

Tais Timor

A monthly source of information published in Tetun, English, Portuguese and Bahasa Indonesia • distributed free of charge

INSIDE 8 Anti-Violence Cartoons



Break the Silence and Seek Justice

Thirteen-year-old Uja Naran* is pregnant, and community elders are upset and disgraced by what has befallen them.

The father of the unborn child is a 46-year-old, close family member and the pregnancy is a result of continued sexual abuse believed to have taken place over three years, which was ultimately exposed when the young girl reached puberty.

To resolve the problem, community elders and Uja's parents meet for a discussion. After a few hours of talks, during which Uja is absent, they put the issue to rest. There will be no marriage, because the girl is still young, but a charge of one cow, a chicken and 250 thousand Rupia (an estimated US\$25) has been laid on the man responsible for the pregnancy. After the meeting, everybody walks back to their homes with smiles on their faces, satisfied that justice has been done. And life seems to go on normally. But the peace of this once-united family has been broken, and young Uja must live with the consequences.

How does a 13-year-old deal with the trauma of forced pregnancy? Her life as a child has been stripped away. The hope of one day enjoying a traditional wedding is gone. And her unborn child faces an equally uncertain future. In a society that is strongly guided by Christian and traditional principles, there is little room for accommodating children born out of wedlock. Moreover, Uja may be discriminated against for "disrespecting" the acceptable way of life. For a child like Uja, there appears to be little justice in the social system.

However, new efforts are being made to help victims of abuse. More open public dialogue and a rise in the number of complaints have heightened awareness of the problem and the need to confront it. The church, NGOs, UNTAET and individuals have embarked on awareness campaigns to teach and assist those who have suffered from various forms of abuse. These organisations are also working with law enforcement bodies like the police and courts to ensure that offenders pay for their acts and also receive counseling.

Since June, Caritas Australia, the Development and Overseas agency of the Catholic Church, has been conducting a series of counselor training programs on sexual assault. With the cooperation of two local NGOs - East Timor's Women Movement for Anti-violence (ETWAVE) and Committee Forum for East Timorese Women (FOKUPERS) - these seminars have attracted men and women from various community-based organisations dedicated to rebuilding the lives of traumatised people. East Timorese, both men and women, from 10 districts all around the territory have

embraced this initiative of spreading awareness about this difficult issue.

Thus far, seminars have been held in Aileu, Baucau, Same and Suai. Other districts are Ainaro, Maliana and Los Palos, with upcoming seminars scheduled for Manatutu, Ermera and Liquica.

The Programme Coordinator for Caritas, Fernando Pires, says "The training efforts were prompted by pervasive sexual violence against women and the need for communities to know that vic-

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Violence in East Timor Stop the Violence Now!

Long-standing tensions flare between residents of two Timorese communities. In the aftermath, more than two-dozen houses lie burned and destroyed. Villagers remain terrified, and schools closed in fear of renewed fighting.

A high-level official is arrested -- the charge: alleged domestic abuse, the beating of his wife.

A number of people - both Timorese and internationals - are robbed, assaulted and stoned along Dili beaches and at nightclubs.

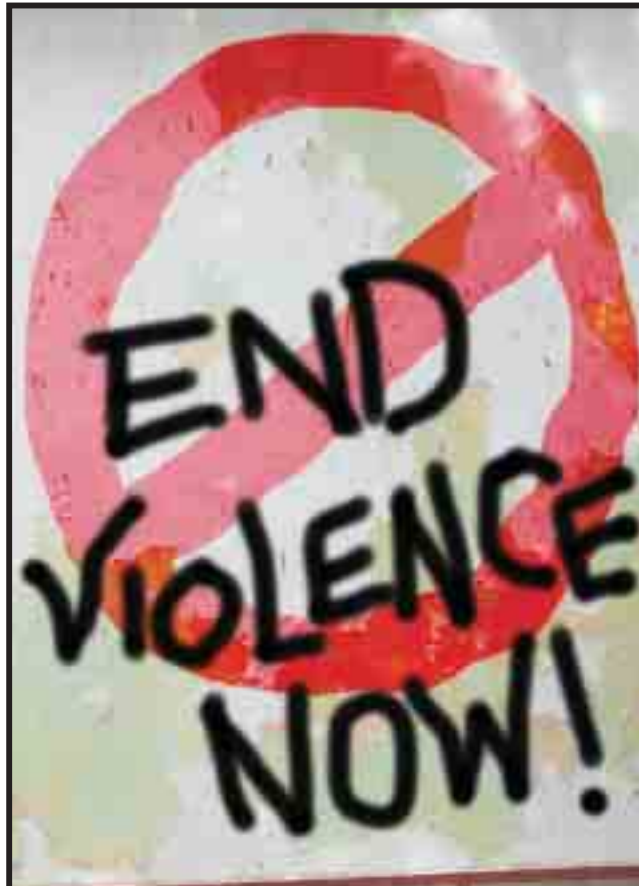
A minor traffic accident in Dili between a Timorese and an international swiftly escalates into a dangerous confrontation when Timorese bystanders circle the car, hurling accusations at the international driver and injuring her as they grab the car keys from her hand.

We have all heard of such incidents, and, unfortunately, they go far in reinforcing the impression that East Timor is a particularly volatile place, its population a violent people. It has almost become a cliché - but one which could hardly be more wrong.

The truth is that never in virtually decades has East Timor experienced a more secure and peaceful environment, one in which people can safely get on with their lives. Never has the opportunity been better to put an end to violence in all its forms; or to promote a spirit of non-violence throughout the country.

In real terms, as the information included in this issue of Tais Timor

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It's Time to Rebuild! Not Destroy!

East Timor's people have had enough of violence. It's time for a cool change. This poster, to be distributed throughout Timor in the coming weeks, is a highly visible sign of a national campaign to promote tolerance.

How to promote tolerance and an end to violence in East Timor - that is the theme of this month's Tais Timor. Many people regard the issue of violence as one of the most urgent problems facing Timor Lorosa'e today, particularly in this election period, whether it's the epidemic of domestic violence that occurs mostly behind closed doors; the more visible community and gang related violence that has occurred in several of Timor's towns in recent months; or violence related to political campaigns. We have asked hard questions to a range of experts within UNTAET, ETTA and the NGO community.

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CivPol Q & A on Violence and Security

Which forms of violence in East Timor are currently of most concern to you, and what is your strategy to confront them?

The police play a key role in tackling violence in every society all over the world. East Timor is not an exception. The crimes that mostly concern CivPol today are the ones that could jeopardize the normal life of the Timorese civil society. However, it is to be noted that East Timor has one of the lowest rates of criminality compared to most other countries. According to our analysis, assault and theft are the most frequent crimes, but we pay special attention to domestic violence, as it increases every day the number of reported crimes to CivPol. Our strategy is the Proactive Community Policing: working together with the society to prevent crimes from happening.

Have CivPol's role and operating procedures in East Timor shifted in recent months in response to violence?

The Police walk along with other sectors of the society: schools, church, human rights organizations, gender associations, etc. CivPol is constantly meeting and engaging in dialogue with the society in order to serve the Timorese in the best possible manner. We are permanently changing our procedures, as we know better the Timorese society. CivPol will act with dialogue and tolerance, always respecting human rights, and employing the principle of proportionality in the use of force.

Have their been lessons learned from the recent Baucau, Viqueque and Quilicai experiences?

Civic education needs to be enhanced. Society needs to be fully aware that people cannot take law into their hands. While political and social causes seem to underscore recent events, extensive civic education is the key to a solution to community tensions.

How many CivPol officers are there in the country?

Currently we have 1400 police officers from 38 countries and 777 Timorese police officers. And the number of Timorese is growing.

What numbers are you projecting for 2002 and forward?

If the situation continues to be stable as it is now -- and we believe that will be the case -- we plan to start downsizing the number of international police officers in the first quarter of 2002 and increasing the number of Timorese police officers to reach 3000 by June 2003.

How does CivPol maintain a high state of readiness and discipline in a situation of relative calm in most areas of the country?

For CivPol there is always a lot of work to do. Usually, people only see the police in routine situations. However, crime prevention is our main priority. CivPol conducts visits to schools and other institutions for briefings and coordinates joint actions with Timorese community leaders, so that together we can build a peaceful society.

Many people in East Timor are fearful that in the period leading up to the elections, the country will witness a return of the political violence that marked 1999.

What assurances can CivPol give Timorese citizens that the situation is now different and will remain so?

CivPol has 1400 highly motivated police officers willing to help East Timor achieve democracy. We can assure the Timorese citizens and the international community that we have our security plans for the elections ready, and we are prepared to enforce security. The situation now is different from 1999: we have 1400 International and 777 Timorese police officers working with the same goal - to maintain law and order.

If people witness an incident in which CivPol officers appear to use undue force or have "one too many" and "go over the line," whom should they contact?

They should contact the nearest police officer or police station. Any police department will accept and investigate the complaints presented.

What is CivPol doing to prevent gang violence and political violence before it occurs?

Community Policing: CivPol is meeting with the Suco Chiefs, recognized by the Timorese as respected authorities. From a juridical perspective there are no gangs as such. Like in so many other societies, there are people who gather to defend a social cause, a political cause, a human rights cause, to play sports, etc. If some members of these groups commit crimes, police will act according to the law and bring them to justice.

Under what conditions does CivPol call for the Rapid Response Unit?

In situations where the regular patrol officers cannot respond or prevent any alteration of order to occur. Members of RRU are specially trained to deal with riot and crowd control.

What is the chain of command when RRU is called in?

The CivPol Commissioner is the authority in East Timor to make CivPol's RRU intervene.

How many RRU officers are there, and what are the projections for the future?

There are 240 RRU police Officers: 120 Portuguese in Dili and 120 Jordanians in Baucau. In the future we plan to downsize the number of international police officers and establish fully Timorese RRUs with the same format.

Under what conditions does CivPol ask for the assistance of the Peacekeeping Force? What is the chain of command?

There is a Memorandum of Understanding between CivPol and PKF: in terms of security, law and order, PKF supports CivPol. It is coordinated through the National Operations Center. In practical terms, Police will be in charge of maintaining law and order within the borders, while armed forces will be in charge of the defense of the territory.

How does CivPol employ the Timorese Police in preventing and confronting gang and political violence?

Undercover agents, community police officers, cultural liaison, investigations, and information gathering are some examples of how we employ Timorese police officers to maintain law and order.

What is CivPol's programme to confront domestic abuse, which is particularly high in East Timor?

We have a Vulnerable Persons Unit dealing with cases of domestic violence. We hope, with the help of the society and concerned associations, to receive information on domestic violence so that we can deal with it and provide a better social environment to the Timorese families.

If people wish to discuss with CivPol their concerns regarding potential threats of violence, whom should they contact?

All Civilian Police officers and departments are willing to help the community.

Do you have special contact numbers for domestic abuse, gang violence, etc.?

CivPol has the following phone numbers: Dili CivPol - 0408839978. Soon we will have a National Emergency Number - 112.

