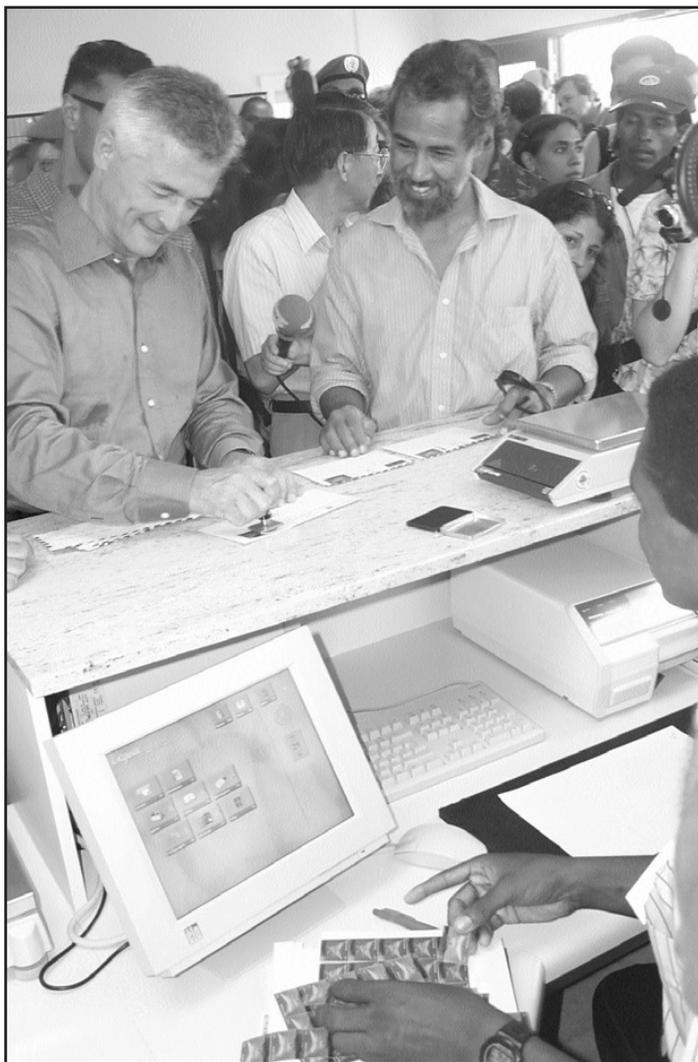


Mail Call!



The Central Dili Post Office was opened on 29 April, officially inaugurating the start of the East Timor Postal Service. The Postal Service, established with assistance by the Portuguese Post (CTT), provides mail service initially between Dili and Baucau, and internationally via Darwin, Australia. UNTAET will provide transportation for both domestic and international mail. Domestic stamps cost 10¢ while international stamps are priced at 50¢.

Town hall meeting on employment

The issue of East Timorese unemployment, and what UNTAET and the CNRT are doing about it, took center stage at a three-hour "Town Hall Meeting" held in the Old Gymnasium Building in Dili on 26 April.

CNRT leaders Xanana Gusmão and Jose Ramos Horta, and Nagalingam Parammeswaran, UNTAET's Chief of Staff, as well as youth group leader Mariano Sabino Lopes discussed employment issues with an audience of more than 1,000 people. Many of the participants had been in the protest over unemployment on 15 April in front of the Governor's Office, UNTAET Headquarters.

Both UNTAET and CNRT attempted to clarify for the audience the process of rebuilding the damaged country and plans for employing people. In opening the discussion, Mr. Parammeswaran stressed that UNTAET was not the main source in East Timor for finding jobs. The Chief of Staff also said that "we cannot rebuild the country in a week," although he confirmed that a major UNTAET reconstruction effort throughout the country was in the works.

In his statement, Mr. Gusmão reminded the audience that UNTAET was in East Timor "to help us prepare the country for independence." The problem of unemployment was not only to be found here, he added, but in every country in the world and that it would have to be addressed even after independence. Using the example of UNTAET's Timorese drivers, Mr. Gusmão asked, "What will happen to them after UNTAET has left? It is a Timorese problem that the nation will ultimately have to solve itself."

Mr. Gusmão's principle message was that Timorese needed to change their mentality regarding employment. "The public sector simply cannot be the only source of employment," he said. "It puts too much of a burden on the state." The private sector, he stressed, would be the main job creator in the new East Timor, not the public sector and the civil service.

