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Local Daily News

August 16, 2018

Xanana to talk on political deadlock in G7+ meeting

GMN TV, August 15, 2018 language source: Tetun

President of AMP Coalition Party, Xanana Gusmao has pledged to convey Timor-Leste's current political situation, especially the current political deadlock of the country in the meeting of G7+. Xanana said the recent decision of the President of the republic for not swearing-in nine candidates of the government members showing fragility of the state. He affirmed that the decision on nominating the nine candidates of the government cabinet was collective decision and he did not decide himself. "The decision shows fragility of the state, I will convey it to the member states of G7+, saying you should stay away from this," he said.

UNDP and Govt talk on capacity building for fire brigade

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

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Country Director Claudio Providas and Secretary of State for Civil Protection Affairs, talking about capacity building for the country's fire brigade officers before assigning them. Mr. Providas said UNDP and the Timorese Government had been in cooperation in the field of natural disaster and capacity building in the Capital of Dili and municipalities. "What we have done is supporting Timor-Leste, first on the policy on environment, regulatory environment and this is what we are discussing right now as you know. " "And we also look at Timor-Leste is prompt to disaster like draught and we can support together as development partner to provide capacity building," he said.

EU funds 'say no to gender-based violence' program

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

The European Union (EU) offers \$ 500. 000 to PLAN International to run a program called "say no to gender-based violence for three years. During his speech marking the launching ceremony of the program, EU Ambassador, Alexander Leitao said EU was committed to supporting Timor-Leste, particularly general cause and domestic violence as it was uncontrolled. Meanwhile, Secretary State for Gender Equality, Maria "Mize" Fonseca Monteiro said the Government made efforts to cooperate with all entities for fighting against domestic violence in the country. "In fighting against gender-based violence all entities' efforts are indeed necessary, therefore the Government is making efforts to strengthen women's economy," she said.

Government appointments: Ruak asks to postpone the inauguration

Independente, August 16, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak has asked President Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo to postpone the inauguration of the three nominations of government members which is supposed to be held today (Thursday, 16/08). Ruak asked to postpone the inauguration to give chance to the ruling party, Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) to resolve its internal problem first. According to a source close to AMP coalition, the inauguration of the three nominations namely Samuel Marçal, Alfredo Pires, and Rogerio Mendonça was canceled because AMP pushed to include in the inauguration nine pending nominations that were refused by President Lu-Olo because of corruption investigations. This is the third cancellation of inauguration due to standoff over blocked nominations of seven people from the CNRT Party: Francisco Kalbuadi Lay, Helder Lopes, Tomas Do Rosario Cabral, Virgilio Smith, Jacinto Rigoberto Gomes De Deus, Sergio Gama Da C. Lobo, Amandio de Sa Benevides and two Jose Manuel Turquel and Antonio Verdial De Sousa from coalition's other partner Khunto.

Crisis point: Timor-Leste's households struggling under political deadlock

Independente, August 16, 2018

Households across Timor-Leste are feeling the trickle down effects of the government's stalled program, with increasing numbers of vulnerable family's forced to cut back on basic goods due to the economic slowdown. As Timor-Leste's economy tightens under the weight of extended political uncertainty and unresolved state programming, money that once circulated from government programs and organizations has started to dry up. Investigations by the Independente revealed many families living on the bread line were going without meals because they did not have enough money to pay the inflated costs of basic foods. Several families said their household income had been reduced because of job cutbacks in government programs and small business that had been forced to shut down due to the economic slowdown. According to UN figures, more than 40% Timorese live below the national poverty line. Lucas da Costa, the Academic Observer from Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ), said the nation was at a "crisis" point and the government needed to address the economic instability it had generated. "In a crisis economy it is the small people that feel it the most," Costa said. "All people's activities need money; school children need pocket money, buying basic goods needs money. This money is now not available due to political uncertainty in Timor-Leste," he said. Aliança De Jesus Xavier, the Spokesman for Timor-Leste's Human Rights Defenders Network-Rede Defensor Direitus Umanus (RDDU), said Timorese people had become "victims" of political leader's "revenge politics." RDDU wants transparent dialogue between political party's and the President of Timor-Leste; to resolve the nine vacancies in the government's cabinet and an end to State Budget and Program stalemate. Xavier warned if swift action was not taken the country would soon face an "economic crisis."