CivPol can also be contacted on the following extensions:

**UNTAET Switchboard
0889463900**

**National Operations Center
Ext. 5600, 5672, 5673, 5674;**

CivPol Dili District :

Dili Central Station - Ext. 5292;

**Comoro CivPol Station
Ext. 5939, 5941;**

**Becora CivPol Station
Ext. 5943, 5957**

Break Silence continued from pg. 1

tims have the right to seek justice". Sessions have focused on the procedures for reporting sex crimes to the police, the medical examinations required, issues of confidentiality and court procedures. Victims' rights, psychological effects and a basic overview of sexual assault are also included in the discussions. Police, counselors and professionals in related fields participate in the sessions to answer specific questions on sex crimes and how to assist victims during and after the course of the investigation.

Although it is not the first time such efforts have been made, previous attempts by NGOs to conduct awareness campaigns have met with resistance in many of the targeted communities. A major obstacle has been finding the appropriate language and expressing cultural understanding while addressing issues of a sexual nature. "Sex is still not openly discussed," Mr. Pires says. "It is taboo. The irony is that people are interested in listening, but one has to be careful in the selection of language to describe body parts".

Trainer Maria Zulmina Alves Soares says the response from participants has

been positive, even though trainers have sometimes been challenged to explain why it is necessary for people to discuss this subject so openly. "In Aileu, for instance, we were confronted by a nun to explain why young single people like us are sharing information with elders on a sensitive subject". Ms Soares further explained that people react in a pessimistic manner because it is not part of the Timorese culture for young people to initiate talks on sex.

Despite these difficulties, the trainers have received support from a wide range of people. Participants say the training has been educational and informative, and they have stressed the need for longer sessions which would allow for better interaction with individuals still too embarrassed to ask questions in front of a crowd.

Moreover, trainers argue that policy makers need to establish plans that will increase knowledge of the devastating consequences of sexual assault, especially in this era of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Many participants have little awareness of the danger of contracting diseases through sexual conduct. With

regard to sexual assault, they are mainly interested in learning about procedures for reporting assaults, as well as protection and support for victims.

"Sexual assault should be everybody's concern because it can happen to anyone. It could be your daughter, sister, mother or even your wife."

"Some people are aware of STIs such as AIDS, but there is a reaction of fear at the mention of this disease," says assistant programme coordinator Adelio Filmari. "Perhaps it is a sign that shows the need to start awareness campaigns on AIDS."

Ultimately, diseases and unwanted pregnancies are not the only effects of sexual abuse. It is a violent crime - an invasive and traumatic experience - and it often leaves the victim with long-term physical and psychological problems.

Through the establishment of human rights laws and strict enforcement, democratic governments around the world are striving to eliminate abuse and to protect victims.

"Sexual assault should be everybody's concern because it can happen to anyone. It could be your daughter, sister, mother or even your wife. To protect your loved ones, perhaps the most important thing to know is how to deal with it when it happens," concludes Su Mohan Das, a human rights officer in Suai Covalima.

*Uja Naran is not the real name of actual victim. Name and place of residence have been withheld to protect the victim.

For more information please contact the following offices and remember that all information is treated with respect and confidentiality.

CivPol	0408839978
CARISTUS	0417801592
ETWAVE	0419829549
FOKUPERS	0417839865

For all districts with no mobile communication, contact your local CivPol offices.

The PKF Answers Questions on Violence and Security

The PKF Answers Some Questions Regarding Violence and the General Security Situation in East Timor

What is the current security assessment in East Timor regarding armed threats?

There is a low risk of armed threats throughout East Timor. Current indicators do not suggest any imminent threat from armed elements. However, the threat of militia activity on the border remains and therefore PKF security measures continue to place emphasis on force protection and securing the local environment.

With the number of Timorese returnees from West Timor diminishing, many observers now believe that principally pro-autonomy and militia supporters remain in West Timor. Does such a large population with such political allegiances pose a unique threat down the road?

The importance of the reconciliation process is highlighted in this scenario. An East Timorese-based solution to this issue is seen as the best way to ensure long-term peace. The PKF continues to monitor the process and remains focused on ensuring a stable, secure environment for the election and post election period.

What and where are the greatest security challenges now for the PKF?

The greatest security challenges for the PKF at present are in maintaining the climate of stability from external threats. This means continuing patrolling and checks of the border area and all sectors to update assessments. Support to CIVPOL will continue when it requests assistance to enable larger areas to be visited and PKF presence is required to maintain law and order.

Is the PKF role in East Timor shifting in any way?

The role of the PKF is not shifting and is firmly focused on ensuring East Timor remains free from external and internal threats to the conduct of elections and a move to independence.

How many PKF are in the country?

There are currently 8,000 PKF's throughout the entire territory.

What numbers are you projecting for 2002 and forward?

UN New York will consider options for the future of UNTAET and the PKF in the near future. They will analyse the milestones and present situation to devise a concept for what is needed in East Timor.

As general security remains stable, why is it necessary to maintain troop level above 7,000?

The current security climate is calm because of the presence and professional operations of the PKF. The long-term stability will be better evaluated once the elections are held and the path to independence is more defined. The number of PKF will only be drawn down when the security situation is sufficiently certain to permit it.

How does the PKF maintain a high state of readiness and discipline in a situation of such continued calm?

PKF troops conduct training activities with the help of the PKF Training Branch. This means live firing ranges have been designed and constructed to keep skills high. Reaction exercises and rehearsals are conducted by elements to practice and assess skills.

Many Timorese are fearful that, in the run-up to the elections, East Timor will witness a return of the political violence that marked 1999. What assurances can the PKF give that the current situation is different from 1999?

The likelihood of politically motivated violence cannot be discounted but the PKF through the United Nations Military Observers (UNMO) and other units has been working closely with political leaders to reduce this potential. Public information programmes and the work of the UNTAET staff in education and communication will greatly assist in ensuring a calm election.

What Support is the PKF Giving to CivPol?

PKF has been tasked to assist CivPol when the situation demands it. CivPol has the responsibility for law and order and can ask the PKF for assistance in protection of venues, communications assistance, roadblocks and checkpoints, perimeter security and limited logistics support.

East Timorese districts run a District Security Committee (DSC) chaired by the District Administrator (DA) with all key district officials and commanders. The CivPol commander and PKF local commander are part of this committee. Plans to deal with issues are agreed in this forum and a District Operations Centre (DOC) can be formed to deal with the issue.

The Police Operations Centre is the basis for the DOC and PKF representatives assist in coordinating the action by CivPol. The Deputy Force Commander, Major General Roger Powell and a Team of CivPol, Office of District Administration and PKF have been briefing DSC and DOC members on how to get best use of the committee and district resources. Taking preventative action and maintaining knowledge of local political issues is the best way to reduce violence.

How are the PKF and the East Timor Defense Force cooperating on security concerns?

The FDTL is undergoing training and will be concentrating on its own development path. The key senior staff is briefed and informed on security matters. As the FDTL matures it will assume greater responsibility.

Inevitably, occasional instances arise in which PKF soldiers have a few too many beers and "go over the line." What is being done about this problem? What should Timorese citizens and others do when they witness such conduct?

PKF Commanders enforce the Code of Conduct that guides actions for all PKF members in East Timor. Should anyone transgress, disciplinary procedures are used to deal with the person. The civilian police or military police will accept reports or complaints and deal with them.

If Timorese wish to discuss their concerns regarding security or potential threats of violence, who should they contact at the PKF?

The first place to report concerns or issues is to CivPol. If CivPol is not available then UNMOs and PKF units will assist in discussions to reduce any potential for violence.

Is there contact information they should have in each district?

The best contact to have for local people is the Civil Police Station number and location. The contact point for the local PKF commander and UNMO are also important if the civil police are not available.

Maliana DA Answers Q & As on Violence and Security

A Conversation with the Administrator of Bobonaro District, Gianni Deligia, who answers questions about Violence and the Security Situation in his Area.

What are the main concerns regarding security in Bobonaro District?

Preventing the entry of militias and other hostile elements from West Timor is the main concern of the district administration. Until now, thanks to the good work done by PKF and UNMOs, the impact of West Timor-based elements has been relatively minor. At the same time, CivPol has been successful in minimizing challenges to law and order by individuals and groups, which fortunately do not seem to represent the majority of the district. The secure situation in Bobonaro District is due to discipline, unity and active collaboration between the local population and UNTAET.

Regarding the incidents of violence in Viqueque and Baucau, is there any possibility that similar incidents will occur in Bobonaro District?

It is very difficult to compare areas of the country that do not have the same cultural and ethnic backgrounds. One cannot discard the possibility that similar incidents may

also take place in Bobonaro District. It seems to me that when compared to others areas, more unity exists among the various areas and populations within this district. However, there is no room for complacency, so the District Security Committee has put in place contingency plans to deal with problems should they arise.

What should be done at the district level regarding unemployed youth in order to forestall violence?

Youth are a very important segment of our society. They represent its future. They have dreams and the energy to realize these dreams. When dreams do not come through, frustration pushes them to use their energy in destructive rather than constructive ways. However, often they have been instruments of violence rather than conscientious actors. Others have been pulling the strings from behind. In Bobonaro District we started paying particular attention to the youth beginning in May 2000. Many projects have addressed their basic needs. Across the district, football fields and handball and basketball courts have been opened and a large gymnasium has been refurbished in Maliana, where the main stadium with covered area for spectators has been built. NGOs have been encouraged to implement projects targeting the youth. Income-generating projects have been initiated to address their needs for meaningful occupation.

Finally, what are your expectations for the up-coming elections?

Everything is relative. I spent more than 20 years in different UN missions in quite dangerous and demanding places, from Chad to Lebanon, Palestine to Afghanistan. East Timor seems to me a relatively calmer mission area. UNTAET's mandate is clear; people are motivated for the elections, given the fact that they fought for more than 20 years to have to opportunity to hold them. Compared with other elections organized or supported by the UN, we are talking here of a relatively limited number

of voters. Therefore, despite some delays and confusion related to civil registration, civic education and other pre-election activities, I am confident that the elections will be held in time and with respect for the essential law-and-order requirements. Of course, there will probably be some incidents, and some perhaps serious. One should be realistic and not expect after years of internal conflict, with thousands of refugees not far away, that the electoral process will be only peaceful. But overall the transitional process is on track.



Deputy Force Commander Powell (left) with Bobonaro District Administrator Gianni Deligia.

Photo by OCP/UNTAET

ETTAnews

East Timor Transitional Administration

Serious Crimes Prosecutor Sworn In

On 8 June, Charles Nsabumana of Burundi was sworn-in by Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello as Serious Crimes Prosecutor.

Mr. Nsabumana, an advisor for the Office of Foreign Affairs in Burundi, has almost 12 years experience as prosecutor in his home country. He served five and a half years as deputy chief of Burundi's mission in Rwanda and six years as legal advisor in the regional organization Kagera, which comprises Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania.

There are currently eight prosecutors - seven internationals and one East Timorese - in the Office of Serious Crimes of the Dili District Court.

ICRC Hospital to be Handed Over to ETTA

The Dili hospital, currently under the management of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), will be handed over to the East Timor Transitional Administration on 1 July.

