal and one aspect of this process is the participation of each and every one of us in the Civil Registration exercise currently underway.

I was just discussing this issue with a few friends -- Miguel, a distant cousin of mine who lives in Atsabe, Marta who is from Dili, and my 14-year-old niece, Maria. Here's how our conversation went:

Tiu: Good Morning, Luis and Marta, how goes it?

Marta: Good, Tiu. And you? This is your niece Maria, isn't it? She's as beautiful as her mother.

Luis: Hello, Tiu and Maria.

Maria: Hello, I hope you don't mind my being here.

Marta: Oh no, not at all, Maria. It's good to see young girls expressing an interest in the important issues of the country.

Tiu: Well, Maria often comes with me when I go somewhere to discuss the hot issues with my friends.

Luis: So Tiu, the other day you said you wanted to talk about the civil registration that started on 16 March. There are so many questions I want to ask.

Tiu: Just ask and we can all try and answer each other's questions. I know a fair bit about the registration process

because I have been keeping up with the news, and I received this leaflet that explains the process in a simple, straightforward way.

Maria: Tiu, I'm 14 years old. Is that old enough to register?

Tiu: Well, the answer is yes and no. Let me explain. All residents of Timor Lorosa'e will be registered, including babies, children, elderly persons and disabled persons. If you were 16-years-old or turning 16 in 2001, Maria, then you would have to go and register in person. But given that you are only 14, your mother or father or a family member will have to register you. The same goes for people with mental or legal incapacities.

Marta: But why do I have to register? Not that I don't want to, mind you, but why do I have to do it?

Tiu: It is very important that all residents of Timor Lorosa'e register. Our future government has to have a good sense of the characteristics and size of the Timor Lorosa'e population in order to make wise decisions and devise effective programmes for them.

Luis: What kind of programmes are you talking about?

Tiu: All government services, for example, health care, education the police and things like that.

Miguel: Sorry Tiu, but you mentioned that you have to be a resident of Timor Lorosa'e. What do you mean exactly? My aunt who is in Kupang, can she register? She still lives here; she is just waiting for the right time to come back!

Tiu: That is a tricky question. And the definition of who is a resident of Timor Lorosa'e is a bit complicated.

There are two kinds of residents of Timor Lorosa'e for the purpose of the Civil Registration. First is what they call the habitual resident, who is someone born in Timor Lorosa'e or born outside but whose father or mother was born in Timor

Lorosa'e and also someone whose wife or husband was born in Timor Lorosa'e or born outside but whose father or mother was born in Timor Lorosa'e.

Marta: Let me see if I understand it. For example: my cousin in Australia, a Timorese, is married to a Greek lady, can his wife be considered a habitual resident of Timor Lorosa'e?

Tiu: Yes, Marta. But there is another definition of a resident, the long-term resident. That's someone who has resided in East Timor for more than 182 cumulative days within any 12-month consecutive period. People who work for foreign missions/governments and officials of the United Nations organizations or other governmental organizations are excluded from registration.

Miguel: But as for our earlier example -- my aunt in Kupang or Marta's Greek cousin in-law. Will they be able to register?

Tiu: Yes, they can register but they will have to come to Timor Lorosa'e to do so. There are no registration sites outside Timor Lorosa'e's territory.

Miguel: And how do we register?

Tiu: Well, you will need to bring with you any documents you have that prove who you are.

Miguel: OK, but what if I don't have any documentation? When I ran away I didn't have time to look for my documents so they all got burnt up with the house.

Marta: Well, from what I have been told, you can bring anything you might have or, if you don't have anything, just write an affidavit--a written statement confirmed by someone with legal authority who can be a doctor or a priest. Otherwise, you can bring with you when you register two witnesses who have already registered themselves. Is that right, Tiu?

Tiu: Yes Marta, that is right. You see, we are all answering each other's questions.

Miguel: So where can I go and register? I live in Atsabe and taxis or buses are not plentiful around the area.

