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Local Daily News

January 19, 2018

Leaders of 1975 calls for dialog

Radio Timor-Leste, January 18, 2018 language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's leaders of 1975 have called on President of the Republic, Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres to promote dialog with politicians in order to resolve the current political situation in the country, Abilio Araujo who represented more than 1000 leaders of 1975 made the comments after meeting with the president of the republic on Thursday (28/1) at the Palace of the President. Mr. Araujo said it was necessary to promote dialog with the politicians in order to achieve an understanding between the old generations and new generations of the country. "I have just conveyed my point of views to the president of the republic, as I have said that the president of the republic would promote dialog with the politicians in the country," he said.

Unknown person knifes Indonesia Embassy's media officer

Radio Timor-Leste, January language source: Tetun

A media officer Iskandar who is also an Indonesia citizen working for the Embassy of Indonesia was reported have been stabbed by unknown person near the embassy, which is located in Palapaso of Dili. Investigation into the case is underway in order to uncover the actors who have knifed the victim, Deputy Police Commander for Dili Station, Dili Police Station Deputy Commander, Ecludis Belo says. The incident occurred last week and findings of the investigation will be submitted to the Public Prosecution Office for legal proceedings, he says.

Dissolving PN, AMP to initiate impeachment against Lu-Olo?

Suara Timor Lorosae, January 19, 2018 Language source: Tetun

There is rumor mongering that the opposition parties in parliament under Parliamentary Majority Alliance (AMP) might initiate impeachment process against President of the Republic, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo if President Lu-Olo decides to dissolve National Parliament (PN) to resolve the current political uncertainty. Responding to the issue, PN member from opposition parties, Fidelis Magalhaes said AMP had no plan to initiate an impeachment against President of the Republic. "We do not want to speculate on things that belong to President of the Republic's competences constitutionally, so AMP has no plan and we do not want to talk about impeachment, I think it is so wrong, because the process is ongoing and if we talk about impeachment, it means we do not respect the top state body," Mr. Magalhaes said via phone to STL on Thursday (18/01). In addition, the opposition party, CNRT Bench Chief, Arao Noe said AMP never thought of impeachment and to dissolve parliament or not it depended on President of the Republic because it was his competencies as a top leader in the country.

SSC files 300 cases of diarrhea, one of the patients died

Suara Timor Lorosae, January 19, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Entering the third week of January 2018, Komoro Health Center (SSC) has filed 300 cases of diarrhea and among these cases, one child patient died. According to SSC's responsible person for tuberculoses, Vicente Quintao, only in January 2018, SSC has filed 300 cases of diarrhea. "A child patient came in and our doctor and nurses tried their best to save his life, but when he was brought to Hospital he was in a serious condition and the doctor could not save his life," Vicente told journalists at his office in Komoro, Dili on Thursday (18/01). He called on family to pay attention to hygiene at home to prevent family members from getting diarrhea.

Alkatiri calls on Xanana to come and swear in

Independente, January 19, 2018 language source: Tetun

Prime Minister (PM), Mari Alkatiri does not force Xanana Gusmao to join in the Seventh Constitutional Government but he calls on him to get mandate from the President of the Republic to be the President for the authority of the Timor Sea. Alkatiri affirmed a plan to nominate Xanana Gusmao as a President of High Authority for Timor Sea should be sworn in by the President of the Republic, but he did not force Xanana to join the government. "I am not saying Xanana should join the government, I am saying Xanana should come to be sworn in, President should give him a mandate to create a high authority," Alkatiri told journalists at the Palace of Presidential Aitarak Laran of Dili yesterday (18/01).

MEK, MS and Marie Stops sign an agreement to focus on girls' health

Independente, January 19, 2018 language source: Tetun

Ministry of Education and Culture (MEK), Ministry of Health (MS) and Marie Stopes have signed an agreement to implement a school health program which focuses on girl health in each school in the territory of Timor-Leste. "We signed the agreement as we know that Marie Stopes focuses on health of the students in all schools in Timor-Leste especially focusing on girls' health and reproductive health

in the country,” Director-General for Planning and Partnership of the Ministry of Education, Antonino Pires told journalists at his office in Vila Verde of Dili yesterday (18/01). He added the program would let Marie Stopes to do advocacy to the issue of hygiene at school which was favorable for girls to be able to come to school when they were on their menstruation period.

