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Local Daily News

December 11, 2018

Fretilin calls on Govt to send ex-finance minister back to TL

Radio Timor-Leste, December 11, 2018 language source: Tetun

Fretilin Party Bench in the Parliament has called on the eight constitutional government to make an extradition agreement with the Government of Portugal to send ex-finance Minister Emelia Pires back to Timor-Leste to serve her sentence. Fretilin Party Bench member, Marito Mota made the call in his political statement during the debate of the General State budget for 2019 on Monday (10/12) in the Parliament. "Because of the bilateral ties with the Portuguese Government, I think it is necessary to send the ex-minister Emilia Pires back to be responsible for the acts of corruption she committed," he said. In response, Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak (TMR) said the Government let the judicial institutions to do their work, which was related to Pires' case.

Xanana fights for new generations' future

GMN TV, December 9, 2018 language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's Maritime Boundary Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmao said the ongoing struggle he made was for the veterans and the country's young generations, as well as all Timorese people throughout the Territory of Timor-Leste. Xanana made the comments during a national seminar, which was held last Saturday (8/12) the Dili Convention Centre (CCD). During the seminar, Xanana explained about Timor Sea gas and oil field explorations, its benefits and impact in the country's economic growth. "What I am doing right now is not for other things, but it is for your suffering. And it is also for those had died for the country and new generations," he said.

Alkatiri calls for young Timorese to create peace

GMN TV, December 9, 2018 language source: Tetun

President of the Authority of Oecusse Region (RAEOA-ZEESM), Mari Alkatiri has called on all the young Timorese to put hands together for creating peace and stability, which lead to the country's national development. Alkatiri made the call during the handing over ceremony of signing the temporary handing over document of Oecusse International Airport last Friday (7/12). He affirmed that the young Timorese were the country's new generation; therefore they ought to be responsible for contributing to the peace and stability. "I know that there is bit problem in the capital; the young people have begun losing their patience. Being founding father of the country, I am calling on them to remain calm; we should support one another in order to resolve this problem. I am ready to help reduce the intensity of violence, I am ready to help," he said.

Taur and Xanana urge Lu-Olo to promulgate 2019 Budget

Independente, December 11, 2018

The President of the Republic should promulgate Timor-Leste's 2019 budget in the wake of signing to buy Royal Dutch Shell and ConocoPhillips' stakes in the Greater Sunrise natural gas fields, Xanana Gusmao and Taur Matan Ruak have urged. The 1.83 billion budget for 2019 includes \$350 million for the buy-out of ConocoPhillips' share. The government has said that the \$300 million needed to buy Shell's share would be included in the 2020 State Budget. With these purchases the Timor-Leste government would own the majority 56.6 percent in the Greater Sunrise joint venture. This would make it difficult for the remaining joint venture companies, Woodside (Australia) or Osaka Gas (Japan), to veto the government's long-held plans to develop Greater Sunrise by piping gas to a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant on Timor-Leste's south coast. Project partners had favored a plant in Darwin. Gusmao, Timor-Leste's chief negotiator for oil and gas, said getting funds to create the onshore gas processing facility was vital to the country's future prosperity. In a keynote speech about the country's petroleum fund's activities in Dili on Saturday, Gusmao stressed the plan was not about playing politics, but to ensure that the country's "next generation" could prosper. Former President, Jose Ramos Horta, echoed Gusmao's words as he addressed media after the speech, appealing to "all people to unite" and support the government's plan. The government has repeatedly deflected questions about the cost benefit of the development plan, declaring that spinoff jobs, contracts and local economic development would compensate for the costs and risks of bringing the pipeline to Timor-Leste. According to La'o Hamutuk, an independent non-government organization that closely monitors development processes, Timor-Leste would need to invest more than \$14 billion in capital expenditure to develop the Sunrise and associated Tasi Mane projects.