Seven specialist doctors, who have already been selected, will work at the hospital to maintain the current level of services. The 2001-2002 East Timor budget covers the funding for these specialists, who are expected to take up their positions on 1 July and sign one-year contracts.

Based on a preliminary survey of specialized care, there will be a need for visiting specialists, such as orthopedics, pediatric surgeons and urologists, in addition to the ophthalmologist and rehabilitation surgeon currently in place.

Senior Health Staff on Board

The first 19 East Timorese Senior Civil Servants of the Division of Health of the East Timor Transitional Administration were sworn in on 7 June by Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Rui Maria de Araújo was sworn in as Head of the Division of Health Services of ETTA and Rui Paulo de Jesus as the Deputy Head.

This is the second largest swearing-in ceremony of senior staff within ETTA departments this year, after the Education Division ceremony last month.

East Timorese Appointed Deputy Head of Revenue Service

An East Timorese, José Eduardo Cortereal, was hired in early June for the position of Deputy Commissioner of the East Timor Revenue Service of the East Timor Transitional Administration. Mr. Cortereal is currently working for Central Fiscal Authority.

To date, the Central Fiscal Authority has hired 43 staff of the 54 allocated positions this year.

The Civil Service and Public Employment Office has so far recruited over 9,000 East Timorese civil servants, of whom 300 are in managerial positions. This figure represents over 85 per cent of the staffing level approved by National Council for the current fiscal year.

National Council Approves Regulation on Currency Stock

On 30 May, the National Council approved a Regulation on Supplementary Appropriation, proposing a U.S. \$5 million capital infusion for the Central Payments Office to finance a stock of currency. The Central Payments Office sought this capital infusion as part of its budget submission for 2001-2002.

The base stock of U.S. dollars will satisfy two primary objectives. The dollars represent a transformation of the resources from bank balances into currency. Secondly, the base stock will be a source from which currency will be disbursed against bank transfers to make payments for civil servants and small local contractors, and to provide currency denominations required by traders and businesses to facilitate the completion of transactions in U.S. dollars.

Seventeen Council members voted in favor of the regulation, and four against.

Road Traffic Regime Approved by National Council

On 18 June, for the first time since the independence referendum, East Timor started registration of motor vehicles. This follows the signing on 5 June of two regulations designed to enhance road safety by Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello.

The regulations, which were approved by the National Council on 29 May, establishes a Regime Governing Road Traffic

and a Motor Vehicle Office responsible for registration of motor vehicles, the issuing of vehicle registration cards and license plates. The Transitional Cabinet had earlier agreed to a policy to establish a national road traffic regime, replacing the Indonesian traffic laws.

The new regime provides a unified system governing traffic rules. This will support the work of police and traffic wardens. The regime will respond better to the post-conflict environment of East Timor than the current, complex mix of Indonesian laws, which apply under UNTAET Regulation 1999/1. All the Indonesian institutions that supported their traffic laws, such as driver licensing, insurance, and vehicle registration no longer exist.

East Timorese Directors Recruited

In mid-May, the Civil and Public Employment Service recruited three East Timorese as heads of the Donor Coordination Unit, the Gender Affairs Unit and the Environmental Protection Unit.

A senior-level East Timorese has also been recruited as the Director of the Division of Health Services and four East Timorese as deputies. Sixty-four East Timorese were recruited on 23 May as Directors of the Health Services in the districts.

Agreement on the Return of Rupiahs

On 8 June, UNTAET and the Indonesian Central Bank, Bank Indonesia, signed an

agreement on the repatriation of Indonesian Rupiahs from East Timor to Indonesia. Under the Memorandum, ETTA's Central Payments Office and Bank Indonesia will spend six months working out the technicalities of collecting and transferring the money.

It is estimated that around 200 billion Rupiahs (U.S. \$20 million) are circulating in East Timor. A first shipment of approximately three billion Rupiahs was expected to be transported to Indonesia on 18 June.

East Timorese Students Fare Poorly In Tests

ETTA's Division of Education has just concluded the analysis of the national mathematics and science benchmark test of 1,700 East Timorese elementary students.

The results were poor when compared with international performance, which is linked to the inadequate training and preparation of primary teachers. Some students did, however, perform well on the tests: "even by international standards." Male and female students displayed more or less equal results.

In response to the poor performance, the Division plans to review the curricula in mathematics and science in order to achieve comparable student learning outcomes across schools and districts. The Division also plans to train teachers at district level in good assessment practices and will continue to monitor standards in mathematics and science on an annual basis.



Graduation day at the police academy for 53 new officers. 850 cadets have now graduated.

UN Reaffirms Commitment to Fight AIDS in ET

Sergio Vierra de Mello, UN Transitional Administrator, says a national campaign by various UN agencies and international organizations is underway to increase AIDS awareness. A taskforce was established last year to launch a wide range of initiatives in preventing the spread of HIV and educating the Timorese population about the disease. Mr. de Mello says that the working group on AIDS has had to tread carefully and consider the conservative religious and cultural approach of the Timorese regarding the discussion of sexually-related concerns.

"We've tried to respect the culture, the habits and the values of the Timorese," says the Transitional Administrator. "I've also done my utmost to prevent this large international presence from having a negative impact on the Timorese -- particularly when it comes to issues of HIV/AIDS," added Mr. de Mello.

Controversy over the issue arose in June, when Australia's Northern Territory demanded that all UN workers in East Timor be screened for HIV, following reports that HIV/AIDS infections in Darwin had escalated because of the heavy UN presence.

The UN Transitional Administration, however, rejected the demand. According to Peter Biro, a UN spokesperson, "The position of the UN is that the law in most countries does not allow compulsory or mandatory testing because it is not an effective way of prevention, and furthermore it leads to stigma and discrimination. Besides, the UN is also doing an intensive awareness campaign on AIDS with all its workers," declared Peter Biro.

UNTAET's division of health services says that apart from anecdotal evidence, no confirmed cases of HIV/AIDS have occurred in East Timor since 1999. This is due in part to inadequate facilities for either testing for

AIDS or for counseling. HIV/AIDS was not treated as a priority during the Indonesian occupation of East Timor, and official records on HIV/AIDS are lacking.

Emerging HIV /AIDS in East Timor

The social and economic changes taking place in East Timor today are a source of concern in efforts to confront HIV/AIDS more aggressively. Massive dislocation of the population and the breakup of families have disrupted traditional lifestyles. Together with violence, which is prevalent in all levels of society, it has led to a high proportion of homeless young people with few employment opportunities. A recent situation assessment undertaken by UNICEF on behalf of UNAIDS reports that there are a growing number of young males and females involved in the sex trade.

The situation is likely exacerbated by the presence of so many internationals living and working throughout the country.

Cultural constraints against talking openly about sexual behaviour and religious barriers to discuss certain aspects of sex are also a contributing factor to the emerging HIV/AIDS situation in East Timor.

What is HIV/AIDS?

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. Like other viruses, HIV is able to multiply inside body cells, weakening the immune system. The virus can live in the body for many years before AIDS develops. HIV is mainly spread through the exchange of infected blood, from infected mother to child and especially through sexual intercourse with an infected individual. HIV can also be transmitted by injection with infected needles.

HIV can be prevented! Know the facts!

For more information on HIV and AIDS, please contact your local health clinic. >

Welcome to the Ombudsperson of East Timor

An Ombudsperson's Office has recently been established within UNTAET. Twenty cases, half of them brought forward by East Timorese and half by international staff, are currently being examined by the Office of the Ombudsperson of the East Timor Transitional Administration. Here is some background on exactly what the Ombudsperson does and what it means to you now and in the future.

What is an Ombudsperson?

An Ombudsperson -- also called a public protector or advocate of citizens' rights -- is a public official who protects the rights and interests of all persons against injustice, denial of rights and governmental abuse. His/her goal is to promote fairness, justice, equity and human rights, and to act neutrally and impartially and maintain strict confidentiality. The Ombudsperson is empowered to uphold the rights and liberties contained in the human rights instruments and those contained in any future constitution of East Timor.

What services and help are provided by the Ombudsperson?

The Ombudsperson monitors the fairness and equity of UNTAET's implementation of its public administration mandate. The

Ombudsperson also protects all persons adversely affected by any acts or omissions of UNTAET, the transitional government departments, including the executive and administrative branches, as well as their succeeding institutions. East Timorese citizens may lodge a complaint with regard to any abuses, grievances, conflicts, or inequalities; these include unfair treatment, discrimination, procedural violations, bias, oppression, denial of due process, harassment, human rights infractions and other breaches and irregularities. It is the Ombudsperson's responsibility to investigate these claims in a confidential, impartial, independent, and non-adversarial manner.

Who can complain and obtain the help of the Ombudsperson?

Anyone with a legitimate complaint -- whether an individual, group, society or company -- may seek the help of the Ombudsperson. For all matters that involve any abuse of authority by UNTAET, or by any transitional governing departments or succeeding national or central institutions, the Ombudsperson will listen, discuss, provide advice and take appropriate action.

Which organizations and agencies are under the Ombudsperson's jurisdiction?

Any legitimate complaints, grievances and accusations can be filed against UNTAET, and the Transitional Cabinet, and all associated departments, offices, organizations and collaborating agencies,

which include the following entities:

- UNTAET and Governing Departments and Offices
- Transitional Cabinet, including Governing Departments and Offices
- Agencies, Programs and Institutions that collaborate and work in East Timor with UNTAET and the Transitional Cabinet.

What methods are used by the Ombudsperson?

The Ombudsperson hears and discusses problems and complaints, and seeks appropriate action based on objective and confidential consideration. In resolving conflicts, the Ombudsperson undertakes investigations, researches issues and conducts mediation. The Ombudsperson is authorized to access all relevant documents, data and testimony necessary to perform his/her duties. In circumstances when the disputing parties are deadlocked, the Ombudsperson serves as mediator between the parties concerned. The Ombudsperson may also recommend changes to any policies, procedures, regulations, programs or institutional decisions that are unfair, discriminatory, unjust or that violate human rights.

Is everything disclosed to the Ombudsperson completely confidential?

Yes. Confidentiality is essential so that individuals can emerge and speak the truth and the Ombudsperson can perform his/her duties in an independent manner. A client's name and complaint will not be divulged without the client's consent. The only exception to this confidentiality -- at the sole discre-

tion of the Ombudsperson -- is in cases where there appears to be grave danger or an imminent risk of physical harm or threat to an involved party.

How is the independence of the Ombudsperson maintained?

The Ombudsperson's exercise of powers are not controlled, limited or restricted by any official or government authority. He/she does not report complaints or cases to any administrative department, organization or constituency. The Ombudsperson is fully independent of the disciplinary processes of UNTAET and of any transitional governing departments, institutions and their successors, and therefore consulting with Ombudsperson does not jeopardize anyone. No retaliatory action or retribution shall be taken against any person or entity that had recourse to the Office of the Ombudsperson.

Which other countries have established Ombudsperson Offices?