MSS continues calling for Japan supports

Independente, January 19, 2018 language source: Tetun

Minister for Social Solidarity (MSS), Florentina da Conceicao Pereira Martins Smith held a meeting with Japanese Ambassador to Timor-Leste Mr. Hiroshi Minami to talk about potential cooperation areas. Minister Smith said during the meeting they were talking about how the Japanese government could continue supporting the development process of Timor-Leste, particularly in the area of human resources for Risk Management and Disaster, Social Security, and others. In the meeting, she also called on the Japanese Government through the ambassador to continue the cooperation with the Timorese government in the future especially in the area of disaster management.

Police searches residence of Pedro Belo and Zenilda Gusmão

Timor-Post, January 19, 2018 language source: Tetun

The Timorese national Police (PNTL) through the Criminal Investigation Police (SIK) on Thursday (18/01) searched the residence of the Dili District Police Commander Superintendent Pedro Belo and his spouse Zenilda Gusmao in Dili. A confirmed source said the police executed the mandate from the court as court suspected Zenilda Gusmao, daughter of Xanana Gusmao had set up a company which was unregistered in the country. Pedro Belo expressed his concerns over the search on his social media, facebook wall, saying the search was unfair because many companies in Timor-Leste were illegal and did not register, but no one sent police to those companies. “Starting my post of commander for Baucau Municipality to Dili, I face many challenges such as people insulted me, threatened me with weapon at my residence, but I never complained because I understood my position, but this new year, they searched our residence, my wife’s office and her company and the reason for the search is not fair because many companies in Timor-Leste are illegal, but they do not get search,” Pedro Belo wrote on his facebook wall.

MS discusses cooperation with Community Services

Timor Post, January 19, 2018 language source: Tetun

Minister of Health (MS), Rui Maria de Araujo held a meeting with an Executive Director for Community Services from Saint John of God Health Care, Australia, Kevin Taylor at MS office in Kaikoli, Dili. According to information from MS media office, in the meeting, both parties talked about the cooperation that had been established between MS and Saint John of God Health Care. During the meeting they also talked about how to strengthen the cooperation in the future and explore more potential areas of cooperation.

January 18, 2018

President of the republic concerned about F-FDTL’s lack of facility

Radio Timor-Leste, January 17, 2018 language source: Bahasa Indonesia

President of the Republic, Francisco “Lu-Olo” Guterres said he was concerned about the current conditions and the lack of facilities, which the country’s Defence Force (F-FDTL) was experiencing. F-FDTL Chief of Defence, Major General Lere Anan Timur made the comments after meeting with the president of the republic at the Palace of the President on Wednesday (17/1). Lere affirmed that F-FDTL was currently lacking transport, communication tools and logistics and that had been the major problem of it. He added that F-FDTL commands continue to assign its soldiers at the border zone, but logistics had been the major problems of his soldiers.

A 14-year girl commits suicide in Manufahi

Televizaun Timor-Leste, January 17, 2017 language source: Tetun

A 14-year old girl Suzana is reported to have committed suicide by hanging herself in Southern Municipality of Manufahi. The dead body of the deceased is currently being put in the mortuary of the National Hospital of Guido Valadares for autopsy. The father of Suzana, Samuel Mendes said his daughter committed a suicide when they were out of home and in the corn field. “We were in the farm; her death is unknown to us. We heard that the girl committed suicide by hanging herself,” he said.

BK accuses BOAMP of being uncooperative, BOAMP considers BK manipulates people

GMN Diario Nacional, January 18, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The Government Coalition Parties (BK) accused the Opposition Block of Parliamentary Majority Alliance (BOAMP) of being uncooperative with coalition parties in parliament, but BOAMP considers the accusation as political manipulation to get people’s sympathy. The Coalition Parties; FRETILIN and Democratic Party (PD) said BOAMP did not want to collaborate with the government coalition parties to discuss about people’s needs. “BOAMP rejected the Seventh Government’s Programs and submitted a Censure Motion even though the government has not yet implemented its programs and they also rejected Additional State Budget Proposal to run the state administration and pay government’s debts,” FRETILIN Bench member, Josefa Pereira said in a press conference at the House of Parliament on Wednesday (17/01). However, beforehand, BOAMP declared it rejected the government’s programs because the programs were unclear and it also rejected Additional State Budget Proposal because, the government’s debt could be paid with 2018 General State Budget.