PM Ruak calls on ADB to control quality of road construction

Independente, August 16, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak has called on Asian Development Bank (ADB) to control quality of the road construction which is funded with loans from ADB. Ruak made the call in a meeting with ADB Country Director, Paolo Spantigati, at Government Palace. In the meeting President of the Republic also called for preventing impact of the construction on community's health. Ruak and Spantigati also discussed about water scarcity in the country and sanitation problem, and Ruak asked ADB to continue working with the government to resolve the issue in the next five years.

Noe: half of USD\$1.2 billion of 2018 State Budget Proposal has been spent

Independente, August 16, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The Timorese Government has proposed USD\$1.2 billion for 2018 and currently it is under discussion in National Parliament. National Parliament (PN) President, Arão Noe said half of the amount of 2018 budget had been spent and it was almost the end of the fiscal, so the government proposed the budget with urgent character to be discussed and approved immediately, so that it could prepare 2019 State Budget. Noe made the comment after meeting with President of the Republic, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo to inform him about the government's 2018 State Budget Proposal discussion agenda. He said PN had scheduled the discussion of 2018 State Budget with the government on August 29 – September 7, 2018 and after that it would be sent to President of the Republic to be promulgated as soon as possible.

Resolving political deadlock, Xanana: “nothing is impossible”

Independente, August 16, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste has been having a political deadlock for a year and everyone in the country are feeling the trickle down effects of the stalemate. Responding to a year-long gridlock, Xanana Gusmão, president of Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) – the current ruling party – called on everyone not to worry because he said “nothing is impossible”. “I think we can overcome this situation because nothing is impossible. This is a part of nation's building, so everyone can learn from it,” he said at G7+ Office at Government Palace. He is confident sooner or later Timorese people could resolve the deadlock. Timor-Leste's political impasse kicks in due to the previous government inability to pass legislation forcing President, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo to dissolve National Parliament early this year and called for new election on May 12, 2018. The fresh election had come out with the pre-election coalition party, AMP as an outright winner and currently its government is pushing parliament to discuss its 2018 State Budget Proposal with a total amount of \$1.2 billion to bring an end to the gridlock.

HAK concerned suspects lock-up in preventive prison over a year

Timor Post, August 16, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Timorese Human Rights Group (HAK) laments many suspects are locked up in Becora Prison on preventive term over a year as it violates the suspects' rights and against Timor-Leste's Penal Process Code. Deputy Director of HAK, Xisto Dos Santos said the suspects who were locked up with preventative status should only stay in prison up to one year not more than that. “Many suspects lock up in Becora Prison on preventive term have stayed there over a year and it against Penal Process Code,” he said at his office on Wednesday (15/08). He called on the Timorese Government, particularly the Ministry of Justice to pay attention to this issue because it was against the law.

EU – GIZ organized a workshop on “Partnership for Sustainable Agroforestry”

Timor Post, August 16, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The European Union (EU) and the German Government Agency, GIZ organized a workshop in Baucau with a theme “Partnership for Sustainable Agroforestry (PSAF)”. The workshop was aimed to explain to local authorities about the Agroforestry Project and its benefits to community in the target areas. “I am calling on all local authorities of the target areas to be cooperative with the donors and community to make the project successful,” Baucau Municipality Administrator, Antonio Guterres said when opening the workshop on Wednesday (15/08) at Baucau Municipality Administration Hall. At the same place, the EU's Representative, Simon Le Grand said the Agroforestry Project would help farmers improving their living standard in a farming that more adaptable to climate change. “The rainfalls are changing now due to climate change, so the agroforestry project could help farmers planting different plants and woods in their field while continuing planting their usual horticulture crops such as vegetables, corns, and etc,” Le Grand said. Participating in the workshop were local authorities of the target areas, County Director of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, field advocates, and other development partners of EU and GIZ.