Tiu: Well, keep your eyes and ears peeled for information regarding registration sites. Each of Timor Lorosa'e's 65 sub-districts has one fixed registration site which is going to remain open until the end of the registration period. For example, in Atsabe there is one fixed site in Atsabe Vila where you can go and register. But there will also be mobile registration sites so that people in remote areas can register. In Atsabe, for example, you will have four mobile registration sites -- in Leimeba Leten, in Lasaun, in Laubuno and in Baboe Leten.

The best thing to do is to keep listening to Radio UNTAET, read reading Tais Timor and UNTAET's Noticeboards for the lists of registration sites.

Marta: And when do we have to register to be able to vote on the 30 August elections for the Constituent Assembly?

Tiu: Actually, once you have registered now you will not have to register separately to vote. The information collected from the Civil Registration will be used to compile the list of voters. The criteria at this stage for voter eligibility is that you are at least 17-years-of-age and that you are a habitual resident of Timor Lorosa'e. It's important to register now because you will only be able to vote on 30 August if you do so.

Miguel: Sorry Maria, you still have to wait another three years until you can vote.

Maria: Oh that's OK, my turn will come.

Tiu: Well, my friends, I hope our little conversation helped you understand the Civil Registration process a bit more. Until next time, be safe and, don't forget, hop down to your nearest registration site and register. The future of Timor Lorosa'e starts now. Ciao! >

RADIO UNTAET

Nightly News in English, Tetun, Bahasa Indonesian, Portuguese. Current Affairs, Music Program, Culture and Society Program. See Schedule in 12-25 March Issue of Tais Timor.

• Dili -- 91.5 (FM) 684 (AM) • Ainaro -- 96.3 (FM) 93.1 (FM) • Aileu -- 90.9 (FM) • Baucau -- 105.1 (FM) • Ermera -- 90.1 (FM) • Liquica -- 99.5 (FM) • Lospallos -- 97.1 (FM) • Maliana -- 88.7 (FM) • Manatuto -- 94.5 (FM) • Oecussi -- 92.1 (FM) • Same -- 96.3 (FM) • Suai -- 93.1 (FM) • Viqueque -- 98.5 (FM)

Televisaun Timor Lorosa'e

BBC, Metro Sports, TVTL Nightly News, Indonesian News, RTP News, News Features and Wrap ups, Cartoons, Current Affairs, Education Sitcom, Talk Show, Culture Program, Special Reports, Children Programming, Documentaries, MTV, Soccer. See Schedule in 12-25 March Issue of Tais Timor.

Heroes in Action: East Timor celebrated the National Police Day last 27 March, exactly a year since the first 50 East Timorese cadets began their training at the Police College in Dili. The country now has 450 police officers and the training of new cadets in ongoing.



Heroes in Action



Photo by OCPI/UNTAET



Grand Opening!

The National University of East Timor recently inaugurated three new refurbished buildings—former Liceu Dr Francisco Machado, former High School 3 and Escola Canto Resende. The reconstruction was funded by Lisbon City Hall, a project worth US\$2.5 million.



Photo by OCPI/UNTAET

UN CivPol

24 HOUR
EMERGENCY NUMBER IN DILI
0408839978

QIP Shop QIP Shop QIP Shop QIP Shop


The QIP Shop, a locally owned store stocked with hand made traditional East Timorese products, is now OPEN!

Goods available include:

- Traditional East Timorese musical instruments
- Bamboo and wooden furniture
- Books and postcards of East Timor
- A variety of handcrafts such as miniature traditional Timorese houses
- A services centre, which will have contact details for locally available services including: carpentry, plumbing, electrical works, dressmaking, catering and many more.

Location: Jln Bidau Akadiru Hun (next to Restaurant Maubere) , travel along the esplanade road towards the Jesus statue, make a right turn just before crossing the canal and head towards the ICRC hospital. The QIP Shop can be found a few hundred metres on your right.

Supported by the the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

 The name Tais Timor conjures the image of the careful, time-honoured process that goes into making the traditional Timorese cloth used in all important life events. As the different "ingredients" that make up East Timor come together during the transitional period to rebuild the country, Tais Timor aims to record and reflect those events that weave the beautiful tapestry that is Timor Lorosa'e.

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