Prime Minister Ruak has called on all political parties to maintain their support in the plan. The Pipeline has strong support from opposition parties in parliament. However, sources close to Dili say that no party in parliament has raised the issue of how the Shell and ConocoPhillips buy-outs would be funded. Some political leaders have said that most of the money needed to support the gas industry plans should be invested directly by the country's Petroleum Fund, rather than taken as expenditure via the State budget. Under article 15 of the Petroleum Fund up to 5 percent of the fund (around \$800 million) can be invested in other "eligible investments" approved by the Minister of Finance that could include petroleum projects. The article also requires that all investments must be located outside Timor-Leste.

Gang activity linked to Komoro attack, police says

Independente, December 11, 2018

A 27-year-old man attacked on Friday in Komoro is the victim of gang violence, Police Commissioner Julio Hornai has said. Francisco Xavier is believed to have been attacked by a group of gang members in Madohi Komoro at 3.15am on Friday. Xavier sustained head injuries and is being treated at the Guido Valadares National Hospital. Hornai said a police investigation had uncovered suspects and that the investigation was on-going.

2019 OJE: investment on productive sector is less than eight percent

Independente, December 11, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Opposition parties in parliament question allocation of 2019 State Budget (OJE), saying the investment on productive and potential sector is less than 8%. Addressing parliament during the discussion of 2019 State Budget on Monday, Adriano Do Nascimento, from the Democratic Party (PD), said the 2019 OJE was not consistent with the government's action plan because it did not reflect the defined priorities. Nascimento said the first priority in the government agenda was to develop agriculture sector to increase agricultural production, ensure food security and reduce malnutrition, but the government only allocated 1,5% with total amount of \$27,553 million in 2019 State Budget. Second, education sector government only allocated 7,7%, third, health sector, only got 4,2%, and fourth, basic infrastructure, particularly water and sanitation, the government only allocated 1,1%. "Petroleum and mineral sector which is not included in the government's top priorities, but the government allocates 21% from 2019 State Budget to develop it," Nascimento said. Echoing Nascimento's words, Aniceto Guterres from Fretilin Party, said the government had promised to diversify the country's economy, but it continued its politics was focused on macroeconomy instead of micro. "No party is against Tasi Mane Project or petroleum industry, but if talking about diversifying economy, it is important to define the basis for our economy," Guterres said. Responding to the concerns, Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak said the government would continue trying to develop non-oil sectors in the country to diversify the country's economy in the future.

President Lu-Olo has no reason not to inaugurate nine nominated ministers, Ruak says

GMN Diario Nacional, December 11, 2018 Language source: Tetun

President of the Republic Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo has no reason not to inaugurate nine nominated ministers from the Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP), Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak says, adding that as President of the Republic, Lu-Olo needed to understand the government's situation. Ruak made the comments to respond to parliament members' concerns over the gap in his cabinet during the discussion of 2019 State Budget at National Parliament on Monday. "President of the Republic knows that with the blocked nominations of several government members, it will be difficult for my government, but my team and I are ready to carry on doing what we can to fill in the gap while waiting for President of the Republic to give in and inaugurate nine government members that have been appointed by AMP," Ruak said He said as Prime Minister he continued pushing for President of the Republic to complete his cabinet to better serve Timorese people. Since June 22, President Lu-Olo has refused to inaugurate nine nominated ministers from AMP because of their involvement in corruption investigations. Since then, the government and the president have been at loggerheads over the blocked nominations. The senior government candidates President Lu-Olo refused include Francisco Kalbuadi Lay, Helder Lopes, Tomás do Rosário Cabral, Vergilho Smith, Jacinto Rigoberto Gomes de Deus, Sérgio Gama da C. Lobo, Amândio de Sá Benevides, José Manuel Soares Turquel de Jesus and António Verdial de Sousa.

Corruption contributes to poverty, Lu-Olo says

GMN Diario Nacional, December 11, 2018 Language source: Tetun

President of the Republic Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo said corruption contributed to the increasing number of poverty in Timor-Leste. Lu-Olo made the comments in his message marking the celebration of International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9. "Corruption contributes in increasing number of poverty and social injustice; it is a violation of human rights," Lu-Olo said in his speech during the celebration of International Anti-Corruption Day and International Day of Human Rights at Presidential Palace on Monday (10/12). He said the country would thrive and its people would be happier if each person tried to contribute to a decent life of the people in his or her daily activity. He also called on everyone to bridge any gap through dialogue to defend and protect human rights to make Timor-Leste a prosperous and inclusive country.

