

LOCAL MEDIA MONITORING

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LOCAL NEWS:

***China welcomes new Timor-Leste President** Chinese President, Xi Jinping on Saturday exchanged congratulatory messages with the new President of Timor-Leste, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo, on the 15th anniversary of Timor-Leste's Restoration of Independence and the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Xi said in his message that China and Timor-Leste were "friendly neighbors," citing deepening political mutual trust and pragmatic cooperation. The Chinese President said he valued the development of relations between China and Timor-Leste, and was ready to work with Lu-Olo to push forward bilateral ties to benefit the two countries' people. In his acceptance speech, Lu-Olo singled out China as a country whose relationships with Timor-Leste had expanded in the past 15 years. He said that the Chinese envoy's presence at his inauguration ceremony showed the friendly ties and close friendship between the two countries and the two peoples. Zhang Ping, the special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, attended the presidential inauguration ceremony as well as the celebration of 15th Anniversary of Timor-Leste's Restoration of Independence in Dili on May 19 – 20. Lu-Olo reiterated his readiness to lift the bilateral relations to a new stage, saying he believed that the two countries, sharing common visions and goals in promoting peace and stability, would become partners in making these goals come true. **Independente, May 23, 2017*

***Govt extends condolence to Mario Carrascalão's family** The Timorese Govt is sad when hearing the news of former Deputy Prime Minister, Mario Viegas Carrascalão's passing away. On behalf of the Timorese Government, Prime Minister, Rui Maria De Araujo extended condolence to the prominent leader's family, friends and colleagues and honored his contribution to the country. "We are sincerely sad when hearing the news of the energetic and pragmatic leader's passing away, he have served this country wholeheartedly. We extend our profound condolence to family of Carrascalão in this difficult moment," the Government Spokesperson, Agio Pereira said as cited in government's portal. Mr. Carrascalão was a former National Parliament member and in 2008's government reshuffle, he was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister of State Administration and Management. **Independente, May 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***Timor-Leste shares experiences of peace to fragile countries** The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres thanked the Timor-Leste for hosting a global conference to share experiences to fragile countries in the world about peace and stability. In the conference with theme "A Roadmap for SDGs in Fragile and Conflict Affected States" officially opened by President of Timor-Leste, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo yesterday (22/05) at Dili Convention Center. "Timor-Leste is one of the countries in the world which ratified Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda, it shows our commitment to global agenda for development and the implementation of SDGs," Lu-Olo said in his speech when opening the conference. In the opening ceremony, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres delivered his message through a recorded video which presented by Director of UNDP for Asia and Pacific Regions, Haoliang Xu to express his gratitude to Timor-Leste for hosting the conference and sharing its experiences with other fragile countries. "I would like to thank Timor-Leste for hosting the conference and sharing its valuable experiences. Agenda 2030 is opted not to let anyone get behind, to let them come first," UN Secretary-General said in the video. **Independente, May 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***SDGs Global Conference shows commitment to combat poverty** The Timorese Government and the organization of fragile countries, G7+ organized a global conference of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2013 Agenda to show commitment of fragile countries to combat poverty. The conference is held at Dili Convention Center from May 22 – 23, 217 and participated by 20 fragile countries and it is also participated by the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Portuguese-Speaking Countries Community (CPLP) members, Pacific Development Forum, Secretariat of G7+ and the Timorese Government. "Every year, we prepare our state budget and action plan which follows SDGs principles," Prime Minister, Rui Maria De Araujo said in a press conference after participating in the conference yesterday (22/05) at Dili Convention Center. **Timor Post, May 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***China appreciates Timor-Leste's development**, Hugo National Parliament (PN) President, Aderito Hugo said the Chinese Government appreciated the development progress in Timor-Leste in the last 15 years. "The Chinese Government appreciates the rapid development progress in Timor-Leste even though Timor-Leste," Hugo told PN last Friday at PN after meeting with the Chinese special envoy visiting Timor-Leste to participate in Timor-Leste's President Inauguration (19/05). He said in the meeting, Deputy President of the Assembly of Republic Popular of China expressed his satisfaction regarding the result of Timor-Leste and China's cooperation in the last 15 years. **Timor Post, May 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***No significant result, Mari Alkatiri questions SDGs programs** The President of Oecusse Ambeno Special Administrative Region Authority (RAEOA), Mari Alkatiri, preoccupies about the United Nations (UN)'s program of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda because UN has many programs, but those programs have no significant results. "I am getting used to program from United Nations (UN) which has no significant result, so I am doubtful with SDGs," Mari Alkatiri told journalists after participating in the global conference on SDGs Agenda 2030 organized by the Timorese Government and G7+ at Dili Convention Centre on Monday (22/05/2017). In addition, Non Governmental Organization (NGO) La'o Hamutuk Representative, Juvinal Dias considered SDGs as good policies, but people failed in its implementation. **Diario: May 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***PN gives last homage to prominent leader Mario Carrascalão** National Parliament (PN) on Monday (22/5/2017) paid last honor to the late Mario Viegas Carrascalão, one of Timor-Leste's prominent leaders who killed in fatal car crash in Dili last Friday. The Chief of Frenti Mudansa Bench, Jose Luis Guterres said PN paid last honor to Mario Carrascalão to recognize his contribution to the country and its people for years. "Your determination to combat corruption, we think the young generations that you (Mario Carrascalão) have helped forming will continue your fight to combat corruption in the country," Jose Luis Guterres said in his speech when paying honor to the late former Deputy Prime Minister. In addition, Democratic Party (PD) Bench member, Adriano do Nasimento said Mario Carrascalão was one of Timorese historical leader who always stood by Timorese people in harder situations and struggled with people until Timor-Leste got its independence. **Diario: May 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***TL bestows medal to an American congressman** The State of Timor-Leste on Tuesday (23/5) officially bestowed "Order Timor Medal to US Congressman, Antonio Tony Cabral as he had fought for the country's independence. Prime Minister Rui Maria de Araujo said decision on bestowal of the medal was made based on the Decree Law number 20/2009 by the President of the Republic, Taur Matan Ruak. Mr. Araujo affirmed that actually the medal was bestowed in the commemoration of the country's independence restoration day, but it did not happen due to the delay of Mr. Cabral trip to the country. Mr. Cabral is currently continuing to fight for the Timorese people's rights to maritime border. **Radio Timor-Leste, May 24, 2017 language source: Tetun*

