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## Local Daily News

**September 19, 2019**

### PSIC to purchase 100 pistols

*GMN TV, September 18, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Timor-Leste's Scientific Police known as PSIC is planning to purchase 100 pistols to be used for arming his members when carrying out their work and doing investigation into any criminal cases. Director-General for PSIC, Vicente dos Santos Brito said their proposal of buying the pistols had been approved in the Council of Ministers' meeting. Mr. Brito affirmed that budget for the pistols purchase had been inserted in the budget allocation for 2020. "PSIC is investigation police, we are going to be armed with pistols and that already been approved by the Council of Ministers," he said.

### Govt calls on ICRC and CVTL to recall Timorese graves by war

*Televizaun Timor-Leste, September 18, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Secretary of State for Civil Protection has called on the International Red Cross (ICRC) and CVTL (Timor-Leste National Red Cross) to recall the graves for Timorese people during the Indonesian military occupation of Timor-Leste. Secretary of State Alexandrino Araujo made the call after officially opening the roundtable discussion on dead body collections and natural disaster management on Tuesday (17/9). Mr. Araujo said it was necessary for ICRC and CVTL to be in partnership to recall all the graves of Timorese people killed by war. "So, it is also about how to recall all the graves of Timorese after the war. And tomorrow will be little bit about natural disaster management," he said.

### Audit team investigate money goes missing in Oecusse Immigration

*Radio Televizaun Timor-Leste, September 18, 2019 language source: Tetun*

An audit team from National Police Force (PNTL) Commands is currently launching an investigation into an amount of more than US \$ 4000, which has gone missing in the Office of Oecusse Immigration Service. Director for Immigration Service, Agustinho Gomes revealed it was true that money went missing in the office of Oecusse Immigration service; the immigration officers would be sanctioned if they were found guilty. "Investigation into the case is underway; it is being held by the audit team of the police. If some officers were found guilty, they should be responsible for such an act as it is act of crime," he said.

### Australian Govt trains Timorese Immigration officers

*Radio Timor-Leste, September 18, 2019 language source: Tetun*

The Government of Australia through its embassy in Timor-Leste is offering one-day training on document examinations to Timorese Immigration Service officers. Speaking to journalists, Director-General for Immigration Service, Agustino Gomes said this training was important to increase skills and knowledge of the immigration officers to be more professional for public services. "Hopefully, this capacity building could help support the members to do their tasks professionally in accordance with the law and procedures," he said.

### UN Representative concerned over parliament's block of President's attendance at UN General Assembly

*Independente, September 19, 2019*

The United Nations Representative to Timor-Leste, Roy Trivedy on Tuesday chastised National Parliament after it denied Timor-Leste's President to attend the UN General Assembly debate in New York that starts on 24 September. Heads of states are typically among the representatives from the 193 UN members states that take part in the high profile nine-day debate on important questions concerning global peace and security. Speaking to media after a meeting with President Francisco Lu-Olo Guterres at the Presidential Palace on Tuesday, Trivedy said he was "very disappointed with the decision of the National Parliament which does not allow the President of the Republic to participate in the UN General Assembly meeting." As well as blocking attending the UN General Assembly, the ruling coalition government has also voted against the President's sought approval from parliament for a state visit to Portugal, the Vatican and Indonesia in 2018. Arao Noe, the president of parliament, told Reuters by telephone the rejection decision was taken because the appointment of cabinet ministers had been delayed by more than fourteen months. Trivedy said that it was "important" that Timor-Leste's President could attend the UN General Assembly on behalf of the people of Timor-Leste.

### MS establish a task force team to combat tuberculosis in Timor-Leste

*Independente, September 19, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The Ministry of Health (MS) of Timor-Leste has established a task force team which composed of relevant ministries and development partners to combat tuberculosis in Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste is reported to have the second-highest incidence of TB in the Asia-Pacific region with approximately 5700 new cases each year in its population of one million people. Deputy Minister of Health, Elia Dos Reis Amaral, said the task force team was set up to combat tuberculosis by 2030. "We established the Task Force Team to push each relevant ministry to have a proper program to combat tuberculosis disease in the country," Deputy Minister Amaral told media at Timor Plaza Compound, Dili on Wednesday. Ms Amaral added in the last 20 years, Timor-Leste made a significant progress in fighting against tuberculosis, therefore, it wanted to improve its effort to combat the disease by 2030. According to WHO Report of 2017, there are 3579 cases of TB with a total new and relapse cases of 3470 in Timor-Leste.

