

Indonesian President Visits East Timor

In the first trip to East Timor by an Indonesian leader since the territory voted for independence, President Abdurrahmann Wahid expressed his sympathies for all the suffering the East Timorese have endured and reiterated the need for reconciliation and closer relations between both countries.

In a ceremony in front of the Governor's Office, UNTAET Headquarters, with CNRT President Xanana Gusmão and UN Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello standing at his side, President Wahid told an audience of 4,000 East Timorese that he felt at home in East Timor.

"East Timor and Indonesia cannot be separated from each other," he said, "If you are under pressure, we are also under pressure. Thank god the past, full of difficulties and suffering, has now passed."

In his speech, President Wahid urged those East Timor students who were previously studying in his country to return to Indonesia to finish their studies. "Please go back to Indonesia," he declared, "You don't need to be afraid. Even those who have not studied in Indonesia are welcome to come."

But it was at a wreath-laying ceremony



PHOTO BY COP/UNTAET

Indonesian President Abdurrahmann Wahid (centre) meeting with Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello (left) and CNRT President Xanana Gusmão at the Governor's Office, UNTAET Headquarters, during his recent visit to East Timor.

at the Santa Cruz cemetery, where in 1991, Indonesian troops fired on a funeral procession and killed as many as 250 East Timorese, that President Wahid offered his strongest gesture of reconciliation.

"I would like to apologize for the things that have happened in the past," he said, "to the victims and the families of Santa Cruz

and those friends who are buried in the military cemetery. Both are victims of the circumstances that we didn't want."

During President Wahid's visit, Mr. Vieira de Mello and Indonesian Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab signed a joint communiqué between the Republic of Indonesia

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Growing concern about dengue fever in East Timor

Despite various public campaigns in the past, most Timorese remain blissfully unconcerned about the risks associated with dengue fever, a potentially fatal illness, health officials in East Timor say.

"I think most Timorese are aware of dengue fever, but I believe it will take a long time to change their behaviour," said Dr. Rui Paulo de Jesus, an East Timorese physician and member of the Interim Health Authority (IHA), the country's main health policy-making body. "People don't see an urgency in cleaning up areas where dengue mosquitoes might breed."

Dengue fever in East Timor was originally common in urban centres, but now has been showing up more often in rural areas. Since February, three deaths, including that of a small child, have been attributed to dengue fever and hundreds of East Timorese and foreign workers have been suffering from the illness, said Dr. Alex Andjaparidze of the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) in Dili.

Since there is no preventive medicine for dengue fever, efforts have been directed at controlling the virus-carrying mosquito – "the tiger mosquito," as Dr. Andjaparidze called it. "There is no way of telling if a mosquito is carrying the dengue virus or not," he stressed, "so one must protect oneself from all mosquito bites."

The United Nations has begun a public education campaign to highlight the health issues and risks associated with the dengue fever. The effort will also stress the need to clean up areas where dengue mosquitoes breed, one of the most effective ways to prevent the illness, UN officials said.

Dengue is an acute flu-like fever caused by a virus and can occur in either its more prevalent form or as dengue haemorrhagic fever, a more severe form which can be deadly. The dengue mosquito becomes a virus-carrier when it bites a person who already has dengue fever and can then pass on the disease to other people. Only a blood test can confirm the presence of the virus.

The mosquito rests in cool, dark places and bites in the daytime. It breeds in standing water such as barrels, vases, discarded bottles, tyres and anywhere rainwater collects.

What You Should Know About Dengue

- **In case of dengue fever**
 - Seek immediate medical attention
 - Drink large amount of fluids
 - Get lots of rest
- **Symptoms of dengue fever**
 - Sudden high temperature
 - Severe headache
 - Pain behind the eyes
 - Pain in the muscles and joints
- **Symptoms of dengue haemorrhagic fever**
 - Bleeding from the nose, mouth or gums
 - Severe and continuous pain in the stomach
 - Frequent vomiting
 - Black stools
 - Excessive thirst
 - Pale, cold skin
- **How to prevent the spread of dengue**
 - At least once a week drain standing water from tanks, barrels, buckets, vases and air coolers.
 - Remove all objects containing water such as plant saucers from the house.
 - Cover all water containers inside and outside the house at all times.
 - Destroy discarded containers in which water collects, such as bottles, tins, and tyres and burn or bury rubbish where rainwater collects.