Timor-Leste's economic growth decreases to 3%

GMN Diario Nacional, August 16, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's a year-long deadlock has affected its people's economic and social lives. Reality shows that since the stalemate kicks in, Timor-Leste's economic growth has decreased to 3%, Timor-Leste's Fiscal Reform Coordinator, Fernanda Borges says. “Currently we are in difficult and unpredictable situation, commercial activities are slowing down, we could not pay debts and even pay civil servant salaries, and we are trying hard to, at least, cover the operational costs,” Borges told reporters at APORTIL office, Dili on Wednesday (15/08). She added Timor-Leste's Fiscal Reform team was working hard to increase Timor-Leste's non-oil revenue to cover up operational costs such as salaries and other government subsidies to decrease withdrawal from the nation's petroleum fund every year and increase economic growth.

Greater Sunrise Pipeline, Xanana: before everyone doubted Timor-Leste could have FM

GMN Diario Nacional, August 16, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Many people still question the possibility of canalizing pipeline of Greater Sunrise's oil and gas to Timor-Leste amid Xanana Gusmão's talks with the oil and gas joint venture companies to bring the pipeline to Timor-Leste. Responding to the question and doubts, Xanana Gusmão said before everyone also doubted Timor-Leste could draw permanent maritime boundary (FM) with Australia, but the negotiation result said otherwise. “They can doubt our effort to bring pipeline to Timor-Leste because beforehand they also doubted we could have permanent maritime boundary, but now we have it,” Xanana said at G7+ Office in Dili, on Wednesday (15/08). Timor-Leste and Australia has signed their permanent maritime boundary agreement on March 6, 2018 in New York marking the end of long dispute over oil and gas reserve in Timor Sea and putting the majority of oil and gas field of Greater Sunrise to Timor-Leste's ownership. However, ways to develop Greater Sunrise oil and gas field remain unresolved and the talks on whether to pipe it Timor-Leste or Darwin of Australia with joint venture companies, Woodside and ConocoPhillips continues. Last month, Xanana Gusmão has stepped away from the official side of Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) coalition government in which his party CNRT holds major seats in the coalition, just to focus on negotiations of Greater Sunrise Pipeline and maritime boundary with Indonesia.

August 15, 2018

Korean Govt calls for more Timorese workers

GMN TV, August 14, 2018 language source: Tetun

The Government of South Korea has called on the Government of Timor-Leste to send 2000 of its workers to be employed in Korea each year. The South Korean Ambassador to Timor-Leste made the comments after meeting with Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak on Tuesday (14/8). The Ambassador Li Chi Wu said the employment of the Timorese workers in South Korea was necessary to be increased and that was based on the agreement made by the two governments. "So, the objective meeting with the prime minister is to congratulate the prime minister in order to strengthen the two countries' bilateral cooperation. Especially, the program of sending Timorese workers to Korea," he said.

UNDP offers \$ 100.000 for Dili – Ainaro corridor

Televizaun Timor-Leste, August 14, 2018 language source: Tetun

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offers its community funding worth \$ 100.000 to be spent for the roads corridor project, Dili – Ainaro. Deputy Minister for State Administration (ESTATAL), Abilio Jose Caetano said this project had been implemented for four municipalities. "It is about capacity building for municipal secretaries, three people from four municipalities, namely Ermera, Aileu, Ainaro and Manufahi. It is small project, but it benefits our communities," he said. The public television (TVTL) reported that the project is focusing on agriculture, husbandry, drainage and production of seeds.