For his part, Mr. Lopes, Chairman of the Students Community and Vice Secretary-General of Renetil, stressed the need to develop the country's agricultural resources and to move into agricultural exports such as in bananas and fisheries. He also stressed the role of the youth in the nation's next stage of development.

In relation to the task of generating employment in the country, both Mr. Gusmão and Mr. Parammeswaran asked the Timorese to be calm and to help create a secured and safe environment throughout the country. There needed to be a "peaceful national environment" to attract foreign investment, which was essential to the process of creating jobs

Continued page 2

UNTAET, Indonesia sign agreement on border issues

The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the Government of Indonesia have signed an agreement intended to help foster closer cooperation on border issues and to enable both sides to manage possible incidents along the boundary.

UNTAET Peacekeeping Force (UN-PKF) Commander Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos and the Indonesian commander for the region, Maj. Gen. Kiki Syahnakri, signed on 11 April in Dili the Memorandum of Understanding for Tactical Coordination in the Border Area between Nusatenggara Timur (West Timor) and East Timor between the TNI and the UNTAET Military Component.

The agreement reaffirms the "mutual respect and confidence" between TNI and UN Peacekeeping, Gen. de los Santos said at a news conference following the signing. The MOU "will result in a far stronger understanding of each other's position and a much improved ability to work together in the border areas," he added.

For his part, Gen. Syahnakri said that he hoped that the signing of the MOU would "improve the cooperation between TNI and UNTAET Peacekeeping and speeds up the repatriation of the Timorese."

The MOU defines a boundary between East and West Timor for military tactical coordination purposes only and does not establish an internationally recognized border.

According to the MOU, UN Military Observers (UNMOs) will be stationed at the 12 Junction Points, conduct tasks as Liaison Officers and coordinate between TNI (the Indonesian military) and the UN-PKF when the two sides want to speak to each other.

The MOU also reaffirms the previous memorandum signed on 12 January by TNI, UNTAET and the Australian-led international force, INTERFET, and includes additional matters on a new junction point in Maliana District, mutual cooperation in reporting and investigating boundary incidents and a prohibition against troops carrying weapons when crossing the border.



Town Hall... continued from page 1

and rebuilding the Timorese economy, Mr. Parammeswaran said. Meanwhile, the CNRT President admonished Timorese to be like a small, thrifty shopkeeper. "We must create a new mentality of personal saving and contributing to the overall economy," he said.

Mr. Parammeswaran briefed the audience on UNTAET's various labor intensive projects, including Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), that had put Timorese to work throughout the country, and also on details of the major reconstruction effort soon to get underway. He said that "all the agreements that had been signed to date were done in consultation with the Timorese," the highest representation being the National Consultative Council (NCC).

In response to a question about training, all the speakers stressed, in light of the lack of skilled Timorese, the need to quickly establish training programmes to improve skills. They also highlighted the importance of the media in keeping Timorese around the country informed as to what was occurring. The UNTAET Chief of Staff also asked the help of both the print and electronic media to help broadcast what was discussed at the Town Hall Meeting. The CNRT President added that the press could not be seen as in opposition to the government. "On 30 August, we achieved the right to have differences in society and the right of being different from each other."

When asked about the apparent slowness of the reconstruction effort, Mr. Gusmão told the audience: "We must go through all the procedures of accountability and of transparency so we do not repeat the mistakes of other countries."

Baucau meeting on information concerns

On 12 April, the Baucau and Dili Dioceses held their own town meeting. UNTAET Deputy SRSJ Jean-Christian Cady, CNRT President Xanana Gusmão and Sarah Cliffe, the Director of the World Bank's East Timor Office participated, as did Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo of the Dili Diocese and Bishop Basilio do Nascimento from the Baucau Diocese.

Mr. Cady stressed that UNTAET, through the Trust Fund for East Timor, was working to create programmes that were labor intensive as a way to respond to the urgent needs of the numerous Timorese who were currently unemployed.

During the question period, the audience pressed the participants about existing UNTAET, World Bank, and CNRT programmes - information about which has been hard to come by. They also wanted to know exactly what the organizations were achieving regarding employment generation, the choice of an official language, Portuguese, and the effectiveness of humanitarian aid.

Mr. Gusmão said that it was a political decision to adopt Portuguese as the official language. "But," he added, "if Tetun becomes more developed in the next 10 years, there's a possibility it could become the official language."