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and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET).

The communiqué allows for better passage of people and goods on the Timor island between East Timor and the Republic of Indonesia and will establish mutual assistance arrangements on legal, judicial and human rights concerns. It also introduces new educational and scholarship opportunities for East Timor students who study in Indonesian institutions. (see box)

Mr. Gusmão referred to the Indonesian President as a symbol of democratization, and of justice and peace as well.

"We hope there will be a great future between East Timor and Indonesia," he said. Mr. Vieira de Mello declared that "President Wahid's trip is bound to set a landmark in bilateral relations," adding that President Wahid and CNRT President Gusmão "have set the tone for bilateral relations that are forward-looking and aim simultaneously at reconciliation and justice as well as the promotion of international cooperation."



Photo by OCPI-UNTAET

Presidente Wahid with Mr. Gusmão, addressing the crowd in front of the Governor's Office.

President Wahid's visit was not without protest. On the road from the airport into Dili demonstrators attempted to block the President's entourage. Their concerns were for former FALINTIL fighters who were tortured, assassinated or disappeared during the Indonesian occupation. Some of the

demonstrators came to the Governor's Office plaza later, where Mr. Gusmão rushed forward to greet them and brought two - the widow and son of David Alex, a former FALINTIL commander - to meet and express their concerns personally to President Wahid. The Indonesian President said that he would follow up on the

matter.

At the Governor's Office, President Wahid held discussions with Mr. Vieira de Mello and Mr. Gusmão. He also met with the Bishop of Baucau, Dom Basilio do Nascimento, and participated in a special session of the National Consultative Council (NCC). Later he laid a corner stone at the future home of the Indonesian Representative's Office.

Sewing factory stitches women together

Motivated by last year's tragic events in East Timor, Ofelia Neves Napoleao closed her clothing manufacturing business in Australia and moved it - sewing machines and all - to Dili. It is her contribution to helping her native countrymen and, particularly Timorese women, in these difficult times.

Since November 1999, Ms. Napoleao's sewing cooperative has been teaching three dozen Timorese women sewing skills and, in the process, providing them modest incomes. Two hundred more women are currently on the waiting list to attend the

sewing program. "I know that most Timorese women have basic sewing experience so the priority [for enrolment] is given to widows and unemployed women," Ms. Napoleao says, although the cooperative also includes two men.

As well as providing women with skills and a wage, it is teaching them to become more self-sufficient, and helping them to develop basic business skills. One woman, Joana Sousa, who has been at the factory since its inception, says she welcomes the income she earns from the project and hopes to eventually set-up her own company.

In fact, Ms. Napoleao says there are plans to expand the cooperative into other districts in East Timor. "We are hoping to set up similar factories in the western districts of Oecussi, Same, Covalima and Bobonaro," she says. "And we'll go to the eastern districts when there is a need for it."

The programme is sponsored by Timor Aid, an East Timorese non-governmental organization (NGO), and also receives support from CARE Australia and a private fashion house in Sydney. The sponsors initially provided five containers of cloth, which were quickly turned into 5,600 blankets that were donated to people in Suai and Same as well as FALINTIL and some nuns.

The sewing cooperative currently produces a variety of lace, embroidery and knit fashions. Workers also produce handicrafts made from traditional cloths. Ms. Napoleao says this is an important aspect of the cooperative's work. "We are taking the tais and adapting it into useful items, like tablecloths and mats."

On Saturdays, women and girls learn how to sew a variety of fashions, with the sale proceeds going towards the workers' wages.

International Women's Day Celebrated March 8th

International Women's Day was celebrated around the world on 8 March. The annual celebration began in 1975 during International Women's Year. The date commemorates a 1857 strike for better wages and working conditions that was led by women in New York City's harsh garment and textile factories.