***TL shares experiences with G7+ member states** Timor-Leste yesterday shared experienced

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on electoral process, family health and fisheries with G7+ state members during the last day of the international conference. In his speech marking the closing ceremony of the conference, Prime Minister Rui Maria de Araujo said this program would help facilitate those countries out of post conflict. Mr. Araujo affirmed that the health program found that 70% of populations living in rural areas were difficult to get access to the health services. The Government of Timor-Leste also shared its experiences with the member states on natural resources management. **Radio Timor-Leste, May 24, 2017 language source: Tetun*

***UN pledges to continue support Timor-Leste** The United Nations Special Envoy, Hau Liang Su on Tuesday (23/5) met with the President of the Republic, Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres transmitting the US Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' message to the president of the republic. During the meeting, the president of the republic and the UN special envoy talking about the development and the increase of unemployment in South East Asia's tiny nation. After the meeting, the UN Special envoy said the UN would continue to support Timor-Leste in resolving the unemployment problem in the country. "There are a lot of issues that we discussed during the meeting. There have been challenges, but the development process goes well. We also talked on the unemployment as many young Timorese are unemployed," he said. **Televizaun Timor-Leste, May 24, 2017 language source: Tetun*

***Australian embassy offers fund to APCTL** The Australian Embassy in Timor-Leste has officially handed over a bank check [cheque] to APCTL with total amount of US 60,000. Representative of the Australian Embassy said she was very pleased with APCTL's work as it had helped empower the Timorese women. Ms. Joana Lee said she was confident that the organization would manage the money properly for helping the Timorese women. Meanwhile, director for APCTL said the funding support by the Australian Government would help improve women of the country living in rural areas' lives economically. **Televizaun Timor-Leste, May 24, 2017 language source: Tetun*

***New Timor-Leste heart disease program 'saving lives' with penicillin injections** It is said to be a disease affecting only the most disadvantaged people in the world. A condition that is entirely preventable called rheumatic heart disease (RHD), but which like in impoverished countries in Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia, is continuing to impact the lives Timorese people. And often it has fatal consequences. While the actual number of how many lives are lost and impacted by RHD in Timor-Leste is not known, researchers from a new joint Timor-Leste and Australia RHD health program believe there could be up to 10,000 young Timorese with the illness. But while the numbers are concerning, the message being pushed in the health program is simple: the disease is preventable with regular penicillin injections. "I feel like we have just reached the tip of the iceberg and there's a whole lot more rheumatic heart disease in Timor-Leste than what we've been able to detect with a moderately sized screening program," Josh Francis from the Menzies School of Health Research told the ABC. After six months of the health program 1,500 children at schools in Dili, and Ermera have been successfully tested. About 50 were found to have undiagnosed rheumatic heart disease. By working to identify Timorese patients with mild or moderate levels of RHD, and then ensuring they receive monthly penicillin injections to stop the progression of the disease, health workers say lives can be saved. **Independente, May 24, 2017*