In response to Bishop Belo's question regarding efforts to rebuild the nation's infrastructure, Mr. Cady responded that UNTAET would soon undertake a major, US\$29 million programme to repair the roads, the ports and the transportation system. Mr. Cady also mentioned that Dili Port would be enlarged and that the nation's key roads, which run north to south and are the most heavily damaged, would be repaired.

"UNTAET and the CNRT," Father Matinho Gusmão of the Baucau Youth Commission said, "seemed active but didn't seem to be solving any problems, or maybe they were doing something but people were just not informed about it."

Ms. Cliffe of the World Bank described the meeting "as extremely useful to talk and listen to the opinions of the Timorese." Mr. Cady added that "it lets us know what people are thinking. In this regard, the church leaders here today have been the voice of the people and asked the questions they want asked about UNTAET."

UNTAET, Timorese discuss labour issues

The first tripartite consultation on labour issues and the future labour law was concluded on 26 April in Dili. Organized by UNTAET, the workshop gathered representatives of East Timorese labour organizations, experts from the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNTAET and participants from human rights organizations, student groups and the Church. Regrettably, no representatives of employers attended the workshop.

The event was organized with the aim of securing participation and input from East Timorese in drafting the future labour law. A working group comprised of representatives of seven different organizations was formed to prepare the final report on the workshop. This report will then be distributed to all relevant stakeholders and should provide substantive input to the labour legislation which is to be drafted by UNTAET Legal Affairs Department and presented to the National Consultative Council (NCC) for approval. The regulation is expected to be passed by the end of June.

Meanwhile, the ILO will prepare a set of general guidelines that will be discussed by the Working Group and passed for signature to the Transitional Administrator within a month.

"I look at it as a very important first step in terms of labour law in this country," said Cecilio Adorna, the Director of UNTAET Social Services. "We chose to have the first workshop as a tripartite one, setting the right tone right from the start."

Defusing potential danger: UNTAET on the lookout for unexploded ammunition

About once a week, Captain Marc Riddle, Ammunition Technical Officer with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force (UN-PKF) receives a phone call about suspected unexploded ordnance detected somewhere in East Timor.

Recently, a call came in from a hospital in Dili reporting that they had discovered a potentially explosive object. Capt. Riddle's team - 9 Force Support Battalion - went out immediately to investigate the object, which turned out to be a harmless old Egyptian aerial bomb used as a weightlifting tool.

Unfortunately, 9 Force, which specializes in handling searches and inquiries regarding unexploded ordnance, is not always warned early enough to check out suspected ordnance. In March, six children in the village of Vemassee, which is close to Baucau, and in Gleno lost their lives and one was seriously wounded in two separate incidents when they started playing with artillery or mortar shells they had come across, not knowing that they were lethal weapons.

Most ammunition that is found in East Timor - hand grenades, rifle grenades, artillery shells, mortar shells, ammunition and other explosives - is factory manufactured and generally for military use. Factory-made ordnance can easily be identified and handled accordingly but more dangerous is hand-made ammunition, which "can look like anything, a Coca-Cola can or any type of package," explains Capt. Riddle. With improvised explosives, which he calls such hand-made ammunition, "you never know what to expect and what is intended."

Two specialized UN-PKF teams are currently searching the areas around the former Indonesian military (TNI) compound in Vemassee, where the children accidentally detonated the shells. Another UN-PKF group is checking the area in Gleno.

So far, the UN PKF has found no other explosive devices at these sites, but Capt. Riddle is firm when he says that "it is very difficult to say that an area is completely cleared because one never knows exactly what is still lying around."

"That is why it is important for people to be educated about the dangers of unexploded ordnance and what to do when coming across it," Capt. Riddle says. For instance, unexploded ordnance can still be found in several places around the world. In Europe, shells and bombs from the First and Second World Wars are still being discovered.

To help increase people's awareness and cautiousness about the issue, UNTAET has launched a public information campaign with radio messages and posters. (See accompanying poster image).

For their part, UNTAET's Civilian Police (CivPol) and the UN-PKF are working to improve communication on unexploded ordnance between the police and the military. They have established Standard Operating Procedures that require the police and the military to use the same language with regard to any information and action on unexploded ordnance.