Clash in Komoro, police arrest 13 people

GMN Diario Nacional, December 11, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Dili County Police Command has arrested 13 people in relation to clash at 10 Dezembru School in Komoro, Dili on Monday morning. The clash happened around 11:00am between students and civilians around the school. Police from Komoro Station arrived at the school and dispersed the clash and arrested 13 people and they are currently in police custody. A police officer who did not want to be named said the incident had left two police officers sustained minor injuries because they were hit by stones and several public transports damaged, but the owners of the transport had not filed a report yet. Meanwhile, Becora Police Station also detained three people with initial VS, FVA, and FM who were stoning the Police Station last Friday night. A police officer from Becora Police Station said the police were having a meeting at the station to plan a check point and patrol in Becora area, suddenly, the office were hit by stones and they heard men shouting out threats to police officers, therefore, police officers ran out and chased after the suspects and arrested them. The officer said the incident had damaged the police station windows.

Minister Pires recognizes his name is in KAK's investigation list

Timor Post, December 11, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Minister of Public Work, Salvador Pires recognized his name in Anti-Corruption Commission (KAK)'s list of investigation, but he was listed as witness, not as suspect, regarding the construction project of the office of the Civil Service Commission (KFP). He said he was a director of Pires Architect, a consultant company which designed and provide supervision to the construction buildings and in 2009, Pires Architect and Timor Lorosa'e Independent Co. Lda (TLIC) was contracted to build KFP's office. "Pires Architect is a consultant company and in 2019 I was a director of the company and our duty at that time was designing KFP's Office building and supervising the construction and after one year, we had reported that the contractor company, TLIC had no capacity in terms of finance and human resources including technical capacity to carry out the project," Minister Pires told Timor Post on Monday. The construction of KFP Office building is under KAK's investigation as the first construction of the building was in poor quality and the contractor company TLIC abandoned the project before KFP contracted new company Karya Timor to finalize the project last year and the office was inaugurated in January this year.

December 10, 2018

Electoral system is at top seven: STAE

Televizaun Timor-Leste, December 8, 2018 language source: Tetun

Director-General of Technical Secretary for Electoral Administration (STAE), Acilinio Manuel Branco said Timor-Leste's electoral system placed at top seven among 25 countries in the world. Mr. Branco made the comments during his speech marking the launching ceremony the report on electoral circle of the two parliamentary elections last Thursday (6/12) at Hotel Timor. He affirmed that the country faced many difficulties, but it successfully conducted the elections with the support of its development partners. "So, this report is being a national memory, which has recorded the results and electoral process of the country," he said.

It is important to see children in Tibar: Doctor Terlinda

Televizaun Timor-Leste, December 8, 2018 language source: Tetun

Doctor Terlinda da Concecao said it was important to children living in Tibar, Municipality of Liquisa as many children suffered from respiratory infections. Children are facing difficult situation because they are living close to Tibar dump. Ms. Terlinda made the comments during her visit to Tibar to hold a charity activity regarding the upcoming Christmas Celebrations. She affirmed that it was necessary to look at the children's health and said the water scarcity also being the huge problem in the area. "This is place has been full of rubbish, they children are suffering from respiratory infections and skin disease. They are also experiencing the water scarcity," she said.

Korea to send its Korean language teachers

GMN TV, December 6, 2018 language source: Tetun

South Korean through its international development agency (KOICA) is planning to send its teachers to voluntarily teach the young Timorese before being employed in that country. State Secretary for Professional Training and Employment Policy (SEFOPE) made the comments after signing an MOU with Korean Ambassador to Timor-Leste on Thursday (6/12). Mr. Silva said this MOU was important for the country to capacitate the young Timorese by providing language skills before employing them in Korea. "This MOU is very important because it can provide us Korean volunteers to teach our young people in municipalities," he said.