In Dili, the centerpiece of festivities was a talkshow/town meeting entitled "Listen to the Women for a Change," held at Gedung Matahari Terbit (GMT). It was designed to raise awareness among East Timorese women, to initiate a dialogue with decision-makers and more fully integrate women's issues into the national reconstruction agenda.

Key Points in the Joint UNTAET -- Indonesia Communique

1. It establishes reciprocal Representative / Liaison Offices in Dili, Jakarta and Kupang, West Timor.
2. The two parties agree to hold discussions to resolve issues arising from transfer of authority in East Timor to the United Nations, including the return of cultural artifacts and private property, the status of refugees and state pensions of East Timorese who were Indonesian civil servants.
3. It maintains educational and scholarship opportunities for East Timorese students at Indonesian institutions of higher learning.
4. It calls for economic, trade, investment, socio-cultural and legal cooperation.
5. It promotes democratic governance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in East Timor and Indonesia.
6. It establishes a border regime in Timor island to allow goods and people to pass between East Timor and Indonesia, including unimpeded access on a special corridor between the Oecussi enclave and other East Timor districts.
7. It facilitates financial and trade relations and investment.
8. It establishes and improves air, land and sea transportation links as well as telecommunications and postal ties.
9. The two parties confirm their intention to conclude a memorandum of understanding on providing mutual assistance in legal, judicial and human rights matters.
10. It establishes an Indonesian-UNTAET Joint Commission, with sub-commissions on business, environment, trade, health, culture, education and human rights.

UN CivPol Emergency Number in Dili

(mob) 0408 839978
(desk) 312 573

News Briefs

•**World Bank Gives Grant:** UNTAET, the World Bank and the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT) signed, on 21 February, a grant agreement in which the World Bank will provide US\$21.5 million over the next 30 months for community empowerment and local government projects. The new funds will be used to finance community grants, cultural heritage programmes and civil society development.

UN Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello declared that the signing of the agreement "is perhaps the best concrete demonstration that no one wishes to impose on the Timorese programmes designed abroad." The purpose of this first project, he added, "is to help establish local representative councils that will play a determining role in setting priorities and in identifying areas in which the World Bank and UNTAET together can provide support."

•**New East Timor Postal Service to Begin Operating:** In early April, the East Timor postal service is expected to become operational and will initially employ 18 Timorese citizens. The Portuguese Postal Service will provide technical advice and donated equipment for the first two post offices, which will be in Dili and Baucau. A third facility, to be located at Comoro Airport,



will be used to sort and process mail.

The first set of postage stamps, designed by Portuguese artists, have been approved by the Transitional Administrator. The second stamp in the series will be designed by a Timorese artist who will be selected in a national competition.

•**Recent Visitors to East Timor:** The head of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Catherine Bertini, visited East Timor on 22 February to assess the country's food aid needs and to explore ways such aid can be used to help promote food self-sufficiency.

The WFP Executive Director said that East Timor could expect a "good harvest" this year of both corn and rice, although it will not be sufficient to feed everyone. "Hopefully by next year," she added, "we will see some sufficiency, at least in rice."

During her first visit to East Timor, Ms. Bertini visited Liquica as well as Dili. While in the capital, she met with UN Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello and CNRT President Xanana Gusmao.

Coinciding with the WFP visit was that of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director Shigemitsu Sugisaki, who announced that the IMF plans "to maintain a continuous presence" in East Timor, even though it can not provide direct financial assistance to the country.

The Deputy Managing Director also said that the IMF "will coordinate" international experts in a variety of areas, including payment, banking supervision and tax and treasury management. While in Dili, Mr. Sugisaki met with Mr. Vieira de Mello, Mr. Gusmao, Bishop Carlos Belo, members of the National Consultative Committee (NCC) and other officials.

•**New Funds to Tap Gas Reserves:** UNTAET, on behalf of the East Timorese, and Australia have approved a US\$1.4 billion development plan for gas recycling in the Timor Gap area, the largest ever investment in the country.

