



# Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

Volume II, Edition VI

June 2009

*Local Governance as the key to Development*

## Local Government laws under discussion in the National Parliament

In the beginning of June the National Parliament started to discuss the set of three Local Government laws submitted by the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MAEOT).

Following the approval of the law for the Suco Elections, the law on Administrative and Territorial Management of Timor-Leste was already approved and is waiting Promulgation by the President of the Republic, Dr. José Ramos-Horta.

The organic law on Local Government and the municipality law are currently being discussed in the National Parliament.

The approval of these laws are an important step for the decentralization process and towards the creation and development of the municipalities in Timor-Leste.

A Local Government dissemination campaign will be launched to explain the decentralization process as a means to promote an effective and



Photo: Thaiza Castilho, UNCDF

*Dr. José Realí, legal adviser, Dr. Arcangelo Leite, Minister of State Administration, and Mr. Miguel de Carvalho, Director of DNDLOT at the National Parliament during the local government law discussion*

equal provision of services for the people in order to strengthen economic and social development.

"We are expecting that the three laws will be promulgated by the end of July or the beginning of August. Once this process is finalized, the Government

can start a massive communication campaign to inform the citizens about the establishment of the municipality in the country", said Miguel de Carvalho Pereira, National Director of Local Development and Territorial Management (DNDLOT).

## Name and Quotation

**Ms. Susanne Kuehn** is the new Chief Technical Adviser for the Local Governance Support Programme



Susanne Kuehn is a German national who holds Master's Degrees in Public Policy & Administration and in Development Policy & Cooperation. She has been working on decentralization, local governance and poverty reduction issues over the past 10 years and held positions with UNDP headquarters, UNDP Ecuador, the World Bank, German bilateral development cooperation and development consulting firms.

Having worked across Africa, Asia and

Latin America she has extensive experience in decentralization and local governance and will be of great assistance to the Local Governance Support Programme.

"I believe that once the laws on local governance are approved it will be a great chance to improve the country's development. Joining the Local Governance Support Programme of this time is a great opportunity to support decentralization in Timor-Leste", she said.



## MAEOT distributes communication materials in four districts

The technical team of the National Direction of Local Development and Territorial Management (DNDLOT) from the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management organized a program to disseminate information about the decentralization process to the community and local leaders in Baucau, Bobonaro, Dili and Oé-cusse during May and June.

The objective of this program is to raise awareness on the decentralization process with local leaders, political parties, teachers and the community in the districts identified to establish the first phase of the municipalities.

Mr. Gaspar da Silva, team coordinator, states that "the community has the right to know about the functions that will be delegated or devolved to the municipalities, and through this process the government will be closer to the population and will respond quicker to the needs of the people".

The main concerns in the four districts differ depending on the region: in Oé-cusse the



Photo: Duarte dos Santos, MAEOT

Population of Maliubu, in Bobonaro sub-district, watch the video during the dissemination campaign

people raised the issue of human resources to occupy high positions once the municipalities are established, on the other hand, in Baucau the main concern is to ensure that the development can reach all levels of the population.

More than 3000 people from 167 sucos in the four districts participated in these meetings and received communication materials designed specific to explain the decentralization process. These activities are expected to continue once the law is approved in the National Parliament.

## MAEOT and UNCDF support technical mission

During the month of June the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MAEOT) received a technical mission, supported by UNCDF and UNDP's Local Governance Support Programme.

The mission team was composed by Mr. Mike Winter, Team Leader, Mr. Jesper Steffensen (budget issues), and Mr. Gerhard Van't Land (sectoral function assignments).

This mission provided technical recommendations in relation to which functional assignments should be transferred to newly created municipalities as part of the decentralization process. The team of consultants also made recommendations to

implications for the structure of municipalities as well as the municipal budget.

As an outcome of in-depth discussions with various ministries, it was agreed that the Ministries of Health, Ministry of Infrastructure and Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management, with support of the team of consultants, would identify and outline detailed steps to be taken by each ministry for devolving and delegating functions to municipalities as well as budget implications for the health, water and sanitation sectors, and the set-up of the municipalities.



Photo: João Santos, UNCDF

The elaboration of the strategy papers will be instrumental for outlining specific steps for the implementation of the decentralization process in these sectors, once the local government laws have been approved by Parliament.

Technical support mission team in a meeting with the Director of DNDLOT, Mr. Miguel de Carvalho Pereira

### Brief Information

#### In June:

- Second district assembly meeting
- Mission to discuss planning and budget
- Monitoring of Civic Education Campaign in Los Palos

Local Government as the key to Development



Ministério da  
Administração Estatal e  
Ordenamento do  
Território

Rua Jacinto Candido

Dili, Timor-Leste

Phone: 3317202

E-mail: [komunikasaun@estatal.gov.tl](mailto:komunikasaun@estatal.gov.tl)

#### Support provided by:

Local Governance Support Programme and