"We want to avoid any misunderstandings," says Mike Peckover, Civilian Police Military Liaison Officer. "The police might come across unexploded ordnance during normal policing duties and they need to know exactly what questions to ask and what to do in such situations."

The new East Timorese police cadets will also be trained to recognize different ordnance. In addition,

a central Control Centre on unexploded ordnance is being established in Dili where information is collected and recorded to build up an archive.

"All this in the hope that a life will be saved," says Officer Peckover. "Now that the security situation in East Timor is more stable, we want to get rid of the other dangers to society that still exist and work with the people to help avoid having any more people, especially children, getting hurt."

STOP! PÁRA!**If you see anything that looks like this...****Don't Touch! Stay Alive!****Report what you find IMMEDIATELY****to the nearest UN PKF or CivPol officer!**



Photo by OCPI-UNTAET

Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono holding one of the 8,500 radio receivers that are part of project "Listening to East Timor." The Government of Japan donated US\$91,000 to buy the receivers, which will be distributed in areas covered by the three main broadcasters: Radio Voz de Esperança, Radio Kmanek and Radio UNTAET.

The Foreign Minister was in Dili in late April as part of a Japanese delegation, which included Japan's Ambassador to Indonesia, Takao Kawakami, that visited East Timor. Japan announced that it would provide US\$95,000 for each of the next three years to help East Timorese students who want to finish their studies in Indonesia, Malaysia or Singapore.

News Briefs

China office in East Timor: China is planning to establish a representative office in East Timor. The Chinese ambassador to Jakarta, Chen Shiqiu, arrived in Dili on 28 April accompanied by government officials from Beijing.

China's intent to open an office in East Timor was discussed last month during separate meetings in Beijing between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and his deputy, Wang Guangya.

The trio also discussed China's US\$6 million donation to East Timor made during CNRT President Xanana Gusmao's trip in February.

To date, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States have representatives for East Timor.

continued page 4

District News Round-up

East Timor is expected to produce nearly 95,000 metric tonnes of maize in the coming year, according to a recent United Nations report on crop and food assessment.

The report, the result of a joint mission by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) from 30 March to 7 April, also estimated that 30,500 metric tonnes of milled rice would be available, as well as 5,900 metric tonnes of food aid stocks.

The hard-hit western regions of Bobonaro, Covalima and Oecussi are expected to have lower than usual production levels because farmers returned late in the season to the planting fields.

Aileu: CNRT organized reconciliation meetings in the sub-districts of Lequidoe and Remexio, with the active participation of the UNTAET civil administration and CivPol.

In the Remexio meeting, the community raised the issue of alleged perpetrators of arson and widespread destruction who have returned to the District but who are not being arrested; only those who allegedly had committed murder have been detained.

Ainaro: Heavy downpours in April have seriously damaged the road network; a recent landslide as a result of the rains had virtually cut off the road from Ainaro to Maubisse. The Portuguese battal-

ion worked on the affected section to make it passable while Timor Aid has implemented a Quick Impact Project (QIP) on road maintenance.

Meanwhile, three more QIPs, totalling US\$18,474, have been approved in an effort to address the unemployment problem. The USAID-funded Transitional Employment Programme is also due to start shortly, following consultations with the local CNRT leadership regarding priorities.

Covalima: The District human rights officer, along with UNTAET Civilian Police, conducted interviews with witnesses to the Suai church massacre, including three youngsters recently reunited with the families after eight months.

The human rights officer has also been working to identify human rights-related training needs in the District, and has proposed a series of gender, democracy and human rights workshops that would target the CNRT's leadership and membership, local staff of national and international non-governmental organizations and UNTAET local staff.

Dili: UNTAET, with the help of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and historian Geoffrey Gunn, has designated 10 places as historical and cultural heritage sites of East Timor.

Among the places chosen were the old town in Lanane, banyan tree alleys in Taibesi, one of the first Catholic chapels built by the Portuguese and the former museum.

The Evergreen Unit of Lautem District

In Lautem District, on the eastern end of the Lisland, there is a very small Timorese child named "Peter Korea." His mom chose the name in gratitude to members of the Evergreen Unit, the battalion of United Nations Peacekeepers from the Republic of Korea (ROK) who have been in the area for six months, and who transported her to the hospital when she went into labor.