24 health centres do not access water and power

Televizaun Timor-Leste, August 14, 2018 language source: Tetun

Director for Viqueque Health, Francisco Carvalho said 24 health centres in that municipality so far had not accessed to clean water supply and city power and said such situation made the health professionals did not work optimally. Mr. Carvalho made the comments during a short notice visit of the deputy minister for Health, Elia dos Reis Amaral recently to Luca and Bahalarawain Health centres. "The health centres here are difficult to get access to the clean water and city power, as well as lacking facilities," he said. Meanwhile, Deputy Minister Elia said she visited all health centres in order to take a look closer at medical services and find out problems, which the health centres faced, so that the Government could resolve it.

Vendors in Baucau and Bobonaro yet to access water and proper sanitation

GMN TV, August 14, 2018 language source: Tetun

Research findings of the Program for "Toos ba Moris Di'ak" shows that most of the vendors doing business at Baucau and Bobonaro markets have not yet accessed to clean water and proper sanitation, especially the female vendors. Gender Specialist for Toos Ba Moris Di'ak, Cecilia da Fonseca made the comments during the presentation of the research findings on Tuesday (14/8) at House, Caicaoli-Dili. Ms. Fonseca said it was necessary indeed to improve conditions of the markets in Baucau and Bobonaro, so that the vendors could sell their goods safely. "The findings of our research are mainly about sanitation, especially the infrastructure, which strongly affects the pregnant women, they have to stop doing business as there have been no proper facilities, which could secure their conditions," she said.

Lu-Olo questions govt's organic law

Independente, August 15, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The standoff between Timor-Leste's President, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo and the Timorese Government seems to continue after Lu-Olo decided not to inaugurate several ministers' nominations from the Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP), now President Lu-Olo questions the government's organic law and asks Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak to review it. "President of the Republic asked me to review and revise certain points in the Government Organic Law," Ruak told reporters after meeting with President Lu-Olo at Presidential Palace in Aitarak Laran, yesterday (14/08). He added the Government Organic Law was important to define the government's service and the execution of 2018 State Budget and President of the Republic promised to promulgate the Government Organic Law after the government revised it.

PN Specialized Committee starts discussing 2018 OJE

Independente, August 15, 2018 Language source: Tetun

National Parliament (PN)'s Specialized Committee Wednesday (15/08) starts discussing with each ministry about 2018 General State Budget. President of National Parliament, Arão Noe said PN had approved the government's urgent character of 2018 State Budget Proposal and ordered Specialized Committee to start meeting with each minister to discuss each ministerial budget. "The Specialized Committee starts meeting with each minister to discuss each ministerial budget allocation," Noe told reporters at National Parliament Tuesday (14/08). The Specialized Committee has six days to discuss each ministerial budget and later it will report to PN Committee C to give feedback report to plenary and schedule the debate of 2018 State Budget Proposal with the government.

Government guarantees electricity supply as opposition demands answers to shortages

Independente, August 15, 2018

The Parliamentary Affairs and Legislative Reform Minister, Fidelis Magalhaes has dismissed suggestions that Timor-Leste's electricity will be turned off because of unpaid fuel bills to state power centers. Inacio De Jesus, the National Director of Timor-Leste Electricity (EDTL) last week said electricity would be cut off to all territories on August 21 because the government had not paid fuel providers SACOM and ETTO. De Jesus said the two fuel companies – which supply Hera and Betano power stations – had outstanding bills of \$6 million and \$33 million respectively. Magalhaes told media on Monday that the government was "aware fuel had been cut off to Hera and Betano, but after meeting with the fuel companies he could "guarantee" electricity would stay on across Timor-Leste. The Democratic Party continues to pressure the government to explain why the bills had not been paid when \$140 million of State Money had recently been approved. "We want to know because the public is worried," Adriano Do Nascimento said in National Parliament on Tuesday. Nascimento said the public deserved to know the real reason behind the unpaid bills. The electricity concern comes as blackouts continue to strike across the country.