SECOMS and CI launch Hamahun application

Televizaun Timor-Leste, October 7, 2018 language source: Tetun

Secretary of State for Equality and Social Inclusion (SEI) Secretary of State for Social Communication (SECOMS) member of the Press Council, Jose Maria Ximenes on Thursday (6/12) officially launched the Asia Foundation's application called "Hamahun" and media resource package aimed to fight against gender-based violence. The referred application is implemented through the Nabilan program to transmit the information on violence against women and children to the police, Nabilan Program Coordinator says. "It will help facilitate the police, the information provider and women to help the victims," she told the media.

Asosiasaun Chegasa and local authorities campaign on violence against women

TVTL, October 8, 2018 language source: Tetun

Asosiasaun Chega ba Ita (AKBIT) and local authorities in the eastern Municipality of Baucau has held long march as part of campaigning for an end of violence against women and children in the country. Coordinator for AKBIT, said the campaign was realized to sensitize Timorese citizens to end violence against women and children, and also understand arms and martial arts law. "Today, the association, AKBIT is campaigning on the 16 days of activism for violence against women and children working together Ba Futuru, Belun and is sponsored by UN Women," she said. Speakers in the campaign are from UNDP and the National Police Force (PNTL). Participants are students and community members of Baucau.

New joint PNTL and F-FDTL operation to tackle gang activity

Independente, December 10, 2018

Major General of Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL), Lere Anan Timur, has signaled a new joint military and police operation against martial arts gang activity following a violent machete clash between rival gangs in Hudi Laran on Saturday that left three people critically injured. The operation will aim to break down gang culture by working with gang leaders known to be at the center of the recent influx in illegal gang activity. The powers will also tackle possession of illegal weapons by gang members that will lead to a criminal sentence. Announcing the new operation on Wednesday, Timur said he was concerned by the rise in violence on the streets. He said illegal gangs caused lasting harm to communities through fuelling violence, creating an atmosphere of fear and drawing young people into criminality. He said the operation would also target the court system's handling of illegal weapon gang cases that he said too often resulted in gang members walking free. Timur said police worked "tirelessly day and night" to arrest gang members in possession of illegal weapons only to have the court declare gang members as being innocent. Despite a zero-tolerance law on gang activity introduced in 2013 Timor-Leste remains awash with gangs – from martial arts groups to informal neighborhood street groups. It is estimated that around 90,000 people, or just under one-tenth of the population has some allegiance to a gang, according to social research. Timur said previous operations that worked with gang leaders had helped curb member's anarchist operations had been successful with Art PSHT, KORK and 77 groups.

A man was cut with machete in Komoro

Independente, December 10, 2018 Language source: Tetun

A young man named Francisco Xavier (27) was cut with machete by unknown group of people in Madohi of Komoro, Dili Friday morning. Xavier was critically injured and taken to National Hospital of Guido Valadares where he was under intensive medical treatment. The Timorese National Police (PNTL) Commander, Julio Da Costa Hornai said police had identified the suspects, but they were still waiting for arrest warrant from court to put them into custody. "I have received a report from Dili County Police that the suspects are already identified," Hornai told reporters at Dili Convention Center on Saturday (08/12). Commander Hornai said the case was still under investigation and sooner or later the actors would be responsible for their acts.