## China committed to supporting government in developing Timor-Leste's economy

*Independente, September 19, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

Timor-Leste's Coordinator Minister for Economic Affairs, Fidelis Magalhaes, met with the Chinese Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Xiao Jianguo, to discuss about bilateral cooperation of the two countries in economic sector. In the meeting, the Chinese Ambassador reinforced the Chinese Government's commitment to support Timor-Leste's government to develop the half-island country's economy. Meanwhile, the Coordinator Minister presented the Timorese Government's priorities program to develop tourism and industry to diversify Timor-Leste's economic revenue. Further Minister Magalhaes thanked China for its commitment to continue supporting Timor-Leste's economic development in the future.

## Parliament shows bad example to young generation, FONGTIL

*GMN Diario Nacional, September 19, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

National Parliament's decision to deny President of the Republic's attendance at UN General Assembly in New York has shown bad example to Timorese young generations, Director General of FONGTIL, Daniel Santos Do Carmo said. "A decision like that does not bring Timor-Leste any good reference and it shows bad example to young Timorese. This is a bad lesson because it shows political vengeance. If parliament plays a political game that does not show nationalism and continues playing partisanship, it will not bring any good to the country, we need to separate national interest and political party's interest," Do Carmo said when speaking to media at Joao Paulo Hall, in Dili, on Wednesday. At the same place, a Timorese intellectual, Francisco Soares, also lamented with parliament's decision to deny President Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres' official trip to abroad for the third times since the President took office in 2017. Soares said parliament should separate national interest and political party's interest because President of the Republic's trip to abroad was to strengthen Timor-Leste's relation with international community, so parliament should have allowed it. "We are trying to join the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), but parliament continues to deny President of the Republic's trip to abroad which isolates Timor-Leste from the world," he said. President Lu-Olo was scheduled to travel to New York on September 18, 2019 to participate in UN General Assembly, but it was canceled because National Parliament voted against the trip with a reason President of the Republic should complete the Timorese Government's cabinet first. Last year, the ruling coalition parties in parliament have also voted against the President's sought approval from parliament for a state visit to Portugal, the Vatican and Indonesia because of gridlock over vacant government positions in the new cabinet led by Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak.

## MP calls on PNTL and F-FDTL to guarantee security in the country

*Suara Timor Lorosae, September 19, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

Patrosino dos Reis, Member of National Parliament (MP) has called on the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) and Timorese National Defense Force (F-FDTL) to work hard and professionalize their members in order to ensure safety and protection of citizens in the country. Reis made the comment following the machete attack of an unknown group against the three young men in Beto-Timor suburb, in Dili, on Sunday (15/9). "I would like to call on the two security institutions such as PNTL and F-FDTL to perform their duties professionally to ensure security and safety for people in the country," Reis said at National Parliament, on Wednesday. At the same place, the Vice President of National Parliament, Luis Roberto said such incident often regarded as the problem of Martial Arts Group (GAM), but actually it's not. He said the same crime is often committed by many young people due to lack of job opportunities and high number of unemployed in the country. "We often blame martial art groups for the acts of crimes that happen in the country, but if we look deeply into this case, we see many social problems that contribute to this problem such as joblessness and poor economy and so on," Roberto said. He added many young people in the country were jobless and had nothing to do and it cause them to create problems, so the government needed to resolve the problem by providing more job opportunities to Timorese people. Meanwhile, Deputy Commander of Dili Police, Euclides Belo said the investigation into the case was ongoing and police would hunt down suspects of the case to hold them accountable. "We hope that soon we will get the result of the investigation on the case from the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) to identify the suspects to hold them accountable for their acts," Superintendent Assistant Euclides Belo told media at PNTL headquarter in Dili, on Monday.