Lu-Olo to inaugurate three more ministers

Timor Post, August 15, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's President, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo has scheduled to inaugurate three more ministers from the Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) on August 16, 2018 to fill in the new cabinet gaps. President Lu-Olo said he had nominated the three government members namely Samuel Marçal as Minister of Planning and Strategic Investment, Alfredo Pires as Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, and Rogerio Mendonça as State Secretary for Fisheries based on Prime Minister's proposal. "Within the specific

competencies assigned to me as President of the Republic to nominate, swear in and exonerate members of government based on Prime Minister's proposal, as written in Timor-Leste's Constitution article 86, point h, and article 106, point 2, I would like to inform that I had decided to nominate Samuel Marçal as Minister of Planning and Strategic Investment and he would be inaugurated together with other two government members, I had nominated before, respectively, Alfredo Pires as Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, and Rogerio Mendonça as State Secretary for Fisheries based on Prime Minister's proposal at Presidential Palace on August 16 at 10:30," Lu-Olo wrote to Prime Minister Ruak.

Beforehand, an insider told Timor Post that President Lu-Olo had decided to inaugurate the above nominated ministers on August 8, but it was canceled might be because of internal problem from the ruling party. Yesterday Timor Post observed the preparation for the inauguration ceremony on August 16, 2018 at Presidential Palace had been completed. The AMP coalition government has been operating without several key ministers since President Lu-Olo refused to inaugurate almost a dozen nominations on June 22 because of corruption investigations. The blocked nominations are seven people from the CNRT Party: Francisco Kalbuadi Lay, Helder Lopes, Tomas Do Rosario Cabral, Virgilio Smith, Jacinto Rigoberto Gomes De Deus, Sergio Gama Da C. Lobo, Amandio de Sa Benevides and two Jose Manuel Turquel and Antonio Verdial De Sousa from coalition's other partner Khunto.

Ruling party demands an inquiry into Fretilin-led government, Noe: it is unnecessary

Timor Post, August 15, 2018 Language source: Tetun

President of National Parliament, Arão Noe said National Parliament regime allowed parliament to set up a parliamentary inquiry committee, but for now there was no need to set it up. Noe made the comment to respond to the demand from one of the coalition government's parties CNRT to set up a parliamentary inquiry committee to start an inquiry into the previous Fretilin-led minority government for withdrawing \$70 million from the nation's petroleum fund without the acknowledgement from National Parliament. "National Parliament regime allows setting up a parliamentary inquiry committee, but we will see about it later because currently National Parliament is busy discussing the government 2018 General State Budget Proposal," Noe told journalists at PN on Tuesday (14/08). Responding to the current ruling party's demand, Fretilin Bench member at National Parliament, Antoninho Bianco said Fretilin was ready for any inquiry into its previous government ruling and ready to be taken to court. Last month, Fretilin Bench Deputy President, Francisco Miranda Branco said the government did not need National Parliament approval to withdraw money from the nation's petroleum fund if the amount of the money was less than USD\$200 million because the nation's petroleum fund law allowed it.

2018 State Budget Debate, Fretilin does not want an Eventual Committee

Timor Post, August 15, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The opposition party in parliament, Fretilin does not want National Parliament to set up an Eventual Committee to discuss 2018 State Budget Proposal like last three years when Fretilin joined CNRT and its alliance to govern the executive power. "The Eventual Committee made the discussion of General State Budget closed to public and people did not like, therefore, it is not need to set up Eventual Committee now to discuss 2018 State Budget Proposal," Bianco told Timor Post at National Parliament on Tuesday (14/08). He added it was important for people to accompany the discussion of government's programs and state budget proposal, so that they knew that people they voted for could really represent them in parliament and fight for their needs. Responding the possibility of establishing the Eventual Committee in 2018 State Budget Proposal, President of National Parliament, Arão Noe said it depended on all benches in National Parliament to set up an Eventual Committee or not to facilitate the discussion of general state budget. In the last three years of the previous CNRT-ten-year-led government after the government reshuffle in 2015 and the only opposition party, at that time, Fretilin joined the government, National Parliament usually set up an Eventual Committee to facilitate the general state budget discussions and the discussions were not televised live publicly.