Taur-Xanana warns Lu-Olo to promulgate 2019 State Budget

Independente, December 10, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak and Timor-Leste's Main Negotiator of Maritime Boundary and Greater Sunrise Development Xanana Gusmao have warned President Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo to promulgate 2019 State Budget Proposal amid the budget discussion in parliament. 2019 State Budget Proposal is crucial for the Timorese Government as it includes US\$650 million budget to buy out the US energy giant ConocoPhillips and Shell Australia's interests in Greater Sunrise consortium. "I reverently call on President of the Republic to promulgate 2019 State Budget, so that we can pay off the two companies," Xanana made the call when delivering a speech at National Seminar on Maritime Boundary Treaty and Greater Sunrise Development at Dili Convention Center on Saturday (08/12). At the same place, echoing Xanana's words, Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak also called on President Lu-Olo to promulgate 2019 State Budget, saying it included budgets to push for Greater Sunrise Development which would benefit Timorese people. "I fully support brother Xanana, therefore, I am calling on President of the Republic to promulgate 2019 State Budget and I am ready to defend 2019 State Budget Proposal in a debate at National Parliament," Ruak said. Timor-Leste's government represented by its main negotiator Xanana Gusmao had signed deals with ConocoPhillips and Shell Australia recently to buy out the two companies' 30 and 25.56 percents in Greater Sunrise joint venture. The purchase would help Timor-Leste position itself to push for the development of Greater Sunrise gas field, discovered in 1974 but long delayed due to a protracted maritime dispute between Australia and Timor-Leste that was finally agreed earlier this year. It would also help the government to push its on-shore gas processing plan.

Opposition wants to vote against 2019 OJE, AMP considers opposition has no goodwill

Independente, December 10, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The debate of 2019 State Budget (OJE) in parliament was just started on Thursday, but in the first day of the debate, opposition party Fretilin had declared to vote against the budget, saying the amount of 2019 State Budget was too big and not invested in productive sectors such as education, agriculture and others. Fretilin Bench Deputy President, Francisco Miranda Branco said the proposed budget was too big, but the allocation of the budget to productive sectors such as education, health, agriculture and basic infrastructure was less than 15 percent. "The Government does not prioritize the development of productive sectors, the government does not respect people and does not want to fulfill their promise during the election campaign," Branco said. At the same place, Democratic Party (PD) Bench Representative, Adriano Nascimento said the government needed to prioritize the productive sectors development in its annual budget plan, but it only allocated small amount of money to the areas such as education, agriculture, basic infrastructure, health, and others, therefore, PD would decide whether to support 2019 State Budget or not at the end of the 2019 State Budget discussion. Responding to the declaration, the coalition party Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) considered opposition had no desire to discuss about the needs of the people. Duarte Nunes, from CNRT Party, said if the opposition thought that 2019 State Budget allocations had no balance, then, it was important to discuss it to find solution. "If you (opposition, red) said that the allocations are not balanced, then, we need to discuss it, but before discussion, you already declared to vote against it, thus we do not need to discuss it anymore, maybe we can just vote now," Nunes lamented. The Timorese government has chosen for a budget ceiling of \$1.8 billion (including loans) for 2019 as it planned to buy out the US energy giant ConocoPhillips and Royal Dutch Shell's stakes in Greater Sunrise consortium for US\$650 million next year.

National seminar on maritime boundary and GS development, Alkatiri: lecture does not resolve problem

GMN Diario Nacional, December 10, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The Timorese Government and Maritime Boundary and Greater Sunrise (GS) development Negotiation Team had organized a national seminar at Dili Convention Center on Saturday to explain to public about Timor-Leste and Australia's maritime boundary treaty and Greater Sunrise development project, however, several national leaders did not participate in the seminar including Mari Alkatiri. Addressing media regarding his absence in the seminar, Alkatiri said lecture would not resolve any problem, but unity of national leaders. "I did not participate in the lecture because as I said before lecture resolves nothing. First leaders need to come together to define and decide strategies and the strategies should not be defined by one person only," Alkatiri said at Oecusse Airport last week. Earlier Alkatiri had also called on Timor-Leste's main negotiator to report to the State about the negotiation of maritime boundary and Greater Sunrise development. Meanwhile, the National Seminar on Maritime Boundary and its impacts on petroleum activities was held at Dili Convention Center with Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak and former president Jose Ramos Horta were in attendance.