The following countries have established Ombudsperson Offices:

Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Fiji, Korea, India, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Honduras, Gambia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Argentina, Belize, Columbia, Costa Rica, Georgia, South Africa, Djibouti, Taiwan, Mexico, Peru, Gambia, Kenya, Venezuela, Zimbabwe. All countries in Western Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have long-established Ombudsperson Offices. >

RADIO UNTAET

Nightly News in English, Tetun, Bahasa Indonesian, Portuguese.
Current Affairs, Music Program, Culture and Society Programme.
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) • Liquiçá -- 99.5 (FM)
• Lospalos -- 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)

NGOs Strive to Curb Violence

East Timor's recent history is one tainted with stories of suffering and violent incidents that culminated in the almost total destruction of half of the island in the aftermath of the popular consultation of August 1999.

Now, almost two years later, the East Timorese have begun to rebuild what was left of their lives. But violence is still present and some might say, on the increase. A recent survey by the Asia Foundation demonstrates that it remains a major concern for many: according to 29 per cent of those questioned, violence and political conflict dominate as the main problems in the country. Nonetheless, of the numerous international and local NGOs assisting in rebuilding East Timor, only a few deal directly with the issue of violence.

"Violence in all forms is a crucial issue and a big challenge," said Manuel Abrantes of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission. "Much of the culture of violence that you see in East Timor is a result of the Indonesian oppression, which tried to force political compliance on the people by torture, killing, and indoctrination of nationalism. Children would learn in schools that because the Indonesians were tough and had guns, nobody would dare oppose them. Basically, they were taught that with violence you would win politically."

The Justice and Peace Commission seeks to promote discussion and reason in resolving disputes, whether in a domestic or political setting. In conjunction with the Human Rights Unit of UNTAET and other NGOs, it has started a programme of reconciliation in order to conduct a dialogue with communities throughout the country on the establishment of the Truth, Reception and Reconciliation Commission. It also addresses issues of basic human rights, mixed with the Church's philosophy of forgiveness and tolerance.

That violence has made an enormous impact on the population also became clear through a survey on trauma, which was conducted from April to June 2000 by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), a Danish NGO with an office in Suai.

"We found that 96 per cent of the population in East Timor has experienced some type of traumatic experience due to violence and decided that it wouldn't be ethical to conduct only a survey," according to Rowena Cabigon, a program officer for IRCT.

The IRCT therefore set up a project called "Return to Happiness," a psychosocial programme designed by UNICEF of play therapy for some 10,000 primary school children. Teachers have been trained to identify children who display signs of trauma and work with them and their families toward recovery.

"Usually, the symptoms of traumatized children include bedwetting, nightmares, poor performance in school, attention deficit disorders, but also more outwardly violent behavior such as hitting other children or torturing animals," according to Ms. Cabigon. She added that adults are more likely to duplicate the violence that was done to them, which is termed as "hyper-vigilant behaviour".

Even though IRCT works with chil-

dren, its survey, which was presented to other NGOs who might be interested in working with the psychosocial recovery of traumatized Timorese, shows that the population group that has been most affected by violence is men. Women and children are, however, the main recipients of NGO assistance.

PRADET (Program for Psychosocial Recovery and Development) is an Australian NGO based in Dili that works with, among others, juvenile males in prison. A local team of East Timorese community mental health workers, trained by PRADET's international mental health care workers, in collaboration with local groups, works with the 20 or so teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18 who are incarcerated in Dili. They assist them in anger management, problem solving, relaxation, and also provide them with art and music classes.

"We are providing activities that prevent boredom and frustration for the young prison population," said Kristina Tang, Director of PRADET in East Timor. By averting boredom and depression momentarily, the programme is preventing any further violent behaviour of juveniles.

"However," she added, "once they go back to society, there must be programmes in place to deal with the high level of depression among these youths, as well as among the adult prison population."

Alcohol and, increasingly, drug abuse are some of the issues that Ms. Tang identified as problems among mental patients as well as the general prison population and therefore will have a negative effect on people with violent tendencies. However, her organization is not equipped to handle the treatment of addictions and the enormous social problems that they bring about.

Luisa Alves Sarmento, the Dili representative for the East Timorese Women's Organization (OMT), agrees that providing activities for the youth is essential in preventing criminal or violent behaviour.

"It is important to give the youth, and others as well, suggestions and ideas on activities, such as sports or music, that will take their minds off their frustrations. OMT has helped young people write proposals to NGOs in order to get funding for guitars, for instance," Mrs. Alves Sarmento said. Though, she added, in the end, education and jobs are the real remedies for violence.

Mr. Abrantes agrees that the lack of education and jobs are at the heart of some of the problems in the country: "In Indonesian times, people had jobs and received an education, but the jobs were often not substantial, and education was often merely a way to further the 'Indonesianization' process in East Timor. Neither provided the people with the tools to establish an independent economy". What he sees now happening is a situation where people feel frustrated because they find no means of providing for their families or even to start a family.

But this reality does not mean that the East Timorese are feeling nostalgic about Indonesia's past rule over East Timor: "In the end the Indonesians lost, because they may have provided jobs for the Timorese, but they never won the hearts and minds of the people" said Mr. Abrantes.

It is the hope of many that democracy, with the help not only of the UN, but also of international and national NGOs, will be able to achieve that and more. >

An Interview with Paulo Martins

Paulo Martins, Director of the East Timor Police College

Q. *Violence has been an ongoing concern for police forces in East Timor. How are police being trained to handle violent incidents?*

A. Violence is very complex. It can be physical, psychological, sexual, domestic, individual, group - it depends on the conditions. Violence can happen for ethnic reasons, because of lack of education and also as a result of cultural differences. If a person does not have confidence, his or her attitude can lead to violence. When there is violence it is the responsibility of the police to investigate and protect the people. They must see that victims get to hospital, and they must arrest the criminals if possible. Simultaneously the police have an obligation to educate the public on violence so that people are discouraged from resorting to violence.

Q. *Do you believe it is possible to change people's attitudes, or do you also need to change the conditions?*

A. I believe CivPol and the police must work together to identify the cause of violence in our society. Then we should look for solutions. For example, we need to make people aware of violence by talking on radio and television. And the police must try to anticipate violence before it happens.

Q. *In some cases - for example, recently in Quilicai - it seems the traditional system of justice often leads to violence. How can the police prevent this kind of community violence? What is the role of the police?*

A. In East Timor, we have traditional justice and we have the law. Whether the community can resolve the situation traditionally through talk, or whether a case must go to court, depends on the level of the crime. For example, if one person kills another, they cannot talk and try to find a solution the traditional way. In other cases, maybe they only need to sit together and talk - a dialogue. I agree with this solution. But if somebody has burned a house and killed somebody, he must go to court.

Q. *So there is a balance?*

A. Yes. The population - the leaders - must sit together and make an evaluation so they can prevent it happening again in the future.

Q. *Do you feel the local communities have accepted Timorese police, that they have a positive attitude toward the police?*

A. I think the population still has some negative feelings about the police. So we work with the population to support them, to take in more information, and to tell people how they can communicate with the police to help an investigation and eventually reduce violence.

Q. *Do you have any specific training about community relations?*

A. Yes, we have a program of international criminal investigation from America, in which they learn community policing, basic administration, scientific investigation, management administration, and so on. Also, CivPol works to place Timorese police in the sub-districts under its supervision.

Q. *Have your recruiting efforts been successful?*

A. According to our programme, we need 3,000 police officers in the future. Now we have 900, and the rest should be brought in by 2003. Now in Dili, we have 261 East Timorese police, and in other districts we have 40 or 50 each.

Q. *At the moment, East Timorese police do not carry guns. What about in the future?*

A. Currently, they have some hours of training with a pistol. CivPol will be giving them some weapons in the future, but there is no specific date at this time.

Q. *Of the officers who have been through the program, do you feel their training has been enough?*

A. Our police have good training, but they must gain more experience. They undergo a three-month basic course, and then they have six months more probation. So they need more experience. CivPol must also encourage them to work well. We have had some difficulties training cadets, because we are working with four languages - English, Bahasa, Tetum and Portuguese. Sometimes the translations are not correct, so it can be confusing.

Q. *Going back to the question of violence: CivPol policy is very much one of restraint, not to use force unless absolutely necessary. Do you feel this has had an effect on the level of violence because people feel they can act in a certain way?*

A. There has been some violence here in Dili, but I think the attitude of CivPol is correct. But I think there is violence everywhere in the world. East Timor has only had its liberty since 30 August 1999, and it has many problems - social, economic, cultural. So I think what we are experiencing is normal situation as in any other country.

Q. *Do you feel the situation will improve in the near future?*

A. I think so. We are poor and we may have problems sometimes with our friends from Indonesia on the border. But the police and the politicians try to maintain good relations with them. There is violence everywhere and in some countries the criminals carry guns, not like in East Timor it is only machetes! We will do everything we can to maintain peace in our society. >

Violence continued from pg. 1

demonstrates, the incidence of violence in East Timor pales in comparison to that in many other countries. And more importantly, there have never been more government, NGO, church and community-based initiatives to deal with the problem.

However, given the country's history and its current economic situation, the potential for violence is real, and lurking just below the surface.

Some motivations for such violence

For sure, as CivPol likes to say, much of the violence, the assaults and thefts, are done by petty criminals, opportunists, some too lazy to seek work, but there are other key cultural and psychological motivations behind some of the violence.

Virtually every Timorese suffered some form of loss and trauma during the September 1999 destruction, aggravating feelings of anxiety and anger. And in the aftermath of the vote, virtually all Timorese had heightened expectations that the time had finally come for them to rule their country. On top of it, they also had a strong sense of entitlement - the expectation that, based on the Indonesian government model, they would get a job, with all the perks, for themselves and for their families.

However, with the country thoroughly destroyed and with virtually all employment-generating infrastructure left in shambles, creating jobs has been a slow process, with high levels of unemployment still existing nearly two years after the Timorese voted for their independence from Indonesia.

The lingering effects of psychological trauma

An unknown number of East Timorese continue to suffer the effects of trauma they experienced during the social and political chaos of recent years. Virtually none of them have had the benefit of professional counseling. Left untreated, this can manifest itself in increased consumption of alcohol in the community which contributes to an increase in domestic, and public violence.

According to Susan Kendall, an Australian social worker and Clinical Supervisor at Pradet (Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor), "Many cases we see are related to traumatic events, such as public violence, sexual assault and displacement. People who have seen loved ones killed in front of them.

Others who have experienced the loss of their homes, their possessions and jobs."

Pradet, which is the only agency providing specialised clinical services to those with severe reactions to trauma, paints a dark picture of the mental health situation in East Timor. Throughout the history of East Timor a majority of the population have suffered extensive human rights violations with many being traumatized to some degree. Most manage to cope thanks to the strong Timorese family and community structure. A real concern is where the family structure has broken down and therefore unable to support members with severe mental illnesses including those suffering from extreme and disabling reactions to trauma. According to international research, it is expected that between 5 to 20 per cent of those exposed to high levels of trauma are likely to develop post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"Virtually every Timorese suffered some form of loss and trauma during the September 1999 destruction, aggravating feelings of anxiety and anger."