PNTL arrest two people for involving prostitution practice

GMN Diario Nacional, August 15, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The Timorese National Police (PNTL) arrested two people for involving in prostitution practice in Taibesi of Dili on Monday (13/08). These people were arrested after Dili Municipality Administration did a regular check to Taibesi Market and identified a vendor's place in the market was used as brothel. The police capture two suspects with initial AN, the owner of the place, and Z, the sex worker, but another suspect had escaped. "We caught red-handed two people were renting the place for fulfilling their sexual desire, therefore, we called the police, but when the police arrived the man had run away," Chief of Dili Municipality Administration, Berta Santa Viera told GMN at Taibesi Market on Monday (13/08). She added the places in Taibesi Market were rented to vendors to do small business not to turn it into brothel.

August 14, 2018

Investigation into Maliana gunfight underway

GMN TV, August 13, 2018 language source: Tetun

The Timorese National Police Force (PNTL) Commander, Commissioner Julio da Costa Hornay said investigation into the recent gunfight in Maliana engaging his officers and Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL) soldiers was underway. Hornay affirmed that the joint investigation team of both PNTL and F-FDTL were continuing to investigate the case and said it would be completed this week. "We are still waiting for the findings of the ongoing investigation, so the best way is waiting for the results of the investigation." "The investigation team promised to conclude it this week and will submit the findings to me and General Lere, so that we can take necessary action based on recommendations from the team," he said.

Four children stop going to school

GMN TV, August 13, 2018 language source: Tetun

Four children living in Camea, a suburb of the Timorese Capital of Dili are reported to have stopped going to school because of economic problem. GMN TV reported that these four children stopped going to school as the parents could not be able to pay their school fee. Mother of the children, Elisa dos Santos said they had to decide to stop the children from going to school as their incomes were not enough to be spent for their children's school fee. "One of my daughters just stopped going to school as school fee is \$ 150. We cannot be able to pay their school fee because we have no other ways to do where we only sell firewood and vegetables to earn money," she said.

Govt waits President Lu-Olo to complete its cabinet

Independente, August 14, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak is negotiating with President of the Republic, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo to complete his cabinet as soon as possible since the new cabinet is heading to National Parliament to defend its proposal of US\$1.2 billion for 2018.

Minister for Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs, Fidelis Magalhaes said lack of several key ministers in the Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) coalition government would affect the discussion of 2018 State Budget Proposal. "Everyone is expecting the Prime Minister and President could find solution to complete the new cabinet sooner," Magalhaes told reporters at National Parliament on Monday (13/08). He said the Prime Minister was trying hard to convince President of the Republic to inaugurate several nominations that had been refused before. President Lu-Olo has stood firm since June 22 not to inaugurate several nominations from AMP Party because of corruption investigations, since then, the government has been operating without several key ministers. The standoff over the blocked nominations is seven people from the CNRT Party: Francisco Kalbuadi Lay, Helder Lopes, Tomas Do Rosario Cabral, Virgilio Smith, Jacinto Rigoberto Gomes De Deus, Sergio Gama Da C. Lobo, Amandio de Sa Benevides and two Jose Manuel Turquel and Antonio Verdial De Sousa who are from coalition's other partner Khunto.

Govt guarantees no outage

Independente, August 14, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The Timorese Government guarantees there will be no outage on August 20 afterward even though Timor-Leste Electricity (EDTL) only has reserved combustible until August 20, 2018, the government says it will find ways to resolve the problem. Earlier the Timorese supplier company, SACOM group owner, Abilio Araujo declared SACOM had stopped supplying combustible to Betano Electric Center because the government had not paid them and there was no communication. Minister for Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs, Fidelis Magalhaes said the government would do anything to ensure there would be no blackout. He said it was just technical problem between the government and the supplier companies, so it would be resolved sooner. "we know that public are concerned over the possibility of having total blackout, but it is not going to happen, the government will find ways to resolve the problem, it is just a matter of communication with supplier company," Magalhaes said. He added President of the Republic, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo had promulgated an additional budget to respond to urgent debts and other important expenses, so the government would resolve lack of combustible problem.