National seminar on maritime boundary negotiation, Horta congratulates Xanana

GMN Diario Nacional, December 10, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The Timorese Government and Maritime Boundary Negotiation Team organized a national seminar on maritime boundary and Greater Sunrise development negotiation to explain to public about Permanent Maritime Boundary Treaty that Timor-Leste and Australia signed early this year and its impacts on Greater Sunrise fields. After participating in the seminar, academic and veteran appreciated the efforts of the Timorese government and Xanana Gusmao as main negotiator to fight for Timorese people's rights, hopefully it would benefit all Timorese. "I thank the government and the main negotiator for their explanations during the seminar, I think it will motivate people, particularly academic to do more research on the development of Timor Sea," Rector of Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) Francisco Miguel Martins told reporters after participating in the seminar at Dili Convention Center on Saturday. At the same place, Veteran Cornelio Gama said he appreciated the Negotiation Team and Main Negotiator Xanana Gusmao's fight for Timor-Leste's sovereignty. In addition, former President Jose Ramos Horta congratulated Xanana Gusmao and his team who had won in maritime boundary negotiation and successfully negotiated with petroleum companies to develop Greater Sunrise fields. "I am impressed because the explanation is deep and set straight all the confusions. I would like to congratulate Brother Xanana and his team," Horta told reporters after the seminar. However, Horta hoped that the Main Negotiator Xanana Gusmao could also brief political parties and President of the Republic who did not participate in the seminar to gain supports on Greater Sunrise development project. Timor-Leste has been pushing for the development of Greater Sunrise gas field, discovered in 1974 but long delayed due to a protracted maritime dispute between Australia and Timor-Leste that was finally agreed earlier this year. It would also help the government to push its on-shore gas processing plan. In an attempt to smooth the process of Greater Sunrise development and its pipeline to Timor-Leste's shore, the government had signed deals with the US energy giant ConocoPhillips and Shell Australia to buy out the two companies share in Greater Sunrise consortium recently.

December 06, 2018

UN Women and KFP prevent sexual harassment

Televizaun Timor-Leste, December 5, 2018 language source: Tetun

UN Women and Public Function Commission (KFP) are in partnership to prevent all public civil servants from sexual harassment within the country's state institutions. During a press conference on Wednesday (5/12) regarding the launching Chat Bod Rosa, President of KFP, Faustinho Cardoso said chat board Rosa was important for the public civil servant in order to prevent sexual harassment against women. "Chat Bod Rosa is an innovative and important mechanism in the Public Function to promote and enhance working access of the public function and ensure the acceleration of the work and prevention of sexual harassment," he said. Mr. Cardoso affirmed that KFP would not tolerate if there was any public civil servant committed sexual harassment against other civil servants and community members.

PLAN International holds seminar to reduce numbers of gender-based violence

Televizaun Timor-Leste, October 5, 2018 language source: Tetun

PLAN International is holding a seminar to fight against and reduce numbers of gender-based violence and violence against children in the country. Country Director for PLAN International, Peter Reyes said the event was realized to commemorate the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. "Gender-based violence creates many problems and also gender equality. In Timor-Leste, we also contribute to this campaign that is very important to clean up gender-based violence," he said.

"Too many" Timorese poor in their own country, Horta

Independente, December 6, 2018

Former Timor-Leste's President Jose Ramos Horta has urged the ruling coalition in parliament to listen to ideas and embrace opposition and civil society voice during a speech at the Presidential Palace in Dili on Tuesday. In the course of the reflective address, Horta said that "too many" Timorese people living in poverty "in their own country" and that "immediate change" must be taken by the government to address it. Horta called for government leaders such as Prime Minister Taur Matan Rual and Xanana Gusmao, to use their influence and "prioritize the harmony and stability of the state," by opening dialogue and the exchange of ideas with opposition parties and civil society groups. He said unity around improving basic services such as health and education and increasing allocated state funding was needed. Horta also commented on the Prime Minister's proposal to reshuffle his ministerial cabinet in 2019, saying he supported the move, but said the fact remained that the cabinet could not be changed until members had served a one-year term. Over 40 percent of Timorese people live below the national poverty line according to the latest Timor-Leste survey of living standards. Horta's comments come as parliament debates the 2019 general state budget. At the Council of Ministers meeting on 21 September, the government voted for a budget ceiling of \$1.44 billion (including borrowing) for 2019. Prime Minister Ruak has said that the main goals for the government for its five-year term were to reduce poverty by 10 percent, create 60,000 new jobs and diversify the economy.