While it is hoped that Pradet will be part of the Division of Health Services in the near future, support for mental health programmes unfortunately continues to take a backseat to campaigns against more obvious and lethal diseases. Susan Kendall and her colleagues at Pradet would like to see more government and international resources put toward attacking the effects of trauma, because if left untreated, "people, particularly young men will continue to act out their experiences of trauma, through acts of violence."

The International Presence in East Timor

It is not surprising that a degree of Timorese frustration gets directed, particularly in Dili, at UNTAET and its international and local staff. In part, of course, it

is because East Timor is a uniquely conservative Catholic country unused to the more liberal tastes and fashions of some in the international community.

One longtime UN employee in Dili provides some perspective: "When I arrived here in April 1999," he says, "we foreigners were still somewhat of a novelty. It had been years since significant numbers of males, other than the occasional journalist or NGO, had been visible in East Timor."

Now internationals are, of course, seen in all the best spots - cruising along in air-conditioned 4X4s, usually with the windows rolled up. Ironically, most UN staff, the NGOs and even the press corps like to think of themselves as the "good guys," and presume that the Timorese will think the same of them. After, all, many internationals have made considerable financial and personal sacrifice, leaving loved ones for months at a time, to come assist as best they can in East Timor. But it can, at times, be hard for Timorese, given the language divide, to easily grasp such distinctions. The perception of some as they stroll past the Governor's House is that UNTAET is just the latest colonial power, residing as it does in the former seat of power for the Japanese, Portuguese and Indonesians.

Sensitivity to the unique environment in which the UN works is crucial, as UNTAET officials have repeatedly stressed, and a stiff code of conduct for UN staff is helping to diminish problems and misperceptions.

Something to Keep in Mind: This is not 1999

There is a fear that East Timor will see a return of the violence witnessed in 1999. But things are far different now. As this issue's Question and Answer sections with the Peacekeepers and CivPol clearly show, there are now 8,000 Peacekeepers who have done a commendable job in fighting security threats, and there are 1400 international CivPol officers dealing with policing communities throughout East Timor. They are increasingly working side-by-side with, and turning over functions to, the East Timor Defense Force and National Police, respectively. It is clearly a different situation than in 1999, when the United Nations was unarmed and East Timor was largely dependent on the TNI and the POLRI, which proved at times to be a largely indifferent force.

In addition, as the article on NGOs in this issue shows, effective programmes now exist to support vulnerable people, to teach non-violence and to promote tolerance. >

A Plan to Confront Violence . . .

before it gets too far out of hand.

It's not your typical day in the UNTAET compound in Maliana: At one table a team composed of representatives of the PKF, CivPol, the District Administrator and key UNTAET and ETA agencies are dealing with a serious crisis -- a minibus has crashed, leaving numerous dead and injured. Emotions at the crash scene are tense, and violence is close at hand.

At a second table a similar group is trying to put the lid on an already violent confrontation: political parties have attacked each other at an event, and the fighting is swiftly spinning out of control, over an enlarging geographical area.

Fortunately, these are just training exercises. The officials are being put through their paces to first assess the essential medical and humanitarian support and police and military assistance needed, and then to execute a strategy for getting assistance there quickly and efficiently.

Key to such planning has been the formation of District Security Committees (DSC), which meet on a need-to basis to devise strategies, and District Operation Committees (DOC), which focus on implementation. It is hoped that such committees will create consensus, build trust and allow for quicker, more reliable communication amongst the different agencies and services on both the local and national level. Such communication and coordination also provides a mechanism to swiftly knock down rumours and misinformation.

The training has now occurred and, will be on-going, in all 13 Districts in East Timor. It was initiated in the aftermath of the March violence in Baucau and Viqueque, when it became apparent that better communication, planning and coordination were needed to respond to emergencies and civil unrest, particularly in the run-up to the elections. According to Major General Roger Powell - who as Deputy Commander of the Peacekeeping Force oversaw the training exercise in Maliana, as well as the other 12 districts - the District Security Committees, as part of the National Security Framework, will continue to function beyond UNTAET's mission in East Timor.

As for those two training scenarios in Maliana - the bus crash and the civil disturbance - the teams devised their responses in quick order. Perhaps that's because only 48 hours earlier they had been put to the real test when dozens of Timorese were injured and several killed by a grenade tossed into a market on the border. >



Photo by OCPI/UNTAET

Bishop Belo calls for peace and tolerance at the signing ceremony of the National Unity Pact. Thousands turned up to witness political parties commit to peace during the electoral period.

Anti-Violence Cartoon





News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs News Briefs

CNRT Dissolution "Politically Courageous"

Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello called the dissolution of the East Timor resistance umbrella organization CNRT "a difficult and painful decision, but a politically courageous, wise and timely one."

"It is rare in history that a national liberation movement decides to dissolve itself and give the power to the people," said Vieira de Mello. He was addressing thousands of people who had gathered at the Dili Municipal Stadium on 10 June for the official ceremony that ended the organization's existence.

"CNRT has taught the world an important lesson," he added. "Even in the most difficult circumstances a people that is united and organized is able to go through the most terrible times and conquer the right of self-determination."

Mr. Vieira de Mello further said that the Transitional Administration would do its utmost to assist former CNRT members applying for positions within the Civil Service. UNDP and the World Bank have pledged to finance training programs designed to help former CNRT staff pursue new careers.

The ceremony, in which the CNRT flag was lowered, was attended by the organization's President Xanana Gusmão, CNRT Vice President José Ramos-Horta, Deputy Transitional Administrator Jean-Christian Cady, Cabinet members, diplomats and other dignitaries.

CNRT was created in 1998 and formally dissolved on 7 June after a three-day extraordinary conference in Dili. The conference decided to set up a veteran's association, which will support vulnerable groups in East Timor.

First Formal Meeting of Electoral Commissioners

On 31 May, Acting Transitional

Administrator Jean-Christian Cady convened the first meeting of the Independent Electoral Commission.

The Commission consists of Indian Charles Rose, Australian Michael Maley, South Korean Bong-Scuk Sohn and East Timorese Jacinta Correia and Armino Maia. Mr. Sohn was elected chairperson of the Commission and Mr. Maia was elected vice chairperson.

After the meeting, the Commissioners held a press conference highlighting the main objective of the Independent Electoral Commission, which is to guarantee that the electoral process and its outcome reflects the will of the East Timorese people.

In response to questions from journalists, the Board of Commissioners stated that the Independent Electoral Commission is on track with preparations for elections on 30 August. They said part of their responsibility is to study the different objections that have been raised to the registration of political parties. It was clarified that once the study is completed the decision could be either to register the party or to reject their application.

Jacinta Correia is a Judge in the Appellate Court of Dili and one of the founders of East Timor Women's Network and was a member of the selection panel appointed by Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello to appoint members to the National Council.

Armino Maia is the Rector of the University of East Timor and held the position of Vice-Rector before the 1999 popular consultation.

The Independent Electoral Commission, comprised of three international and two East Timorese Commissioners, is responsible for the organization and conduct of the 30 August elections for the Constituent Assembly.

The Board will settle disputes

related to the electoral process, ensure respect for the electoral regulations and international standards for democratic election, and certify the election results and transmit them to the Secretary General through the SRSG.

Report of Post-UNTAET Working Group

The Working Group for Post-UNTAET Planning has produced its report on the needs for international civilian assistance to support an independent East Timorese administration after UNTAET's mandate comes to an end in January 2002.

The report makes 21 recommendations including a significant reduction in the overall number of international staff starting from the post-election period onwards. It recommends the need for experienced advisors within most of the specialized areas of government.

According to the report, International staff in the districts should be limited to two or three advisors in each district and international personnel should preferably speak Portuguese or Bahasa Indonesia. Arrangements should also be further investigated to encourage the return of skilled East Timorese expatriates to assume positions in government administration.

The Working group, chaired by the Head of the National Planning and Development Agency Emilia Pires, consists of eight representatives from the National Council, UNTAET/ETTA and UNDP. Half of the team is East Timorese.

SRSG Outlines Political Transition

On 15 June, during the Canberra donor conference, Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello outlined the plans for the political transition over the electoral period and beyond.

It was expected that from 15 Juli

those current Cabinet Members standing in the elections or actively participating in the campaign will vacate these appointed positions, which will then be temporarily occupied by the senior Timorese line managers from the relevant department.

Executive authority will remain vested in the Transitional Administrator by virtue of Security Council Resolution 1272 and exercised through the Cabinet. Since the National Council is also expected to dissolve at the start of the electoral campaign on 15 Juli, this "modified" Cabinet will continue to exercise authority and develop essential draft legislation, but only promulgate the most pressing and urgent laws. Most draft legislation would await referral to the Constituent Assembly or Independent Legislature. An "expanded Cabinet," which will reflect the outcome of the Constituent Assembly elections, is slated for appointment following the elections.

The new Cabinet will head a reorganized Transitional Administration, which will more closely reflect anticipated portfolio responsibilities in the future independent East Timorese government.

The Canberra meeting was aimed at discussing the political and administrative hand-over in East Timor two months ahead of the 30 August elections. In the main meeting, co-chaired by UNTAET and the World Bank, donors were set to review key issues affecting the political transition, the establishment of an effective East Timorese administration, fiscal sustainability and major challenges for economic and social development.

This international event follows meetings in Tokyo (December 1999), Lisbon (June 2000), Brussels (December 2000) and Dili (March 2001) where donors consistently demonstrated their support for East Timor and endorsed an international coordinated effort for the reconstruction and development of the devastated country in its transition to full independence. >



Political leaders sign the Pact of National Unity on July 8th at Lapangan Pramuka football ground. Fourteen political parties were represented at the ceremony witnessed by an estimated crowd of 15,000 people.

District News District News District News

Bobonaro

34 Suspected Militia Surrender to PKF

On 12 June, a security operation conducted by the PKF troops resulted in the surrender of 34 suspected militia members in and around the village of Lontama, 7 km south of Maliana town, Bobonaro District.

Late on 11 June, a former militia leader from the Bobonaro district voluntarily surrendered to the UN Civilian Police in Maliana and subsequently informed the Peacekeeping Force of more returnees and former militia who had returned from West Timor, Indonesia, to East Timor two days earlier.

An Australian Battalion company, assisted by Civilian Police and the UN's Military Observer Group, moved to the area of Atusi Saburai, Lontama and Molomic on the slopes of Lolo Mabitwa and established a security cordon.

The returnees and ex-militia were asked to come forward and submit to security and registration processes. In a highly peaceful operation a further 34 suspected ex-militia members surrendered to the Peacekeeping Force. Of the 34 people interviewed, six volunteered to cooperate further with the Peacekeeping Force and CivPol in ongoing security and law-and-order investigations. The rest were released to commence the process of reconciliation with the people of their villages.

"This has been an excellent outcome for East Timor and the reconciliation process. Until today, our dealings with ex-militia members had been violent. Hopefully, refugees and ex-militia members in West Timor will now see that the PKF, while very capable of dealing with violence, is more than willing to participate in a peaceful and secure returnee/reconciliation process," said Brigadier Ken Gillespie, PKF Sector West Commander.