ConocoPhillips in Timor-Leste support s Tibar Training Center

Independente, August 14, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The State Secretariat for Professional Training and Employment (SEFOPE) through Tibar Training Center just graduated 18 trainees in the area of electricity and industry on August 9, 2018. The training was supported by ConocoPhillips Company in Timor-Leste. "On behalf of the government, I want to thank ConocoPhillips for offering fund to SEFOPE to provide training young Timorese in the area of electricity and instrumentation to prepare young people to work in petroleum industry and I also want to thank National Authority for Petroleum and Natural Resources (ANPM) for giving opportunity to these young apprentices," State Secretary for Professional Training and Employment, Julião Da Silva said when giving certificates to the apprentices at Tibar Training Center on August 9, 2018. He recognized there had been no standard curriculum for vocational training in Timor-Leste, but the Timorese Government's decree law no.8/2008 allowed establishment of Labor Development Institute (INDIMO) to oversee vocational training centers in the territory of Timor-Leste based on labor market needs.

Govt and UNDP launch Extreme Warning System

Timor Post, August 14, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The Timorese Government through Ministry of Transport and Communication (MTK) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), on Monday (13/08), have launched Extreme Warning System (EWS) of possible natural disaster. UNDP Director, Claudio Providas said the system would warn community of possible natural disaster harm and reduce vulnerability of facing the disaster. "We are proud of supporting the Timorese Government to install EWS in Timor-Leste and it is recognized by the government," Mr. Providas told reporters after launching the system. The system is completed with six automated weather stations and two monitoring machines to detect inundation and landslides. At the same place, Minister for MTK, Jose Agustinho Da Silva thanked UNDP's support to help reduce major effects of natural disaster on community. "The system could give information and alert community in the area of Dili, Aileu nad Ainaro about possible natural disaster," Minister Da Silva said.

Korea needs 2000 Timorese workers every year

GMN Diario Nacional, August 14, 2018 Language source: Tetun

South Korean Ambassador to Timor-Leste Lee Chin Bum met with Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak talking about bilateral cooperation programs. In the meeting, Ambassador Lee called on Prime Minister to prepare 2000 Timorese workers to be sent to South Korea each year. "We discussed about the ongoing cooperation programs between the two countries and the demand of more Timorese workers in Korea, at least 2000 each year," Mr. Lee told reporters after meeting with Prime Minister recently. He added South Korea wanted to help the Timorese government to reduce numbers of unemployed in Timor-Leste as well as promoting self-employment upon their return to their home country.

PN expects to approve 2018 State Budget on September 10

Suara Timor Lorosae, August 14, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's National Parliament (PN) has approved the urgent character of 2018 State Budget Proposal and set to approve the state budget on September 10, 2018 to allow the government to pay the state debts and bring an end to a one-year long deadlock. Through a plenary session on Monday (13/08), National Parliament had approved the urgent character and scheduled the debate of USD\$ 1.2 billion proposal on August 28 to September 10, 2018. Meanwhile, PN member from opposition party Fretilin, Maria Angelica Rangel who voted against the urgent character, said the government should not use urgent character to force parliament to approve the budget sooner than normal because the documents in the proposal that submitted to PN was not complete yet and they did not know what the government wanted to do with \$USD 1.2 billion. "The proposal is not complete yet, it does not contain book 4a, 4b, and book 5 within which lays explanations of the details of the budget and the government action plan, so it was unacceptable that National Parliament, particularly the ruling party members vote in favor of the urgent character without really knowing what the government want to do with USD\$ 1.2 billion," Ms. Rangel said in her intervention after voting to the urgent character of 2018 State Budget. Responding to the concerns, Minister for Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs, Fidelis Magalhaes recognized the proposal documents were not complete yet, but he pledged that they would complete the documents and explains the details of the government plan during the discussion of 2018 State Budget Proposal.