The Byun Undan Gas Recycling Development Plan calls for Philips Petroleum of the United States to lead a consortium of six companies from Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom.

According to the agreement, Philips will train East Timorese hires and the potential jobs will be split between the two countries as long as it is practical. Exploration is expected to begin in 2004.

•**New regulations on banking and borders:** The National Consultative Council (NCC) recently adopted two new regulations on bank licensing and border controls.

The regulation on bank licensing sets up a framework for the banking industry and is an effort to protect the interests of depositors and to promote a sound and competitive banking sector in East Timor, UN officials said.

The Border Regime Regulation deals with the movement of people and goods into and out of East Timor.

The Regulation will apply to all of East Timor's ports of entry, which have not been officially designated yet but is expected to include Comoro Airport, Dili Port and several land crossings along the West Timor border.

•**National Association of Jurists Founded for Timor Lorosa'e:** The National Association of Jurists of Timor Lorosa'e was established recently in a simple ceremony at the old Dili Courthouse. The event served as well to reaffirm the principles of human rights, democracy and justice in East Timorese society, and respect for its identity and traditions.

The new association, which is known by its acronym, ANMEFTIL (Associasaun Nasional Maka'er Fukun Timor Lorosa'e) has come into existence to fulfill the objectives of the CNRT's 1998 "Magna Carta," that says, in part, "this new nation adheres to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and upholding the human rights of East Timorese which is an inalienable part of the universal principle of human rights."

According to the organization's director, Dionisio da Costa Babo, who addressed the ceremony held 19 February, it will contribute to the establishment of justice and a better system of law in East Timor.

Public Announcement



UNTAET

United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor

Office of Water and Sanitation

HOW TO CONNECT TO THE DILI WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

The UNTAET Office of Water and Sanitation has a system in place for new connections to the water supply pipelines. Please call our Office at the Governor's Building if a water connection is needed. Our staff will make the connection free of charge and will make sure the work is done properly and does not leak.

PLEASE DON'T WASTE WATER

Many areas of Dili are still experiencing water shortages. This is mainly because people are using it wastefully. Please don't waste water. If you are wasting water at your house, it only mean other houses in Dili will not get a sufficient amount. Also, please report all water leaks to the UNTAET Office of Water and Sanitation at the Governor's Building.

*Tiu answers questions about ...***Your Land and Property**

Dear readers, here we are together again courtesy of Tais Timor to explore another hot topic. This time, it's my discussion with Domingos and his wife, Maria. They are very concerned about land and property issues.

As you can imagine, this is a very confusing time for them. Their business was destroyed and they lost all the records which prove they are the true owners of their property. To make things worse, the two returned from West Timor to discover that another family had taken up residence in their house.

Domingos/Maria: Bondia Tiu, how are you?

Tiu: Well, fine thank you. What brings both of you here?

Maria: Tiu, do you have any information concerning land and property registration?

Tiu: Why, in fact, I do. You know old Tiu has answers for everything. And if he doesn't, he tries his best to get them for you.

UNTAET is currently exploring, along with its East Timorese partners -- the CNRT and other local community representatives -- the complex problem of land claims and ownership and will be devising ways to reconstruct all the land records that have been lost and destroyed. When this slow process is completed, you will be informed as to where you can formally register the land you own as well as any sales you have made of real estate. This registration process will become the surest way to legally document ownership.

Domingos: So how do you actually claim ownership of property if you have lost all your documents, which is what has happened to us?

Tiu: Well, many people have had their personal documents destroyed, just like you. For the

time being, it's best to be patient, but keep looking for your records and if you find them, make sure to keep them in a secure place, until you can show them to UNTAET. If you never find them, it is likely that UNTAET will consider other types of proof, such as oral testimony and evidence from neighbors and the local community.

Maria: But what can we do about those people still living in our house? When we came back, they had already moved in. Their excuse is that their own house was burned down.

Tiu: Many people are currently occupying property that is rightfully owned by others. It's unlikely that these people will be able to stay in such houses indefinitely.