Baucau

Independent Inquiry into Quelicai Violence

An Independent Commission of Inquiry into the violent events in Quelicai sub-district, Baucau district, has been established by the Transitional Administration.

The initiative follows suggestions from CNRT President Xanana Gusmão and Baucau District Administrator Marito Reis, who held meetings with local leaders and the population at the end of May. At the end of the meeting, Gusmão concluded that the case must be solved by local authority and by the law.

The aim of the inquiry is to evaluate the situation in the area and the actions taken by international and East Timorese with a view to better understanding the situation in Quelicai and preventing further disturbances.

The Commission, which held a first preparatory meeting on 1 June, is chaired by National Security Advisor Nici Dahrendorf and is comprised of members from the Civilian Police, the Peacekeeping Force, UN Military Observers and the District Administration, international and East Timorese representatives from the Divisions of Political Affairs and Human Rights.

Fighting between two groups erupted in Quelicai sub-district on 19 May and quickly escalated into clashes between people from two villages, resulting in at least 25 burned houses.

Chronicle of Quelicai Trouble

On 19 May: A fight broke out between two groups of youth in front of the church in Lakuliu. A teacher from Laisorulai tried to intervene and stop the fight, only to end up at the receiving end of the punches from the feuding groups. Slightly injured, the teacher then went back to his village, gathered his supporters and demanded that the village chief of Lakuliu produce the suspects so they could settle things the traditional way. Or else, he warned, he and his friends would burn the houses of Lakuliu village.

On 22 May: At the end of the three-day ultimatum, a meeting between the two sides was organized by the CivPol and Sub-district Coordinator of Quelicai. According to CivPol, some of the suspects surrendered in the subsequent days and five were under investigation. The leaders from both sides and a church representative attended the meeting. Both sides expressed animosity towards each other, threatening each other with machetes. The CivPol commander and Sub-district Coordinators of Quelicai tried to appease the two parties, but bad tempers ruled the day. There was a score that needed to be settled the traditional way, the people from Laisorulai insisted.

On 23 May: Three hundred people from Laisorulai, armed with machetes, split into two groups and attacked Lakuliu from two directions. It quickly developed into an out-of-control situation from the point of view of CivPol, RRU and PKF. In the end, 25 houses were burnt, two people were injured and four people were missing. Among the houses burnt were two local CivPols' houses, the village chief's and his relatives' houses, according to CivPol. Two schools were closed because of this problem and many villagers lost all their possessions in the fires.

Sector East Reconciliation Day

A "Reconciliation Day in Sector East" was held in Baucau District on 2 June. The ceremony took place at the Mercado building, Baucau Town. With support from UNHCR, the day was co-organized by the Baucau Diocese, Thai PKF, CivPol and UNTAET. It started in the early morning with a Fun Run and Mini-Marathon, chaired by PKF Commander Lt. General Boonsrang Niumpradit. A total of 526 runners participated, including Timorese people, Baucau District Administrator Mr. Marito Reis, UNTAET staff, Thai PKF, Korean BATT, PHIL BATT, Baucau CivPol District Commander and his contingents, and the RRU.

In his opening speech, the Sector East Commander stated that the Fun Run and Mini-Marathon are not only intended to celebrate Reconciliation Day, but are also a great opportunity for the Timorese people and UNTAET personnel to come together. It was also a good occasion to collect contributions for the Baucau Sports Center, raising a total of AU\$886.55.

The second programme involved a painting and drawing contest, with reconciliation as theme, for students from SMPK Misi-Baucau, SMPN I Tirilolo-Baucau, SMPN III Tirilolo-Baucau, and SMPN IV Triloka. The highlight of the day was the Sector East Song and Drama Contest, which lasted from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The contestants were the 12 winning groups at the

District level Reconciliation Song Contest in Baucau, Manatuto, Viqueque and Lautem. A group from Manatuto won first prize, followed by a group from Viqueque (second prize), a group from Baucau (third prize) and a group from Lautem (fourth prize). Prizes included a stereo set, double microphones, tapes and a certificate.



Photo by OCP/UNTAET

Santo Antonio, Pray for Us

In Baucau Old Town, around 500 people decked in beautiful traditional dresses participated in the Saint Antonio parade from the Church to Buruma Village on 12 June. The ceremony is organized once a year in order to protect people from disease, danger and bad luck. It is also considered the best occasion for the East Timorese people to pray for peace and happiness in their villages and families.



Photo by OCP/UNTAET

UN Medal Parade for RRU JOR Contingent

"The heart is beating and eager to touch this bronze medal which will constitute our pride regarding this mission," Major Rakad Alhietat, Rapid Reaction Unit Jordan Commander, said as he received the UN medal on behalf of his contingent on 11 June. One hundred and twenty members of the RRU Jordan recently completed a five-month assignment in Baucau.

Dili

Empowering persons with disabilities

Activities aimed at empowering persons with disabilities are now in full swing in Dili. About 50 persons participated in the latest meeting organized by Dili District Social Affairs on 5 June, including 30 persons with disabilities (PWDs). Participants were informed of the programmes for PWDs, as well as employment and training opportunities available to them. Dili Social Affairs is also assisting PWDs in other ways - facilitating the production of radio programmes by and for persons with disabilities, providing transport to schoolchildren with disabilities (with a bus donated by UNICEF), organizing workshops on active rehabilitation for wheelchair users, organising workshops and language training, and registering PWDs to identify their specific needs.

Comoro Youth Centre Inaugurated

The Community Youth Training and Resource Center located in Comoro was inaugurated on 25 May. Dili District Administration has been working on this project in partnership with Save the Children, US Support Group in East Timor (USGET), Don Bosco Technical School and Suco Malinamok. USGET rehabilitated the building and donated some office equipment. British Petroleum donated 10 computers. The centre will host capacity building activities for children, the youth and the women of the Malinamok community, starting with a computer training programme. Another planned activity is the village management training by UNICEF for Chiefs of Sucos and Aldeias of Zona Don Aleixo.

Manufahi

The Road to Independence Will Not Be Easy - Cabinet Minister Pesoa

"We face difficult times, and after the Independence we will have many difficulties," Cabinet Member Ana Pesoa told the local leaders and ETTA representatives during her working visit to Manufahi District in early June.

Internal Administration Minister Pesoa explained that UNTAET is working hard on "Timorization," a process that aims to establish a fully functional civil service managed entirely by East Timorese, but it is up to the East Timorese people to choose the best among themselves to be public servants. She added that an independent East Timor will have a small public administration, and that civil service will be a sacrifice position in the first years of independence.

The Cabinet Member went on to say that independence will also mean paying taxes, as well as bills for public utilities like electricity. The donor countries will not be around to help East Timor forever, she added.

"All the East Timorese together can solve the problems of our country. We will continue working together until the Day of Independence, calmly, securely and with faith, knowing that there will be many difficulties to reach the development that we need," she said.

Ermera

China donates agricultural equipment

Ermera District received a donation of agricultural equipment from the Chinese government on 8 June. The equipment included 12 hand tractors, eight grain blowers, eight hand sprayers, eight mist dusters, three wheelbarrows, eight rice mills, eight electric thrashers and several ploughs. The materials will be distributed to the sub-districts based on the population of farmers' groups. The donation is a good boost to the agriculture sector in Ermera.

In other agriculture news, the USAID-funded National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) has resumed purchasing red-cherry coffee in some parts of Ermera District. They are not picking up the produce from the roadside or fields as in the past, but asking the farmers to deliver it to their processing plants. The price offered increased from Rp 1200 to Rp 1400 per kilogram.

Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) is also currently assisting coffee farmers in Lihu village (Railako sub-district) by providing two coffee pulping machines and a concrete drying floor to each of the four communities in Lihu village. PWJ is also assisting a women's group from the community in operating a coffee processing business.

District News District News District News



New District Administrator

Mr. Victor dos Santos and Mr. Saturnino Babo Exposto have been appointed as Ermera's new DA and Deputy DA, respectively. Mr. Dos Santos, 51, is a former schoolteacher. In the handing-over ceremony, outgoing Acting DA Mr. Noor Jadmani assured the new Timorese DA and DDA of the "full support of all Internationals working in Ermera District." Mr. Dos Santos, for his part, thanked the UN and UNTAET staff in Ermera for the good job performed so far. He stressed the necessity for collaboration between UNTAET and the locals, because "without any collaboration, the job cannot be done."

110 refugees return to Ermera district

Ermera District warmly welcomed 110 returning refugees in early June. Out of 26 families who returned, only four were able to move back to their own houses, because all the others' houses had been destroyed in the September 1999 violence. The families without shelter found accommodation either with relatives or those occupying habitable houses belonging to



people still living in West Timor. Malabe village (in the Atsabe subdistrict), where the refugees are originally from, was deserted for a long time as most of the population was relocated to West Timor.

Countryside in Focus

Agricultural Rehabilitation Project

The US\$21 million Agriculture Rehabilitation Project (ARP) funded by the World Bank will soon start with a nationwide information campaign to be implemented by Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI), an Italian NGO, in partnership with Timorese NGOs Ema Tau Mata Dacam Ba Desenvolvimento (ETADEP) and Fundasaun Amizade Timor (FAT).

Beginning in July, CESVI is holding a series of traditional cultural events and workshops in the districts to disseminate general information on the three-year project. The campaign will focus on the three components of ARP:

The first component will consist of a national vaccination campaign to immu-

nize livestock against infectious diseases and provision of emergency clinical services (See related story: "Pigs Vaccinated in Bobonaro"), provision of chicks to 20,000 rural families, distribution of buffalo and Bali cattle and distribution of simple hand tools to rural people.

Rehabilitation and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure and agricultural access roads will be the focus of the second component while the final component will aim at establishing Pilot Agriculture Services Centers (PASCs).



Pigs Vaccinated in Bobonaro

Under the priority asset restoration component of the Agriculture Rehabilitation Project, the vaccination of pigs against infectious diseases such as cholera started in Bobonaro on June 11.

The Project Management Unit has provided 35,000 doses of vaccine for the 30-day vaccination campaign. Two veterinarians were trained and hired for the job under the supervision of the Livestock Management Office. The veterinarians will also collect livestock population data from each village and sub-village to help plan for livestock production in the future.

Australia East Timor Rural Development Programme

A rural development project will be implemented by AusAID in Bobonaro, Aileu and Viqueque districts by September this year. Before the 1999 Consultation, these districts had the highest poverty levels in East Timor, based on the 1999 SUSENAS Indonesian annual socio-economic survey.

The Australia East Timor Rural Development Programme is projected to cost AUS\$18 million for a period of four years. By increasing the productivity and profitability of their economic activities, it aims to achieve sustainable improvement in the incomes and food security of the rural population of East Timor.

Under the programme, selected communities will receive assistance in improving crop yields, animal husbandry and post-harvest storage. Disposable household income will also be increased through the sale of surplus agricultural produce like rice, corn, vegetables, fruit, fish, eggs, chickens, pork, as well as through secondary income-generating activities such as weaving, pottery, brick making, and blacksmithing, particularly during the dry season when agricultural activity is at a low.