## 40% of Timorese suffers from malnutrition

*Suara Timor Lorosae, September 19, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

Timor-Leste is potential for agriculture production, but about 40% of its populations are still suffering from malnutrition, according to the 2018 survey data of the World Health Organization (WHO). Over two-thirds of Timorese families experience at least one month of chronic food insecurity, the majority from rural areas. The Director of the NGO FONGTIL, Daniel Santos do Carmo said high number of malnutrition in the country showed that the government's investment on agriculture sector had not reached its target to solve food insecurity in the country. Carmo said about 75 percent of Timorese people are farmers, therefore, it's important for the government to invest more in agriculture sector to increase agricultural productivity. "We organized this meeting to increase people's awareness on the importance of food security and improvement of agricultural sector to fight against malnutrition in the country," Carmo said. Paula Lopez da Cruz, the assistant of Timor-Leste's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said the meeting was important to see the national data from civil societies in order to increase investment in agriculture to reduce hunger and malnutrition in Timor-Leste.

## JICA prioritizes infrastructure development, agriculture production and tourism development in 2019

*Suara Timor Lorosae, September 19, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has focused its support on infrastructure development, agricultural production and tourism in 2019 to diversify Timor-Leste's economy. JICA has supported Timor-Leste to build the Comoro Bridge III this year and also through "domestic rice project", it has helped rice farmers to increase their income. The Program Officer of JICA, Armando Amaral Da Cruz said Apart from Comoro Bridge III, JICA would also support the rehabilitation of Nicolau Lobato Airport and "Domestic Rice Production Project" and would be terminated in 2021. "The objective of the project was to increase the rice production, irrigation maintenance, management, distribution and marketing of the local product (rice)," Da Cruz said. Cruz said the project had been implemented in three municipalities including Maliana of Bobonaro, Manatuto and Baucau. He said that there had been a significant progress made with the implementation of the program such as the rice farmers had been cultivate their rice field twice a year and JICA had also established "farmer market" in Timor Plaza to link farmers to market to sell their agricultural products.

## September 18, 2019

## UN resident coordinator concerned about Parliament's decision

*Radio Timor-Leste, September 17, 2019 language source: Tetun*

The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator, Roy Trivey said he was concerned about the National Parliament's decision on blocking the President of the Republic, Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres' participation in the UN General Assembly. Mr. Trivedy made the comments on Tuesday (17/9) after meeting with the President of the Republic at the Palace of the President. He affirmed the absence of the president of the republic in the UN General Assembly would affect the country's development. "If there no representation of Timor-

Leste in the UN General Assembly would affect the development of the nation. I think, the sentiment on the decision is very lamentable,” he told the media.

## **MS and WHO campaign on importance of breast milk**

*GMN TV, September 17, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Ministry of Health (MS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday (17/9) conducted campaign on encouraging families and new-born baby mothers to feed their babies with breast milk. GMN TV reported that this campaign was held to increase the awareness of people about the importance of breast milk for new-born babies, calling on the mothers to stop feeding the babies with fabricated milk. Representative of WHO, Rajav Pandaf said all the babies had the rights to be fed with nutritive food; therefore it was necessary to feed them with breast milk. “New born-babies and all the children have the right to get access to good nutrition. Malnutrition is about the death of children, about 45% of the babies are fed with breast milk and it helps the development of the children,” he said.

## **EU offers \$ 500.000 to PLAN International respond to climate change**

*Televizaun Timor-Leste, September 17, 2019 language source: Tetun*

The European Union (EU) has offered US \$ 500.000 PLAN International to respond and mitigate climate change, which emerges drought in the country. Head of EU Mission to Timor-Leste, Simon Lee Grand said this amount of fund was granted to respond to possibility of the drought in the country. Mr. Lee Grand affirmed today (17/9)’s workshop was to educate and train people to be aware of climate change. “So, today’s workshop is to train the people in order to increase their knowledge on climate change. Our project is more focusing on climate change; the granted amount is US \$ 500. 000,” he said.

## **UNTL and Govt invest in husbandry to diversity economy**

*Televizaun Timor-Leste, September 17, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Timor Lorosa’e National University (UNTL) and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through national directorate of husbandry are in partnership to invest in husbandry in order to diversify the country’s economy. Director-General for Husbandry, Domingos Gusmao said the program so called Komadi network already been included in the Government’s plan for 2020. “The Government will allocate budget for this program in 2020, it helps facilitate the farmers to transport their cows and buffalos. RTL (the public radio) reported that this program was financially funded by the Governments of Timor-Leste and Australia.