Ms Pereira added National Parliament (PN) did not do its task well because the opposition parties tried to block the activities of PN’s special commissions which mostly led by them. Responding to the accusations, BOAMP, on Wednesday (17/01), said the three opposition parties were active in parliament to discuss the country’s issues, only the coalition parties and PN President, Aniceto Guterres that were uncooperative by abandoning plenary. “PN members from the three opposition parties always present in parliament to discuss any issue, but PN President did not want to schedule any plenary session, so currently PN faces leadership crisis, not institutional crisis,” the opposition party, CNRT Bench Chief, Arao Noe said.

MS orients tobacco industry to put more health warnings on cigarette packaging

GMN Diario Nacional, January 18, 2018 Language source: Tetun

To reduce numbers of smokers in Timor-Leste, the Timorese Government through the Ministry of Health (MS) orders tobacco industry to put more health warnings on cigarette packaging for retail in Timor-Leste. Chief of Department of Non-Communicable Disease, Tobacco Control, and Mental Illness of MS, Doctor Helder Juvinal said beside to reduce numbers of smokers; it was also to make it easy for the government to control cigarette retail in Timor-Leste. “Ministry of Health has issued a decree law no.14/2016 and article 12 of the decree law states clearly about the health warnings that the tobacco industry needs to put on cigarette packaging because before they only has one line of warning, now they need to put more health warnings on the cigarette packaging,” Doctor Juvinal said at his office in Lahane Osidental of Dili recently. According to charts from the Journal of the American Medical Association, 33% of Timor-Leste’s population smoke every day. The charts show 61% of Timorese men is smokers – the highest in the world.

MS to continue family health program

GMN Diario Nacional, January 18, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The Ministry of Health (MS)’s Direction of Health Service organized a meeting with its directors and chief of departments on Wednesday (17/01) to talk about the continuation of Family Health Program. “When implementing Family Health Program in 2015, not every family in the territory got a visit from health professionals to file their family members’ health problems, for instance, in Dili 20% of families had not been visited, therefore, this year, Ministry of Health will continue the programs to visit those families that had not been visited before,” General Director of Direction of Health Service, Odete Viegas said at MS Office in Kaikoli, Dili. She added the health professionals would visit those families had not been visited before until March, 2018 and afterward, the health professionals would re-visit those families on the list who had high risk for getting disease, those who had chronic disease such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and so on.

AMP accuses PM Alkatiri of using state budget for political campaign

Independente, January 18, 2018 language source: Tetun

National Parliament members from the opposition parties accuse the Prime Minister (PM) Mari Alkatiri of using the state’s money for political campaign in a form of presenting government’s programs to people. President for the People Liberation Party (PLP), Fidelis Magalhaes said normally Prime Minister should present the government’s programs to the National Parliament to be approved instead of taking it to people. “Instead of taking the programs to parliament, the government takes the programs and consult with people, everyone knows each government member who goes door-to-door is using state budget for political campaign,” Magalhaes said at National Parliament yesterday (17/01). Responding to the concerns, Government spokesperson, Matias Boavida said none of the current government members used state budget for their travel to each municipality even though it was a part of government’s work, adding that until now there was no budget for the Seventh Government members, so each government member used their own money for the travel.

Government approves new laws for private investors

Independente January 18, 2018 language source: Tetun

Through a Council of Ministers meeting, the Timorese Government has approved a new law for the international private investors which invested in Timor-Leste. The new investment regulations will better facilitate the activities of private investors in the country. “These new rules will simplify and cut bureaucracy of the regulations to better facilitate the international and national investors to invest in the country,” Boavida told journalist at the Palace of the Government yesterday (17/01).

PR Luolo is concerned about the operation material for F-FDTL and PNTL

Independente, January 18, 2018 language source: Tetun

President of the Republic Francisco Guterres “Luolo” expressed his concern over lack of operation materials for the Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL) and the Timorese National Police (PNTL) Commands. The head of the state made the comment during a meeting with F-FDTL Commander Major General Lere Anan Timur at the Palace of President in Aitarak Laran of Dili yesterday (17/01). “During the meeting, we talked about the issues that F-FDTL and PNTL faced such as lack of transport, communication facilities, and other logistic matters,” Lere said after meeting with President Lu-Olo.