The project emphasizes the active involvement of women and women's groups in financially viable activities.

AusAID has invited bids from Australian management consultants for the project's implementation. The short-listed bidders visited Bobonaro District in mid-June to help design a realistic implementation plan. AusAID will eventually select one Australian management consultant for the job. The target is to have a functioning Regional Project Office in Bobonaro District by September. >

International Voices

What are we doing about Street Children?



Anna Korula, Social Affairs Head, Dili District

From the government point of view, the street children phenomenon is relatively new in East Timor and the incident is highest in Dili. From the children's behavior, you can see that they're new to it, that they're not like hardened street children in other countries. Their whole approach is quite innocent-this is my personal impression.

Which is all the more reason we should do something about it before it becomes a hard and fast, established phenomenon. We've been aware of this problem and trying to do something about it.

Very soon, the property will be allocated to serve as a temporary home for street children. I am already writing the memo about this. We have donors like UNICEF who have

committed to give the money for the building and furniture; the PKF has agreed to do the painting and bricking. We're constantly looking for funding opportunity for a day-care center for 60-70 homeless children. For the interim period, we want them to have a place to sleep, a night-time facility or overnight shelter for homeless kids, so we're also trying to raise money for this as well as the possibility of offering a permanent program and place for street children. I personally think it's wrong for them to sleep on the street. It's better if they can be with community, family,



Faith Harding, Senior Adviser for Cabinet Member for Social Affairs

The more children are in the street, the more possibility there is for them to get

involved in activities of questionable nature. I'm not dealing with the issue officially but as a personal commitment. A committee - consisting of Social Affairs, Dili District, NICEF, Forum Komunikasi, OCPI, Salesian Sisters, WFP, Australian Battalion-was formed last year to look into the matter. The Salesian sisters and Forum Komunikasi started providing activities for street children. The Australian Battalion is involved in a project through a feeding program on Friday afternoons. I was able to contact an entrepreneur and a community in Melbourne, Australia who have committed to help us provide a home for these kids until they can be placed with their families. In August, the team from Australia will come to complete and furnish the building for street children.

We don't want to institutionalize street children, but we should get them off the street before the eagles of the streets take over their lives. We also need to protect them from the elements-from sun and rain, as well as criminal elements.



Cipriano Oliveira, Forum Komunikas, Secretary for youth commission of Diocese Dili Constitutional Commission

During the Indonesian times, in 1997 when we started, our group Forum Komunikasi focused on trainings for young people. After the referendum, when we came back, we decided that the first problem we should address is the street children-some of them, we saw, slept in front of shops. After 1999, a lot of families ended up separated or without means of livelihood, and many young people ended up as street children.

Since May 2000, Forum Komunikasi has been holding regular activities for street children. We used to gather the street children in front of World Vision once a week, every Friday afternoon, and teach them to play guitar, draw, write, make handicraft. We also gave them food for three months.

Voices of Timor Lorosa'e

Street Children, what to do with them?



International Voices continued

More than 500 children came the first time we invited them. Then from 24-30 December, we held a Christmas camp, and that was when we selected the children who didn't have families or homes, who were still out in the streets by 8 or 9 p.m. We selected 120 of them for further interview. These ones were really street children.

Our regular activity for street children is still ongoing. Dili District and other organizations are trying to find a big, permanent place for us. The streetchildren still come, although some of them are now busy with other moneymaking activities like washing cars, selling phone cards, etc.

We always monitor them—how they feel, what they're doing, if they're in trouble, etc. We also try to have relations with their families, as some of them are runaways, in the hope of sending them back to their families.

Recently, we learned that we could send some of them to Fuiloro (Dom Bosco) in Los Palos for educational opportunities.

Eventually, we would like to have a big, permanent place to serve as a centre for street children, a safe house and, at the same time, a place where we can develop their skills.

Should street children be given money?

UNICEF, CIVPOL and various departments within UNTAET have been concerned about a recent upsurge in the number of street children in Dili. There is some concern among internationals about incidents of harassment, even assault, by a few of the street children who demand to clean and provide security for parked vehicles. The increase in the number of street children is, ironically, believed to be encouraged by internationals, themselves, who too readily give money to the children. UNICEF's position is that internationals and Timorese should not give money to the street children (though food is okay) as it encourages such activity. The children's organization suggests instead that money be donated directly to the non-profit institutions that are working to support such kids.

The Dili District's Legal Affairs, Social Affairs and Human Rights Offices, along with local NGOs including Forum Komunikasi, are spearheading street children campaigns that seek to protect children from various ailments of street life. In addition, a public awareness programme is in the works to explore the psychological impact of children regarding handouts of money.



João Dos Santos
Vendor
Bairopite

These kids should be going to school or taking computer or English or Portuguese language classes instead of running around in the streets. They are too young for that, to even look for a job. I know that in some cases the parents do not care for their children and the importance of them having a career. They do not understand what will happen to their children and by the time they do it will be too late.



Filomeno Ramos
Vendor
Manumetan rai Hun

I am selling oranges because I had no money to stay at school. I know that I should be at school and not trying to make money but reality is that no one in my family has a job. It is very hard but I still have dreams of one day becoming like Mr. Xanana Gusmão.



Olivo Martins
Unemployed
Bebora

I also have children and I cannot afford to send them to school. I have no money to pay for their tuition especially now that all school only accepts America Dollars. Where can I find this sort of money to pay for my children schooling? I realise that schooling is very important because our children will be the future leaders. But you also know that we do not have jobs. Whenever I try and find a job they ask me if I speak English. That's not on.



Maria Marques
Vendor
Bairopite

I feel that many people are not sending their children to school. Reality is that these children have many problems at home. I heard from my neighbours that they don't send their children to school anymore because they have no jobs and no one else who they can send to work. Therefore their children do whatever jobs they find so that they can have some money.



Anna da Cruz
Housewife
Dili

Yes I want to talk about street kids. I think that they are not going to school because they can get money from selling things like newspapers, recharge cards, CD's and also from changing money on the streets. You just have to go past the Obrigado Barracks and you will see many children washing cars for money instead of going to school and they are happy about it. What they don't know it that whatever they are enjoying now will not last forever. On the other hand maybe they don't have any other choice. It is up to the leaders to do something about this.



Julio da Silva
Carpenter
Taibesi

I am a simple person and that is why I ask that our leaders take care of the street children. Especially orphans who have no one to keep an eye on them. In the case of some children, their father or mother might have died in the recent events. I try and tell parents to keep an eye on their children and to support them and encourage them to get an education because it will be good for their future.



Celestina de Orliança
Vendor
Aitarak Iaran

I believe that these kids are not going to school because their parents have no money to support them. Sometimes there are many problems within the family including financial. My neighbour knows me and what I do so that I have some money. I make money out of selling vegetables so that I can pay for my children's school because I realise how education will be important for their future.



Eusebio Soares
Unemployed
Bairopite

I know that many children are not going to school because their families are going through a difficult time. One day I was going for a job interview when some kids came to ask me for a job. I told them that at that age they should be at school and not looking for a job. And that is the only way to earn some real money in the future.



Margarida dos Santos
Vendor
Hudi Iaran

I was very sorry to do what I did but I had to take my children off the school because I cannot support them by myself. My husband is already old and can no longer work.



Higinia da Costa
Monteiro
Police Officer
Dili

We now have a new nation and in this new nation we will need capable people who will be able to move the nation forward. About the street children, I believe that they should be going to school because they will eventually take over this nation. But I understand why they are not in school. First there is the financial problem, and because of high unemployment some families cannot send their children to school. I ask that if anyone reading this can help to contact our leader in Education to address the problem of street children.

Dili Market Relocation Underway

The long-planned relocation of vendors from the overcrowded Central Market in Dili to the new markets in the neighborhoods of Becora, Comoro and Taibessi, finally took off on 11 June, as vendors cleared their sites to move stalls and market goods.

"We're doing okay," Dili District Administrator Ruben Joao Braz de Carvalho told Tais Timor on the third day of the operation. Carvalho cited a few problems, such as unregistered vendors settling in the Comoro market and some vendors complaining about the size of their stalls. "Overall, however, everything is going on as planned, and the Dili District Administration is dealing with the problems accordingly," Mr. Carvalho added.

At the time of this interview, 228 vendors who signed agreements or registered for a space in Becora market have occupied their allocated space in Becora market. Some of the vendors have also started erecting stalls and clearing their sites at the Comoro market, but the operation for Comoro was temporarily put on hold until the Dili District Administration sorted out



What was once pure chaos has finally been cleared. It took time for the idea to sink in, but the market vendors have moved to three new markets in Dili.

the illegal or unregistered vendors from the legitimate ones. The rest of the vendors will be moved to the new market in Taibessi as soon as all the sites are marked.

The market in Taibessi has been refurbished under the budget of the Transitional Administration. The reconstruction is being carried out by the Bangladeshi contingent of the Peacekeeping Force.

The markets in Becora and Comoro, meanwhile, have been refurbished under

the auspices of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japanese NGO Adventist Development Relief Agency. Works undertaken include the repair and reconstruction of roofed stall areas, construction of tiled benches, installation and repair of drains, and paving parking areas.

"The idea behind the move is that improved and more secure conditions at Becora, Comoro and Taibessi markets will act as magnets to decentralize economic activity in Dili."

The idea behind the move is that improved and more secure conditions at Becora, Comoro and Taibessi markets will act as magnets to decentralize economic activity in Dili.

"Dili is the capital of Timor, and this is the gate to enter from the outside world. The Central Market was located in the centre of Dili, and many new vendors are coming from all the other districts. When I came in February, we found out that the number of vendors had increased significantly from 2,500 as of late last year to 6,000 vendors. If we have only one market, traditional economic activity will be centralized-others would have to come so far from their houses just to buy goods. We decided to decentralize the market to

help the community," Mr. Carvalho said. The DA also cited health and environmental reasons for the move, as well as traffic and security problems resulting from the chaotic state of the Central Market.

The relocation is projected to end by mid-July. "By that time, the Central Market will be gone. We'll clean it and put fences around the area. We'll provide the best facilities, bigger sites and better security in the new markets. We will also assist and organize the vendors' association," Mr. Carvalho said. >



Photo by OCP/UNIAET

King of Jordan Comes Calling

A rousing welcome awaited King Abdullah II of Jordan as he touched down at Baucau airport for a short visit to East Timor on June 22. Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello, Cabinet Member for Foreign Affairs Jose Ramos-Horta and Force Commander Lt. Gen. Boonsrang Niumpradit were on hand to welcome the monarch upon his arrival.

After inspecting the Jordanian Rapid Response Unit in Baucau, King Abdullah II flew to Oecussi to meet with the JORBATT Peacekeeping contingent based there. During the four-hour visit, the King also held talks with Mr. Vieira de Mello and Mr. Ramos-Horta.

Jordan's 800 soldiers represent the third largest peacekeeping contingent in East Timor. It was also the first country to deploy a full battalion in the Oecussi enclave.