## **KOICA funds govt’s zero plastic policy**

*Timor Post, September 18, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) provides financial support worth US \$ 3.000.000, 00 for funding the project relating to the Government of Timor-Leste’s zero plastic policy. Secretary of State for Environment, Demetrio de Carvalho said the zero plastic policy was important to Timor-Leste as quantity of rubbish in the country was mainly from plastics. Mr. Carvalho affirmed the total amount, which KOICA offered was US \$ 4.355.770, which composed of US \$ 3.000.000, 00 from KOICA, while US \$ 1.355.770 from the private sector. “This project is financially funded by KOICA as it is for the Government of Timor-Leste. We thank KOICA for the support through Mercy Corps, so that we can materialize this zero plastic policy soon,” he said.

## **Trivedy laments cancelation of PR departure to New York**

*GMN Diario Nacional, September 18, 2019 Language Source: Tetun*

The UN-Resident Coordinator in Timor-Leste, Roy Trivedy lamented the decision of the National Parliament’s (PN) on canceling the departure of the President of the Republic (PR) to take part in the UN General Assembly. Trivedy said about 70 Head of States to be present at the meeting to talk about the development in their countries. He said the meeting was important because it would discuss about the Climate Change, Financing for Development, Universal Health Coverage, Sustainable Development and Elimination of Nuclear Weapon. “During our meeting, the President of the Republic told me about the cancelation of his departure to New York, so, if there would be no Timor-Leste’s representative in the high-level meeting, then it would affect the development of Timor-Leste,” said Trivedy during his meeting with Lu Olo at the President Palace in Dili, on Tuesday.

## **MAE to implement Decentralization Program by 2020**

*Independente September 18, 2019, Language Source: Tetun*

Ministry of State Administration (MAE) is going to implement the decentralization program in 2020 to allow municipal authorities to execute their own programs. “The program would give greater authority and political power to the municipal authorities to execute their program,” said Vice-Minister of State Administration, Abilio Jose Caetano, on Tuesday. Caetano said the government had the commitment to put money on implementing the program. “The government just started discussing the budget of MAE for 2020, therefore, it’s too early to mention the total amount of the budget that to be allocated to the implementation of the program,” said Caetano. However, Caetano expressed his concerns over the President of the Republic vetoing the Local Power Law and the Administrative Decentralization law.

## **Saskia Kouwenberg wins Timor-Leste Solidarity Award**

*Independente September 18, 2019*

Dutch National Saskia Kouwenberg, who brought the film of the 1991 Santa Cruz massacre, made by Journalist Max Stahl, to the rest of the world, has been awarded a Timor-Leste Solidarity Prize. Kouwenberg has been a solidarity activist supporting Timor-Leste for many years, in the Netherlands and Australia, and was a coordinator of the International Federation for East Timor Observer Project (IFET-OP) in 1999. She was also involved in the consultations, research and discussions which led to the formation of the civil society organization, La’o Hamutuk, in 2000. The Prize was presented by Sr Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz and the President of the 12 November Committee, Mr. Gregorio Saldanha at the Centro Nasional Chega in Dili.

## **September 17, 2019**

## **Parliament cancels President Lu-Olo’s departure for New York**

*Radio Timor-Leste, September 16, 2019 language source: Tetun*

National Parliament has voted against President of the Republic, Francisco “Lu-Olo” Guterres’ department for New York to take part in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. Radio Timor-Leste (the public radio) reported that the president of the republic was scheduled to be at the UN General Assembly on September 23 until September 30, 2019, but unfortunately the people’s representative blocked it. In a political statement, MP Patrocínio Fernandes from the CNRT Party, said they voted against the president’s departure as political deadlock in the country had not yet been resolved. Meanwhile, MP Josefa Alvares Ferreira said it was not fundamental reason to vote against the president of the republic’s departure to New York and that would affect the country and the UN’s bilateral cooperation.

## **MS and Malaysian doctors to set up cardiology machines at HNGV**

*Radio Timor-Leste, September 16, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Ministry of Health (MS) and Malaysian doctors are planning to set up cardiology machines at the National Hospital of Guido Valadares (HNGV) to help facilitate patients suffering from heart diseases. Acting Minister for MS, Bonifasio Maucoli said the establishment of the cardiology machines was to reduce numbers of medical treatment made in overseas. Speaking to journalists, Doctor David Kung Sun Ki pledged to help provide the country with medical equipment and human resources in order to support Timorese medical staffs to provide medical services for the Timorese people. "Will involve our professionals from Malaysia where will also transfer skills to the young Timorese, so that they could be independent in the future and be able to make heart surgery themselves one day," he said.