Chinese Health Professionals presents their work to the MS

Timor Post, January 18, 2018 language source: Tetun

The Chinese Health Professionals Coordinator, Hu Peng presented the Chinese Health Professionals Brigade’s works at National Hospital of Guido Valadares to the Ministry of Health (MS). Based on the information that Timor-Post accessed from MS media, on January 16, 2018, Deputy Minister for Health, Luis Lobato held a meeting with the Chinese Health Professional Brigade Coordinator, Hu Peng and the Executive Director for National Hospital of Guido Valadares (HNGV) Jose Antonio Guterres at MS Office in Kaikoli, Dili. During the meeting the Coordinator for Chines Health professionals Brigade presented their works that had been done at HNGV and they also discussed with the Deputy Minister for MS how to better strengthen the cooperation in the future.

January 17, 2018

PM Alkatiri and Philippines ambassador talk on investment

GMN TV, January 16, 2018 language source: Tetun

The Ambassador of the Philippines on Tuesday (16/1) met with Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri talking about future investment plan in the country. Speaking to journalists, the Philippines ambassador said this investment plan would help strengthen the Philippines and Timor-Leste’s bilateral cooperation. “This is a personal call to his Excellency Prime Minister because at the time when I arrived in September, so this is the opportunity that had the chance to pay a visit,” he said. The Philippines is one of ASEAN member states that endorsed Timor-Leste’s adhesion of this South East Asia Nations’ Association.

GIZ and SEJT hold training on TOT for SEJT's directors

GMN TV, January 15 2018 language source: Tetun

GIZ [The German International Development Agency] is in cooperation with the Secretary of State for Youth and Labour (SEJT) providing training on trainer for the referred institution's directors for future trainers. Secretary of State for SEJT, Nivio Magalhaes called on all the directors and managers to take the opportunity to learn from this training course. Mr. Magalhaes said this TOT was really important as after gaining skills, the participants would transfer it to the jobless young Timorese in the future. "One of our mandates is to be responsible for professional development. Before capacitating the young people, the public civil servants and directors should be trained in order to provide the young Timorese with advocacy and skills," he said.

MS and UNICEF provide vaccine management training for medical staffs

Televizaun Timor-Leste, January 15, 2018 language source: Tetun

The Ministry of Health (MS) and UNICEF on Monday (15/1) realized training for medical staffs about operational standard procedures and management on vaccine. Representative of MS said the training was aimed at professionalizing medical staffs from all municipalities to guarantee quality of immunization in the country. "The training is provided for medical staffs serving the children for the program of immunization. It is about management on vaccine and that will help benefit the children," he said.

Comoro Health Centre doesn't have enough space for pregnant women

GMN TV, January 16, 2018 language source: Tetun

Comoro Health Centre is reported to have lacked spaces and beds for pregnant women to receive medical treatment. About five up to six new-born babies are reported to born each day in this health centre. Head of Comoro Health Centre said the lack of space and beds had been the major challenge and that had complicated them to provide proper medical treatment for pregnant women and said some patients were forced to sleep at the corridor. "What we are experiencing in this health centre is the lack of facilities, such as space and beds for pregnant woman. But, we have submitted a proposal to the national directorate, hopefully we can rehabilitate it this year," he said.

TDD starts hearing ex-Deputy Minister of MAP

GMN Diario Nacional, January 17, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Dili District Court (TDD) starts hearing ex-Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries with initial MC and several former directors of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAP) regarding cattle import case. However, yesterday, TDD postponed the hearing to March 15, 2018 because one of the suspects with initial MRL had passed away. According to the accusations from Public Prosecutor, in February 2014, Antonio Da Araujo as Chief of Department of Animal Production at MAP prepared a proposal to buy 165 cows from Australia to be distributed to beneficiaries in Era Ulu of Ermera and Fuiloro of Lautem with a budget \$660,000.00 and after approved by Minister of MAP, Mariano Assanami Sabino, MAP offered bidding of the cattle import and Nova Breeding and Trading Unipessoal Limitada Company won the project. And on July 31, the Company's Director, the suspect, MRL signed an agreement with Minister Assanami to import the cattle before 31 of October 2014 and until the deadline, the company had not yet imported the cattle.

