



# Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

Volume III, 7th Edition  
October 2010

Local Government as the Key to Development

## PRIME MINISTER MEETS DISTRICT OFFICERS, CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



**Dili, 19 October 2010**— The MSATM held its quarterly regular meeting with the District Administrators and Officers to hear about the progress of the Local Development Plan (LDP) and the Decentralization Development Package (DDP).

The purpose of the regular meetings is to create an opportunity for the different districts to exchange experiences, concerns and successes faced during the LDP and DDP implementation. For the first time since this consultation was established, the Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao attended the meeting interacting with the different District Representatives.

“To develop our nation we all need to put our efforts, and the District Administrators and all the staff in the districts have a very important role on this - said the Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao. -

Some people complain and criticize your job, but this is actually a good sign because it means that they are actively participating in the development process, and it's our and your responsibility to seek suitable and effective ways to respond to the communities' needs”.

“Through this meeting we had the chance to review the status of the implementation of LDP and DDP, what are the good things that we have done and what are the things that we need improve,- said the MSTAM Minister Arcânjelo Leite - and I am sure that the District Administrator and Officers have gained and learned significant experience from LPD, so that we can now move on to improve the whole mechanism.”

“For the future there is a crucial need to simplify the LDP, DDP and SDP systems in order to facilitate the work of people at the district level and to avoid the confusion, - said Mr. Antonio Augusto Guterres, District Administrator of Baucau – The fact to have the same people handling different programs with different systems will affect the quality of their intervention, as at the district level we often experience lack of technical staff - added Mr. Guterres. The next regular meeting, the last of the year, is planned to take place on mid December.

## TIMOR LESTE AUTHORITIES AT THE FIRST UN GLOBAL FORUM ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

**Kampala, 6 October 2010** - The Government of Timor Leste sent a High Level Delegation from the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM) to the first Local Development Global Forum organized by the United Nations in Kampala, Uganda, from 4 to 6 October 2010.

The opening day was attended by 600 people representing 81 countries, including Heads of state and Government Ministers, as well as representatives of the donor community, international organizations, local governments, local government associations, academia, civil society and the private sector. The event, the first of its kind, explored areas in which local government might have untapped potential to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the concrete measures to unleash this potential.

“The conference was an excellent opportunity for Timor Leste to exchange experiences and progresses made by other countries in implementing local development programmes, - the MSATM Director General Carlito Martins said – and our country is steps ahead compared to other developing countries, since as we have implemented the Local Development Plan since 2004”. The Director General added that the forum also highlighted the devastating impact of climate change on local development, since a decreased food production is exposing rural communities to hunger and socio-economic instability.

## EXTERNAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS KEY LGSP ACHIEVEMENTS

An external report recently released underlines that LGSP has clearly gone “beyond expectations” in its 3 years history in Timor Leste, marking a number of positive results. The mid-term evaluation was undertaken jointly by UNCDF, UNDP and Irish Aid, with the main purpose to assess the LGSP's design and performance and to make recommendations to strengthen the programme. According to the report, the LGSP doubled the number of districts between 2007 and 2009, and has finally covered the whole national territory in 2010, executing 90% of the USD 6.5 million budget allocated.

The programme assisted the MSATM to produce three decentralization laws and subsidiary legislation, which are currently pending the National Assembly approval. Moreover, LGSP has introduced bottom-up participatory planning in which community members identify priority investments against a local development fund (LDF). During the covered period, different infrastructure projects have been delivered and significantly benefited rural communities. This has been made possible by the National Assembly's decision to fund all investment and operation costs in the pilot districts since 2008. In general, LGSP has positively benefited from establishing excellent working relationships with the MSATM, the Ministries of Finance, Education, Health and Infrastructure, international donors, and from a clear positioning within UNMIT, who has clearly identified the programme as the driving force for decentralization, as a means of rebuilding the stability and legitimacy in Timor Leste. The evaluation report is also available on the MSATM website (<http://www.estatal.gov.tl>)



**Decentralization**

## In Brief

### Activities in November:

- Finalization of the Procurement Process for 2010 Projects
- Workshop on 2011 LGSP Work Plan on 22-23 November



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## IRELAND RENEWS SUPPORT FOR LGSP

**Dili, 7 October 2010** — To promote local development and decentralization in Timor-Leste, the Government of Ireland has provided a 750,000 Euros contribution to the Local Government Support Programme (LGSP). LGSP is a joint programme, supported by the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) programmed and housed at the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM).



The Head of Mission of Irish Aid Mr. Eoghan Walsh and the UNDP Country Director in Timor-Leste Ms. Mikiko Tanaka during the funding ceremony in Dili

"Local development and good local governance are essential for poverty reduction and the future development of this country. Irish Aid has been supporting decentralization

and local governance in Timor-Leste since 2003 and we will continue supporting the process in future as part of our Country Strategy for Timor-Leste for 2010-2014. With this additional contribution we would like to reinforce Ireland's commitment to strengthen local governance in Timor-Leste" said Mr. Eoghan Walsh.

UNCDF and UNDP are grateful to the Government of Ireland for its valuable contribution and for its continued support to UNDP and UNCDF Programmes. I'm confident that with our partnership we will contribute to addressing some of the key development challenges of Timor-Leste", stated UNDP Country Director, Ms. Tanaka.

"Ireland has been the program's key donor since 2003, when support to decentralization and local governance in Timor-Leste started through LGSP's predecessor programs. Since then, Irish Aid has been a strong, constructive and reliable partner to LGSP and the Ministry of State Administration. The additional contribution will allow LGSP to continue and expand its support to the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM)." explained Susanne Kuehn, LGSP Chief Technical Advisor.

## TALKING ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNANCE AT THE UN DAY



Amongst the different UN agencies, funds and programmes, LGSP was also represented displaying and distributing outreach material under the "Governance Tent". LGSP staff interacted with students, families and people from all ages illustrating what the gradual introduction of local governance means and has achieved so far in the country.

"While there is often an understandable focus on security issues, the work of the UN is far broader and the needs of the Timorese population, alongside the lives of millions of people around the world, are far greater," – Mr. Reske-Nielsen said.

**Dili, 24 October 2010** — This year's United Nations Day celebrations in Dili took place in front of the Government Palace, and were more engaging than ever, with a photo exhibition, children's activities, singing and dancing performances.

Timor-Leste's Nobel Peace Prize Laureate President José Ramos-Horta, Deputy Prime Minister José Luis Guterres, and Acting Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Timor-Leste (ASRSG) Finn Reske-Nielsen participated in the event and joined some of the activities organized for the youths.

The highlight of the celebration was the three-dimensional illuminated photo exhibition on the beach promenade, capturing the work of the UN in Timor-Leste. The focus of the 60 larger-than-life photos, taken by UNMIT's national and international photographers, was on MDGs and Youth, and other subjects including community policing, community health programs, livelihoods and landscapes of Timor-Leste. The exhibition was on display until Wednesday 27 October.

**LISTEN TO OUR MONTHLY RADIO PROGRAMME "Develop with Decentralization"**

**IN DILI: RADIO RAKAMBIA, FM 99.5 Mhz**

**AND ON THE 16 COMMUNITY RADIOS IN TIMOR-LESTE**