"Jordan is a great supporter of UN peace-keeping efforts worldwide," Mr. Vieira de Mello told Tais Timor. "The King's visit was a great success. He promised continued assistance to East Timor," he added.

Mr. Ramos-Horta said the monarch promised to consider visiting East Timor during independence. The King also offered scholarships for East Timorese medical students to study in Jordan, he said. "King Abdullah II will be a great emissary for East Timor in the Gulf region," Mr Ramos-Horta told Tais Timor. >

World's newest defence force

With the countdown to full independence fast approaching, East Timor is building a small defence force to protect its territorial integrity. Already, 15 donor nations are actively supporting the training and equipment needs of the world's newest defence force.

After a four-month basic training course in Alieu, 247 cadets were inducted into the East Timor Defence Force (ETDF) on 21 June during the first ever graduation ceremony for the defence staff. The graduating class consisted of 68 officers, 130 sergeants, and 49 privates.

The next basic training, for 348 inductees, is scheduled to begin in mid-July at the ETDF's new, \$2.5 million military training centre in Metinaro which was inaugurated by UN Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello on 26 June.

Earlier this year the armed Falintil independence movement that vigorously fought the Indonesian occupation was demobilized and became the core of the new East Timor Defence Force.

A two-day donor conference held in Dili in the last week of June pledged continued support to East Timor's defence

needs. The areas of support offered include personnel, training, logistics, and equipment and material. The conference was attended by United States, Australia and 13 other countries from Southeast Asia, Europe, and Africa. East Timor has already earmarked \$1.6 million in its current annual budget for purchase of arms for its defence force.

Addressing the donor conference Brigadier General Taur Matan Ruak alluded to the past struggle of Falintil soldiers. He said the formation of ETDF could not have been completed in such a short time had it not been for the experience shared by the recent graduates "of a past struggle, of discipline, and the committed conviction of a just cause." He stressed that ETDF would be a professional and non-partisan force that would submit itself to the democratically elected political power.

According to current thinking, the ETDF will eventually consist of 1,500 regulars and another 1,500 reservists. Although East Timor has no major security concerns, anti-independence militias still occasionally harass the international peace-keepers along the border between East and West Timor. >



Photo by OCP/UNIAET

Tiu answers questions about... Tolerance

Hello my friends, I hope you are all well. Time seems to pass so quickly nowadays. It seems like the registration process started only yesterday, and now it's over as of 22 June. To think that we as a nation have really embraced this process - more than 737,811 East Timorese have registered. Amazing! But now that registration has ended, I want to talk to you about another important issue, which is tolerance. On 15 July, the political parties and individual candidates will start campaigning and all of us will be heading toward the ballot boxes for our first democratic elections. What will happen during the elections, calm debate or violent confrontation - that's a question that's on everyone's mind. Just the other day I met up with my friends, Carla and Paulo, to speak about the issue of tolerance. Tolerance of what? Tolerance of whom? These were just some of the questions we discussed. Oh, and I don't need to tell you who else was there - Maria, my 14-year-old niece, who likes to join me for these get-togethers.

Tiu: Hello Carla and Paulo. Sorry I am a bit late. Maria, say hello to Carla and Paulo.

Maria: Hello Sra. Carla and Sr. Paulo.

Carla: Hello Maria, how are you?

Paulo: Hello Tiu and Maria. So Tiu, what are we talking about today?

Tiu: I wanted to speak to you two - I mean, three - about tolerance.

Maria: What does tolerance mean, Tiu?

Tiu: Maria, you always want to know everything don't you? But I'm glad you do. I wish more of us, young and old, had so much curiosity.

Maria: But what does it mean, Tiu?

Tiu: Just a minute, Maria. Give an old man a chance.

Maria: But Tiu, I'm anxious to know!

Tiu: Well, there you go. Have a little patience - patience, that's a big part of being tolerant. Basically, Maria, it is the ability to live harmoniously with the people around you. Other people may have different views on politics, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or whatever. We can disagree with them, but we need to respect other people's differences and learn how to get along without resorting to insults or violence.

Carla: Tiu, I think your words went over Maria's head. She looks a little puzzled.

Tiu: Okay, then, let's look at it from a different perspective. Let's talk about tolerance by explaining what intolerance is.

Maria: Now there you go, changing the subject again! Stop speaking like a Lia Nain (Keeper of the Word) and go straight to the point.

Carla: Maria, try to be patient. There are many ways of explaining things. Tiu is just trying to make us see what tolerance is by showing us what it is not. Listen and you'll soon understand.

Paulo: One more thing, Maria - don't dismiss the Lian Nains so easily. The words they use are specially chosen, and they carry the wisdom of our ancestors.

Tiu: Thank you, Carla and Paulo. And speaking of intolerance, Maria, your behaviour is something I am witnessing in many of our youths. They are becoming so restless and impatient and it gets them into all sorts of trouble. It's sad to see this happening, but then it's inevitable to an extent.

Carla: Why is it inevitable, Tiu?

Tiu: Well, let's look at this in context. Our country has gone through tremendous changes over these past two years. We've had to rebuild from scratch and adapt to a new reality. Before, we had a common goal, and struggled to survive as a nation and as a people. But now that we've achieved that goal, we're faced with an even bigger challenge. The old enemy is gone, but a lot of anger and frustration remains.

Paulo: But Tiu, we fought for so long and so many of us died, and now it seems that there is no recognition of that sacrifice. It's not fair.

Tiu: Remember, Paulo, we all did what we had to. No one forced us to fight and oppose the Indonesian rule. We did it because we believed that we were being subjected to unfairness and indignity in our own nation. So we fulfilled our duty to our nation and to our ancestors.

But the reality is that many of us had overly high expectations that everything would be perfect once we voted in 1999. We had all made sacrifices and suffered losses during the war - some more than others, of course. But my point here is that some of the frustration is understandable, it's just bad that it leaks out in anger and in violence. We need to look more to the future not just the difficulties of today.

Maria: This is boring.

Tiu: Please, Maria, that's enough.

Paulo: What makes people intolerant, Tiu?

Tiu: All kinds of things. Today in East Timor, we have so many issues to face. Many of us are putting our lives and our homes back together, but this takes time. Things have become more expensive, but work is harder to find. On top of this, we have the responsibility to build a new nation and become part of the bigger world. All of this put together can make people impatient and frustrated, or to see themselves as disadvantaged.

Maria: So they become intolerant of others?

Tiu: Yes, Maria, sometimes, particularly when they think, usually wrongly, that their personal or national security is being threatened. People can react in a negative way -- be it toward internationals in East Timor, the Diaspora East Timorese who return to work, or refugees returning home from West Timor, for example.

Carla: What about the young people? How can they vent their frustrations and anger? These youth grew up in the middle of the conflict, surrounded by violence - imagine what that can do to a young mind.

Tiu: Today's youth needs to know the value of being tolerant. Violence is not the way to solve problems-it only creates more violence. We need to communicate and work together with these kids to find solutions, even if sometimes it seems impossible.

Maria: What advantages are there in being tolerant? It sounds to me that if you

are tolerant you just let everyone walk all over you.

Tiu: Not necessarily, Maria. When you act with tolerance you can be strong but still have communication, which is the best way to deal with conflict. Options to resolve the situation present themselves over time. With intolerance you might achieve some short-term fulfillment, but ultimately it closes any possibility to resolve disputes, and it usually makes things worse. In a tolerant society, there is less fear, hostility and violence, because you can talk freely. On the other hand, in an intolerant society the doors of communication close - you cannot have a dialogue or make any progress. This can lead to frustration, despair and violence. Do you see the difference?

Maria: I am starting to Tiu, but can we talk about it some more on the way home?

Paulo: As you said before Tiu, it is a complex issue. But I would like to live in a society where we are free to talk openly, and if someone does not agree with me they can talk to me so we can try to find a middle ground.

Carla: I think this will be very important during the upcoming elections. Imagine more than a dozen political parties and numerous independent candidates, all with different ideas. We must keep the channels of communication open!

Tiu: Yes, that is absolutely right. And I am glad to see that you agree with me. To me, tolerance is about common sense and treating others the same as you would like to be treated. I like being heard, but for that I also must learn to listen to others.

Maria: Can we go home now, Tiu?

Tiu: Or course, Maria, you've been very patient.

Well, my friends, I hope you have followed our conversation about tolerance and that you too agree that tolerance is the foundation upon which a democratic Timor Lorosa'e should be built. It is something we need to remember, because it is the best guarantee of liberty, the rule of law and the protection of all of our citizens. Until next time, think about it... Ciao. >

Timor Lorosa'e yang Saya Impikan:

Timor Lorosa'e yang Saya Impikan:

Masa depan negara anda berada dalam tangan anda sendiri. Kalian adalah pemimpin masa depan. Visi dan mimpi serta aspirasi anda akan membentuk dan menata masa depan negara anda dan rakyatnya. Pada saat Timor Lorosa'e bergerak untuk mencapai kemerdekaan penuh, Tais Timor mengundang generasi muda Timor Timur, baik pria maupun wanita, siapa saja yang berusia 25 tahun atau lebih muda, untuk menulis artikel sepanjang 700 hingga 1000 kata dalam bahasa Tetun atau Inggris, mengenai harapan anda dan keluarga anda, masyarakat anda dan negara yang kini bergerak ke arah kemerdekaan penuh pada tahun 2002.

Tenggat Waktu: 25 Agustus

Hadiah akan diberikan kepada pemenang pertama, kedua dan ketiga dari sayembara ini dan karangan terbaik akan dimuat dalam edisi Tais Timor. Karangan terbaik kedua dan ketiga akan dipasang di papan pengumuman diseluruh Timor Timur.

Kirimlah karangan anda kepada Redaksi, Tais Timor, Unit Publikasi di Pusat Informasi di Kaikoli (bekas gedung RRI) sebelum tanggal 15 Juli 2001. Tulisan anda juga dapat diserahkan kepada Petugas Informasi Umum di markas besar Distrik.

Untuk informasi lebih lanjut mengenai sayembara ini, hubungi Ghelly Corte-Real atau Domingos Freitas pada nomor telepon 0407396131.

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, CulturePogram, Special Reports, Children Programming, Documentaries, MTV, Soccer. See Schedule in 12-25 March Issue of Tais Timor.



Photo by OCPI/UNTAET



The East Timor Defense Force, the world's newest such force, is born as the first batch of cadets were inducted on 21 June, during the first-ever graduation ceremony. Old revolutionaries never die, they just become the core of their newly independent country's defense force.



Photo by OCPI/UNTAET

Heroes in Action!

In flight!

A crowd always gathers around a UN flights as they come and go in the districts. It's good to be popular, but all of us should spread the word of the potential danger in such fun.

Photo by OCPI/UNTAET



Essay Competition see page 15 for details

Erratum: The song that East Timor used for the Arafura Games was a Hymn commissioned for the purpose by the Confederation of Sports. Foho Ramelau is not the national anthem of East Timor. East Timor's national anthem is one of the things that will be decided by the soon-to-be-elected Constituent Assembly. Our apologies.




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: Jin 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)