UNTAET is trying to rapidly develop a policy to deal with this urgent issue. One aspect of it involves the creation of local committees in each District that can handle strictly land and property issues. The committees, which will be composed of community members, will investigate all types of property claims.

Once UNTAET does finalize a policy and appropriate guidelines on land claims and identifying ownership are in place, the local committees will then play a role in their implementation.

Domingos: Tiu, Maria and I want to reopen our store and we've found a perfect space. We think the owner left after the popular consultation and won't be coming back. Can we take it over and restart our business again in the meantime?

Tiu: It is important that if you are considering using "abandoned" property, you first apply to UNTAET. The application form can be found at the District Administrator's office and in it

you submit a proposal for how you intend to use the property.

Once you've submitted the form, the community committee, which I mentioned before, will review your application and base its decision on some broad criteria, including how many Timorese will be employed; the social use and benefit to society and the contribution of the business to East Timor's economy.

Remember, however, that permission to use the land doesn't mean you own the property! As well, if you don't follow the UNTAET application procedure, you could be asked to leave the property.

By the way, this procedure also applies to anyone who wants to use property that was formerly "public." This includes property that used to belong to or was administered by the Indonesian Government or was for the use of public officials, police and other such groups.

Your friends who are doing business from these public buildings should also know that they might have to pay rent. Whether or not rent is payable will be determined by the community committee taking into account things like the occupant's ability to pay rent, the existence of a rental culture and community views and objections.

Maria: So who at UNTAET is responsible for making all these rules?

Tiu: UNTAET's Land and Property Unit is responsible for making the policy, in consultation, of course, with the CNRT and other East Timorese representatives.

But it's really the local District Administration Offices and the local community committees that are the ones who will be in charge of implementing the policy, whenever it is finally adopted.

Well friends, I hope this discussion helps alleviate some of your anxieties. I know these are difficult times, so come back next time with new questions!

Security Heightened in Sector West

One East Timorese was allegedly killed, another wounded and a third temporarily held hostage in a 5 March attack by militia in Azufuru, 15 kilometers east of Maliana in Sector West (Suai and Maliana). The deadly incident comes only two days after the UN Peacekeeping Force Commander raised the threat level in Sector West to "high" following a number of incidents of harassing fire at UN peacekeepers and observation posts as well as at one UN helicopter. West Timor Indonesian military forces (TNI) were also urged by the Force Commander to take firmer action against the perpetrators of these hostile acts.

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A Helping Hand for Returning Refugees

Since November 1999, about 30,000 refugees have returned to East Timor through the



Soldier from the New Zealand contingent helping refugees upon their return to East Timor.

southern coastal city of Salele, mostly with the help of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force (UN-PKF) contingent from New Zealand.

"One of key areas of support where we have been most active has been in facilitating the return of refugees," said Major John Rogers, Officer-in-Command of the support company which is part of the 660-strong battalion in Suai that has been providing security in the Sector

West border area with West Timor.

Although the number of returnees has currently dropped to about 100 a day, the New Zealand troops still have taken an active role in ensuring that the path home is secure, Maj. Rogers said.

"We make sure the conditions are safe for these operations," said Maj. Rogers, pointing out that armed soldiers also provide security for other humanitarian activities such as food and medicine distribution by the UN agencies and other non-governmental organizations.

Although many of the family reunions had been occurring in border areas to the north, New Zealand troops have also been supporting meetings, sponsored by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), between local East Timorese leaders and representatives from the refugee community in West Timor.

"These meetings are an ideal opportunity to ensure that accurate information is going to the other side," said Maj. Rogers, noting that since October and November militias have engaged in a disinformation campaign to discourage people from returning to East Timor.



The name Tais Timor conjures the image of the careful, time-honoured process that goes into making the traditional Timorese cloth used in all important life events. As the different "ingredients" that make up East Timor come together during the transitional period to rebuild the country, Tais Timor aims to record and reflect those events that weave the beautiful tapestry that is Timor Lorosa'e.

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