The Evergreen Unit, named for the hearty tree, a Korean national favorite, operates in a district that covers 12 per cent of East Timor's land area. On the Korean battalion's arrival in Lautem on 1 October 1999, the District was still reeling from the post-election violence, with 40 per cent of the public buildings destroyed, along with most markets and schools and housing. A population that was formerly 50,000 people had been reduced to 20,000 by forced and voluntary exile. Most have now drifted back.

Like United Nations Peacekeeping Forces (UNPKF) throughout the country, the Korean Battalion quickly set out to help the local population with US\$50,000 in funds donated by the ROK Government, as well as a variety of relief goods from the Ministry of Defence and other Korean organizations.

The troops distributed thousands of bars of soap, shoes and slippers, farm equipment, school kits, clothes and household goods. The unit has also run a 30-person health clinic to inoculate and treat Lautem residents and a mobile dental clinic. Some battalion members have also volunteered to teach tae kwon do and English at local schools.

While general security threats have diminished over the months, the Evergreen Unit has been proactive in terms of safety. The battalion has labeled and handed over to village leaders for safekeeping, over 400 air rifles - a popular weapon for hunting. It has also secured and removed on 19 separate occasions booby-traps or other explosive ordnance that could injure local residents. (See related story on explosive



Photo by OCPI-UNTAET

Korean soldiers from the Evergreen Unit in Lautem District giving local residents a trim. The UN Peacekeepers from the Republic of Korea have been an integral part of restoring normalcy to the District, providing humanitarian aid and safety against unexploded ordnance.

ordnance on page 2)

Lt. Col. Kook-Hwan Kim, Chief of UN-PKF Movement Control says, "Prior to the Angola and Western Sahara missions, the Evergreen Unit had never had the experience of working with foreign troops. It has definitely made the Korean battalion more open-hearted."

On 28 April, the original 419 troops of the Korean battalion completed their six-month rotation and have now been replaced, after a two-week orientation overlap, with a fresh battalion of Korean soldiers.

The UNTAET District Administrator, Gianni Deligia, says, "The Korean forces changed the oppressive and forceful image of the military that was created by the brutal actions of the Indonesians. Their more friendly image has won the praise of local residents."

Not just that, a local musician even wrote a song about them - "Maluk Korea" (Korean Friend) - and Lospalos renamed its main street, "Rua Maluk Korea," in their honor.

**RADIO
UNTAET
99FM**

For the latest news and information about East Timor, tune in to Radio UNTAET.

- News at 6 am, 1pm, 6pm
- Halibur ba Loron Foun / The New Day Program (live) 6-7pm, Monday to Friday
- Radio UNTAET programs at 6-7am, 1-2pm everyday with Timorese, English, Portuguese and World Music

Tiu answers...

Questions about UNTAET

Dear readers, are you confused about UNTAET and what it's up to? Well, you're not alone. A few days ago, Ameu came to me looking for answers to a few of his own questions about UNTAET. He brought a few of his friends who had questions as well. Listen in!

Ameu: Bondia Senhor Tiu. How are you?

Tiu: I'm fine, Ameu. Good to see you again, and with your friends. What brings you all here?

Ameu: Well Tiu, a bunch of us stayed up late last night discussing the future of our country and UNTAET's role here. The discussion got a bit heated because some of my friends didn't believe what I was saying about UNTAET. We thought we would check it out with you, wise Uncle.

Tiu: I'll help you if I can, but you should try to get more information on UNTAET yourself, from district offices and the Church and the CNRT.

Anyway, I'll do my best now to answer any of your questions and maybe resolve a dispute or two.

Ameu: Can you help put to rest the confusion and let us know in clear and simple terms why the UN is here. Is it doing anything useful for our new nation?

Tiu: Good question. Now listen to me carefully. UNTAET is the transitional administration in our country, which means that it has the overall authority during this period before independence.

UNTAET came into existence on 25 October 1999, with the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution No. 1272; and it is headed by Sergio Vieira de Mello, who is the Transitional Administrator and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

It's important my friends to remember that it is called the "transitional" administration because it is just that. UNTAET is here only temporarily to help us rebuild Timorese society. UNTAET is also here to help us to reestablish institutions of government and commerce and to give us time to

create a constitution and hold elections that will bring full independence to Timor Lorosa'e.

Ameu: See, that's what I told you guys. I was right. And what kind of authority does UNTAET have, Tiu?