## **Ombudsman bestows human rights award to Ainaro Police**

*GMN TV, September 15, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Human Rights and Justice Ombudsman (PDHJ) has bestowed human rights award to Ainaro Police Station as its members acted professionally and followed the procedures and human rights when carrying out their duties. Ainaro Police Station Commander, Aldino Mouzinho said in 2017 and 2018, the ombudsman bestowed Ainaro Police Station with human rights award as they had worked professionally. "Ainaro Police Commands in 2017 and 2018 awarded with human rights award by PDHJ as we abided by the rules and respected human rights." "Prior to receiving this award, we asked for PDHJ, the Public Prosecution Office and HAK to share experience with us on human rights," he said.

## **TL's inclusion of ASEAN is main goal: MNEK Babo**

*GMN TV, September 15, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MNEK), Dionisio Babo said Timor-Leste's application of going into the Association of Southeast Asia Nations was the main goal of the country and was part of its foreign policy. Mr. Babo affirmed that the inclusion of ASEAN was not easy as it should be going through a consensus agreed by the permanent member states. "First priority of our foreign policy is emphasized on both bilateral and multilateral ties. How can Timor-Leste get space in the region so called ASEAN." "So far Timor-Leste has been an active participant where our head of state and head government are always invited to take part in ASEAN Summit and Timor-Leste also has become member of ASEAN Regional Forum," he said.

## **New Zealand offers smart phones to OPS in Dili**

*Timor Post, September 17, 2019 language source: Tetun*

New Zealand (NZ) Government through a program called PAPK (Community Policing Support) has offered a total of 36 smart phones to the country's community policing (OPS) officers working in the Capital Dili. Head of NZ Community Policing to Timor-Leste, Sean Mcmanus said it was necessary to help facilitate Timor-Leste's community policing officers by providing them with those smart phones, so that they could regularly communicate one another. "Mobile phones that we are going to distribute are totalling 36 and are type of smart phone," he told the media. Mr. McManus affirmed that OPS had achieved great progresses as it was able to interact with the community in very good manner.

## **PN cancels PR trip to New York**

*GMN Diario Nacional, September 17, 2019 language source: Tetun*

National Parliament (PN) through its Plenary Session on Monday (16/9) voted to block the trip of the President of the Republic Francisco Guterres Lu Olo to New York to take part in the UN Security Council's general assembly on the upcoming September 23. Members of Parliament (MPs) of Alliance for Change and Progress (AMP) voted against the trip of the President by majority of 27 votes while, 20 MPs of opposition parties voted in favor of it. The President of the National Parliament, Luis Roberto said AMP voted against the departure, saying that President must first solve the country's political impasse before doing his overseas trip work. Meanwhile, MP Josefa Alvares Fereira from Fretilin party said AMP had two times canceled the trip of the President abroad, saying that it could bring a negative impact on the bilateral relations of Timor-Leste with other countries and portray a bad image of the country to the international communities.

## **Unknown group attack three people with machetes**

*GMN Diario Nacional, September 17, 2019 language source: Tetun*

An unknown group of men attacked three people with machetes in Baia and Beto-Leste Suburb, in Dili, on Sunday. The victims of the attack, Junior Jeronimo Cabral, Antonio Bareto and Julião da Costa were rushed to the National Hospital Guido Valadares in Dili for treatment after the attack. "We hoped that soon we will get the result of the investigation on the case by the investigators team of the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) to identify the suspects," Superintendent Assistant Euclides Belo told media at PNTL headquarter in Dili, on Monday.

## **Timor-Leste agrees to visa waiver-travel waiver with Indonesia**

*Independente, September 17, 2019*

Indonesian and Timorese citizens will not need a visa for short trips between each country, under an Indonesian-government proposed new visa-waiver agreement, said Arão Noe, the President of the National Parliament. Noe confirmed that the Council of Ministers had approved visa-free travel, expected to be implemented "this year", when the agreement came before them. "We want to improve business relations with our neighbor and develop other business sectors," Noe said on Friday. He said making access to the Indonesian market easier was vitally important to making local businesses.