***UN supports Timor-Leste combating malnutrition** The United Nations (UN) for Asia Pacific Region is supporting Timor-Leste to combat malnutrition in the country. To strengthen the cooperation, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Asia Pacific, Haoliang Xu met with Timor-Leste's President, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo at Presidential Palace in Aitarak Laran, Dili yesterday (23/05). "We discussed about the importance of nutrition education in Timor-Leste and a campaign to increase people's awareness," Haoliang Xu told journalists after meeting with Lu-Olo at Presidential Palace in Aitarak Laran, Dili. **Independente, May 24, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***MAP issues a license to Best Seafood Company to fish in Timor Sea** Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAP) has issued a license to Best Seafood Company to deploy three vessels to fish in Timor-Leste's southern coast. "They have contributed \$870,000 to the state income and we cooperates with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to monitor their movement in Timor Sea," MAP's Director-General, Acacio Guterres told journalists at Dili Convention Center in Dili yesterday (23/05). He added MAP issued the license based on Timor-Leste's existing law and Best Seafood Company could only deploy three fishing vessels to fish in southern coast. **Independente, May 24, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***UN notes Timor-Leste facing unemployment and malnutrition problems** The United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary-General for Asia Pacific, Haoliang Xu says Timor-Leste is facing two big issues; unemployment and malnutrition. To support Timor-Leste overcome these problems, Haoliang Xu met with President of the Republic, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo Tuesday (23/05) at Presidential Palace in Aitarak laran, Dili. "We discussed about two big issues in Timor-Leste; unemployment and malnutrition. Many young Timorese are unemployed and Timor-Leste still has big number of malnutrition," Haoliang Xu told journalists after meeting with Lu-Olo. **Diario, May 24, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***KAK notifies ADN staffs suspecting of receiving bribe** Anti Corruption Commission (KAK) has sent notification letters to four staffs of National Development Agency (ADN) who are suspected of receiving bribes from road construction projects. These staffs are suspected of receiving bribes from the road construction projects in Aileu, Viqueque and Dili. "On Monday (22/05) KAK notified four ADN staffs regarding bribery cases in road construction project," a confirmed source told Timor Post yesterday (23/05). In addition, ADN Director, Rui Da Costa recognized that KAK notified some of his staffs, but it was normal and ADN staffs used to cooperate with KAK to clarify certain cases. **Timor Post, May 24, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

***Taur is new rival to Xanana and Alkatiri** Timor-Leste is multiparty country, but figures still dominate and determinate a political party's success in elections in Timor-Leste. In the upcoming parliamentary election, the involvement of former President of the Republic, Taur Matan Ruak in political party will enliven Timor-Leste's political stage. CNRT party runs with Xanana Gusmão, FRETILIN with Mari Alkatiri, and Taur Matan Ruak is running with newly formed party, People's Liberation Party (PLP) and he becomes new rival to CNRT and FRETILIN in next parliamentary election. According to political observer, Victor Soares, Timor-Leste has many parties run for the upcoming parliamentary elections, but Timorese people usually don't see the programs of the parties, but the figure in the party. "CNRT with Xanana Gusmão, FRETILIN with Alkatiri, and now Taur Matan Ruak runs with PLP as new rival of the two big parties in the upcoming legislative election," Victor Soares told Suara Timor Lorosae (STL) in Caicoli, Dili Tuesday (23/05/2017). **Suara Timor Lorosae, May 24, 2017 Language Source: Tetun*

***G7+ Conference, TL shares election and health experiences** The G7+'s Global Conference gives an opportunity to Timor-Leste to share its experiences, especially on election, health and Timor sea resources management to other fragile and post-conflict states. "We shares our experiences about election activity with speaker, Deputy Minister for State Administration and Territorial Management, Tomas Cabral, especially about how to organize a democratic and credible election," Prime Minister, Rui Maria de Araujo told journalists at Government Palace Tuesday (23/05/2017). He added besides election, Timor-Leste also shared its experiences health and Timor sea resources control and management. **Suara Timor Lorosae, May 24, 2017 Language Source: Tetun*

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