Police Commander urges public to trust police

Independente, December 6, 2018

Timor-Leste's National Police Commissioner is calling on the public to support police in their mandate to maintain the stability and security of the country, amid growing public backlash against alleged police misconduct and brutality. Addressing concerns about police behavior in parliament on Tuesday, Hornai said he stood by his members that continued to work in accordance of the law. "I ask all people to continue believe in the PNTL because PNTL is carrying out the National security mission," Hornai said. The comments come as the Minister of Defense and Security, Filomeno Paixao, urged a disciplinary shake-up of alleged police brutality and illegal use of firearms, which recently saw three youth killed by off-duty police officer in Kulu-Hun. Civil society groups have argued for regulations around the use of firearms by off-duty officers and raised questions about the need for police officers to carry guns in the first place. Aderito Hugo Da Costa, of the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction (CNRT) party, said people must support the PNTL as the main entity for the national security. He said misconduct by police officers should receive immediate disciplinary action, but individual conduct should not be used as a base to condemn the PNTL.

Fretilin declares to vote against 2019 State Budget

Independente, December 6, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The opposition party in parliament Fretilin has declared to vote against 2019 State Budget Proposal, saying the proposed budget is the biggest in the history of Timor-Leste's annual budget. Currently parliament is conducting hearings with each ministry regarding the proposed budget before heading to general debate of 2019 State Budget Proposal with the government. Fretilin argued each year the government proposed big amount of money, but the allocations of budget to productive sectors such as education, health, agriculture and basic infrastructure were very small, which meant it did not address the need of the people in its annual budget plan. "The government does not prioritize the development of productive sectors. They disrespect people and does not keep their promise during the election campaign," Fretilin Bench Deputy President Francisco Miranda Branco said when addressing parliament on Wednesday (05/12). He said the 2019 State Budget did not reflect people's needs because most of Timorese were farmers, but it did not invest in the agricultural sector. It also did not invest in education sector to develop human resources in the country as its main assets to win a better future for the country.

"Looking at all these aspects, as an opposition, we notice that the big amount of money that government proposed for 2019 is only for big projects, therefore, we have decided to vote against the budget," Branco said. The Timorese government has chosen for a budget ceiling of \$1.44 billion (including loans) for 2019 with a possibility of augment as it planned to buy out the US energy giant ConocoPhillips and Royal Dutch Shell's stakes in Greater Sunrise consortium for US\$650 million next year.

Political immunity is a barrier in combating corruption

Independente, December 6, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's law enforcement has strong will to fight and combat corruption, collusion and nepotism in the country, however, political immunity that given to those in powers has hampered the effort, President of Global Organization of Parliamentary Anti Corruption (GOPAC) Francisco Miranda Branco says. Addressing parliament on Wednesday, Branco said next year, GOPAC would work on strengthening law enforcement by pushing for the approval of Anti Corruption Law and strengthening the implementation of money laundering law. "In the process of fighting against corruption in the country, Timor-Leste's law enforcement could only refer to Penal

Code and there is also resistance from those in powers to defend each other and defy the process,” Branco said. He added to combat corruption the state organs, particularly the government and parliament needed to cooperate if court demanded a removal of a political immunity of a Member of Parliament or government. “To tackle corruption, there must be a national consensus, the state organs should be cooperative if court demands to remove political immunity of a government official,” he demanded. He said in the past, when court asked parliament to remove a government official immunity, there was always a request not to remove the immunity. Recently National Parliament removed political immunity of its two members; Antonio Da Conceicao and Mariano Assanami Sabino to testify in court.