But on November 13, 2014, the company submitted an invoice to MAP's Logistic Department, saying the cows had been imported and asked MAP to do inspection and payment to the company. On November 19, 2014, MAP's Logistic Department Chief, with initial FOGC ordered his staff, Julio Inacio Viegas to prepare the documents of acceptance and inspection to MAP's Procurement Director, RCH and RCH approved it and Aquildis Da Silva prepared a payment to the company with total \$659,175.00 and approved by MAP's General Director, LBF. On November 24, 2014, the suspect MC as Deputy Minister of MAP and Acting Minister at that time approved the payment to the company even though the company did not import the cows from Australia. Therefore, Public Prosecutor accused the suspects, MC, FOGC, RCH, and LBF of committing economic participation and business crime, article 299 of Timor-Leste's penal code and also accused the suspects, FOGC, RCH and LBF of committing documents falsification crime, article 303, meanwhile, the suspect MRL was accused of committing aggravated fraud, article 266 and 267 of Timor-Leste's penal code.

Bribery is flourishing in border area

Suara Timor Lorosae, January 17, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Bribery is flourishing in the country, it happens in state institutions and also private sector. Director of Non Governmental Organization (NGO), Fundasaun Mahein, Nelson Belo calls on the Ministry of Defense and Security to tighten control in border areas because movement in border areas is potential for bribery. "If we talk about border security authority which called Integrated Border Security Authority (ASFI) which composed of immigration police, custom, border patrol police, quarantine and military police, we have them to control illegal activities, but in fact, there is always illegal activity in border area, therefore, government needs to control and investigate it," Nelson Belo said at his office in Fomento, Komoro, Dili on Tuesday (16/01). He said bribery was suspected happening in border area because for instance, Indonesian vehicles could enter Timor-Leste until Batugade area to buy something, then go back to Indonesia, how could they enter Timor-Leste's area without any measure was taken?

PR Luolo calls on Govt to allocate reserved fund to defense and security

Independente, January 17, 2018 language source: Tetun

President of the Republic Francisco Guterres "Luolo" has called on the government to allocate state reserved fund for the defense and security sectors in order to sustain two institutions' service in the next few months. Responding to the President of the Republic's call, Minister for Defense and Security Jose Agostinho Sequeira "Somotxo" said the reserved fund could only allocate for salary, and could not be allocated to other activities and programs, but the two institutions pledged to continue playing their roles as protectors. "It should be cut, so some activities and programs are on hold and could not be done," Somotxo told journalists at the Palace of President in Aitarak Laran of Dili yesterday (16/01).

China supports seven hand tractors to farmers

Independente, January 17, 2018 language source: Tetun

Government of China had supported seven hand tractors to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAP) to support farmers in the country. Minister of MAP, Estanislao Aleixo da Silva said the Chinese Government provided seven hand tractors to support farmers' activities and two mini excavators to maintain irrigation in the country. "There are seven hand tractors and two mini excavators to be distributed to the farmers groups," da Silva told journalists at the Government Palace of Dili yesterday (16/01).

Government does not have a laboratory to test local food production

Timor-Post, January 17, 2018 language source: Tetun

Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry (MKI), Jacinto Barros Gusmao said government had not yet had a laboratory to test the local food production in the country. "All of us know that we have various local products but the problem is we do not have yet a specific laboratory to test the local product in the country," Barros told journalists at his office in Bebora of Dili on Monday (15/01). He added some of the local products had been exported to abroad but it was natural and organic products such as salt, coconut, and coffee.

Australia to offer ten buffaloes to Timor-Leste

Timor-Post January 17, 2018 language source: Tetun

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (MAP) Estanislao Aleixo da Silva said Australian Government would give ten buffaloes to Timor-Leste. "I informed the Prime Minister about the Government of Australia to support ten buffaloes to Timor-Leste, these are special kind of buffaloes, they are bred in Australia and they want to give it to Timor-Leste," Minister da Silva told journalists at the Palace of the Government yesterday (16/01). He added these buffaloes were special because a buffalo would produce ten liters of milk every day, so they were different with the Timorese buffalo that only produced two or three liters of milk each day and MAP planned to let these buffaloes breed more in the future.