Tiu: UNTAET is responsible for the overall administration of East Timor and has the power to make laws and ensure that they are put into practice. It also oversees the administration of the health, education and judicial systems and all the other departments that keep a government running.

The Transitional Administration, by the way, is doing this with the help of other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and in consultation with the Timorese. They are prominently represented on the National Consultative Council (NCC), the highest decision-making body in East Timor. Recently, Timorese NGOs have been sitting in on NCC meetings to observe the discussions and to see how decisions are made.

Ameu: And are Timorese involved in the day-to-day decision-making?

Tiu: Of course they are, and increasingly so. Earlier in April, Mr. Vieira de Mello announced that every District Administrator and head of a UN department will be appointing East Timorese as their deputies. The intention is to have Timorese be able to take over every facet of government in the next year or two.

Atoi: Ah, it's a bit clearer but what's not is why we see such little progress. After all, UNTAET has been in our country for six months already.

Tiu: You guys, let me tell you what's happened in our country since October. For example, more than 159,000 refugees have returned from across the border in West Timor and elsewhere, and more than 16,000 metric tonnes of food has been distributed since September 1999 - enough to feed several hundred thousand hungry people.

UNTAET has also had a number of other achievements that came from regulations adopted by the NCC. East Timor now is col-

lecting taxes, requiring businesses to register with the administration and has set up the courts and how they will function. These regulations are available, by the way, at UNTAET offices around the country.

Also, you guys wouldn't be staying up late drinking coffee and listening to music if UNTAET and its partners hadn't gotten electricity restored to 85 per cent of the country. And how about the schools? More than 140,000 kids are back in class at 660 schools in all 13 districts. That's 90 per cent of the number of children who were in class in August, before the country was destroyed.

Ameu: Aha, we haven't heard about any of this, there's such a lack of information and communication.

Tiu: Listen, it is very important that you seek out this kind of information. I know UNTAET tries to keep you informed via Tais Timor, the East Timor Update and Radio UNTAET. It puts out brochures and posters. Not to mention information bulletin boards in Dili and in all 13 districts. Juliano, Ameu and all the rest of you should check these out to get current information on UNTAET and developments throughout the country.

But don't forget, Timorese media is also starting to come back to life. You can read and hear about what's happening around Timore Lorosa'e in publications such as *Lian Maubere*, *Timor Post*, *Talit@kum*, *Lalenok* and on the air from Radio Falintil and Radio Kmanek.

I will let you in on some very good news, the results of which are going to be visible throughout East Timor in the coming months. A US\$29 million programme to rebuild our country's infrastructure - the roads, ports and transportation systems - is just getting underway, and the results will be visible in job creation and in putting economic life back in the economy.

With that bit of good news, gentlemen, I've got to run. But let's talk some more now and again and compare notes on how UNTAET is doing. So long!!!

Well, dear reader that was Ameu and his friends. Hopefully they help you guys to understand UNTAET a little better, too?

News Briefs continued from page 3

Prisons ready: Prison facilities in Becora and Gleno have been repaired and were scheduled to be operational the first week of May when detainees from the Civilian Detention Centre in Dili were to be transferred to the Becora site.

The two facilities have a combined capacity of more than 360 inmates. The UN Peacekeeping Force (UN-PKF) is continuing to provide catering and medical care until details of a contract with an independent contractor are worked out.

More than 30 Timorese prison wardens have been recruited. The Government of New Zealand is sending 11 prison manage-

ment experts to help run the prisons and train local personnel.

First tenders for reconstruction: UNTAET has initiated the first contract tenders for the architecture and engineering services for 23 future Government buildings in Dili.

The buildings to be fixed include those for the Ministries of Education, Justice, Health and Labour and Social Affairs, as well as facilities for the Central Payments Office, the Central Fiscal Authority, the Court of Appeals and the Departments of Water and Roads.

The repairs will take an estimated eight months and cost about US\$7.5 million.



UN CivPol
24 HOUR
Emergency Number
in Dili

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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.

A bi-weekly public information service of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). Published in Tetun, Indonesian, Portuguese and English. Written, edited and designed by the UNTAET Office of Communication and Public Information (OCPI). Circulation 50,000. UNTAET-OCPI, c/- PO Box 2436, Darwin NT 0801, Australia. Tel: +61- 8- 8942-2203 Fax: +61-8-8981-5157 email: untaet-ocpi@un.org **Not an official document. For information purposes only.**