GAVI, WHO and UNICEF committed to support immunization program

Independente, December 6, 2018 language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste’s Ministry of Health’s partners; the Global Alliance of Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF in Timor-Leste are committed to support the immunization program in the country. The representatives of these three international organizations met with Odete Viegas, Ministry of Health’s Director for Service Provision, and others program officers of the ministry of health to discuss about the immunization program. Ms Viegas said in the meeting, they mostly discussed about the immunization program implementation and its progress. She said they also discussed about the obstacles and challenges during the implementation of the program to find solutions and how to improve it next year.

AIFAESA meets with WHO

Independente, December 6, 2018 language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste’s Authority for Inspection and Supervision of Economic, Sanitary and Food Activities (AIFAESA) met with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Timor-Leste to discuss about food security in the country. In the occasion, AIFAESA asked WHO to provide technical assistance and capacity building to the agency as well as laboratorial service as the institution still lack facilities and human resources to be able to do its jobs. Responding to the requests, WHO said it was committed to support the Timorese government to ensure food security and healthy environment surrounding food productions, therefore, it would consider AIFAESA’s requests and see what it could do to help.

Lu-Olo concerned about security situation in the country

GMN Diario Nacional, December 6, 2018 Language source: Tetun

President of the Republic Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo was concerned about security situation in the country amid increasing numbers of confrontations between youth and violent acts. Addressing media after meeting with President Lu-Olo Wednesday, the Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL) Commander Major General Lere Anan Timur said President of the expressed his concerns over increasing numbers of attacks and confrontations lately. “President Lu-Olo expressed his concerns over the recent clashes between youth, attacks on police and military officers, youth stabbed each other, and also slingshot arrows cases. I think everyone is concerned about the current security situation, I myself include, not only President of the Republic,” Commander Timur said. He called on everyone particularly youth to contribute to peace and stability in the country, it was not only police responsibility to maintain peace and stability, but it was responsibility of every citizen in the country. In the last few weeks, the confrontation between youth was happened again including attacks on police officers. Last Sunday a clash between rival gangs happened in Hudi Iaran and left three youth injured following the previous week clash in Komoro and an attack on a police officer.

MUTL continues its protest against PN’s new car fleet purchase, Noe: it depends on PN members to cancel the plan

Suara Timor Lorosae, December 6, 2018 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste’s University Students Movement (MUTL) continues protesting against National Parliament (PN)’s decision to purchase new car fleet in 2019 and asks to recall the all Prado cars from former parliamentarians. Since October 26, MUTL have been taking to the street in protest of PN’s decision to buy new cars after PN approved a US\$2,665,000 budget to buy 65 new Mitsubishi 4x4 vehicles. The decision that saw parliament back flipped on its plan to have new parliament members use its existing Prado vehicles fleet. To date around 53 Prado vehicles assigned to former parliament members remain unaccounted for after an auction of the cars was called off in August 2017 following a MUTL-led protest that month. Responding to the call and the students’ unyielding effort, National Parliament President Arao Noe said the protest was students’ right, but to cancel the purchase of new car fleet depended on PN members. “It depends on parliament members’ decision during the discussion of 2019 State Budget Proposal, if parliament members propose to halt the plan and everyone votes in favor, then, that is the decision,” Noe told reporters at PN on Wednesday (06/12).

GIZ and MAP organizes workshop on Agro-forestry

Timor Post, December 6, 2018 Language source: Tetun

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAP) cooperated with the German Government Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and the European Union (EU) organized a workshop to discuss about Partnership for Sustainable Agro-forestry (PSAF) Program on Wednesday. PSAF is aimed to promote inclusion in rural area and improve job opportunities through Agro-forestry system in Timor-Leste. “The Project is just in its initial step and we enter the rainy season, we want to start planting the plants and trees to be able to see the result at the end of this year rainy season,” GIZ technical Advisor Gesa Burchards told media at JL Villa Hotel in Fatuhada, Dili on Wednesday. At the same place, MAP’s Director for Forest, Coffee, and Plantation, Fernandino Vierra Da Costa said agro-forestry was a sustainable farming system that would improve Timorese people’s economy. The project is funded by European Union (€13million) and the German Government (€5million) with a total fund of €18 million and implemented by GIZ and International Labor Organization (ILO).