**Local Daily News**

**September 25, 2019**

**Korea offers more than $ 100,000 to Same Training centre**

Televizaun Timor-Leste, September 24, 2019 language source: Tetun

South Korean Government through its embassy in Timor-Leste has offered US $ 200,000 to Taur Matan Ruak Foundation. US $ 160,000 is allocated for funding training centre in same, meanwhile US $ 40,000 allocated to constructing another training centre in Atauro Island. In his speech marking the inauguration ceremony, the ex-President of the Republic, Jose Ramos Horta said this training centre was important to prepare the young Timorese for a better future. “It is prepared for the future, as Korea still need Timorese workers, as well as Australia. Japan also said it would accept our workers,” he said.

**Thai Princess provides $ 200,000 for CVTL**

Televizaun Timor-Leste, September 24, 2019 language source: Tetun

Thai Princess has provided US $ 200,000 for the rehabilitation of Timor-Leste National Red Cross (CVTL)’s office building in Dili. TVTL (the public television) reported that such amount of fund was approved to help rehabilitate CVTL’s old office building. Ambassador of Thailand to Timor-Leste, Danai Kampols said his Government was proud of funding this project as CVTL helped support the country’s vulnerable people. “Actually the one who came here is the princess of Thailand. The princess is the executive vice president of Thai Red Cross because of her good will to the people of Timor and to Timor-Leste Read Cross,” he said.

**Govt sends more workers to South Korea**

GMN TV, September 24, 2019 language source: Tetun

Secretary of State for Professional Training and Employment Policy (SEFOPE), September 2019 sent another 46 young Timorese to South Korea to be employed in the field of fisheries and manufactories. Director for SEFOPE Administration, Aniceto Leite Soro called on Timorese workers to be disciplined and be productive, so that the employer could provide them with long period contract. “Today we sent another 46 in accordance with the agreement that we made. They will be employed in the field of fisheries and manufactories. Based on the agreement, they are contracted for one year and that can be extended,” he said.

**STAE launches media centre for electoral information**

Televizaun Timor-Leste, September 24, 2019 language source: Tetun

Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) has officially launched a media centre for electoral process in the country. Acting Minister for State Administration, Abilio Caetano said this media centre would help facilitate STAE and media outlets in providing credible information for Timorese citizens in the country. “First of all, I would like to thank the Government of Japan through its embassy here in the country. This media centre is very important to help provide information to the media outlets, so that people can get access to the information,” he said. Meanwhile, Moltoya Altangere, representative of UNDP said UNDP would continue supporting this media centre and the country’s electoral bodies working for elections.

**Timor-Leste joins global protest for climate justice**

Independente, September 25, 2019

Students and members of civil society took to the streets of Dili on Tuesday as part of the Global Climate Strike movement that has united millions of people across the world demanding urgent action to tackle global heating, in the biggest climate protest in history. Organizers said it was the first time Timor-Leste has joined the global action. Students and concerned citizen with placards saying “unite against climate justice” walked from Palacio Governo to the new Habibie Bridge in Bidau, calling for urgent action from the government to help stabilize the climate and build resilience for the people of Timor-Leste already feeling the effect of increasingly unstable climate conditions. Timor-Leste is seventh on a global list of countries most prone to natural disasters. “The clear evidence of changing climate and unpredictable weather conditions in Timor-Leste include longer dry seasons, more droughts, flooding and landslides, and increasing coastal erosion affecting more and more people,” Lucio from Oxfam said in a statement. “Farmers, the poorest people in Timor-Leste, are experiencing crop losses, water scarcity, food insecurity, reducing their income and increasing hunger,” he said. Lucio said the follow-on effect includes impact on livelihoods which results in children being removed from school and increased rural urban migration. “The climate crisis is placing Timorese farmers and households, already living in property, under extreme pressure.” Among the demands, protesters called on the government; to phase out the sale and importation of single-use plastic, commit to sustainable renewable energy production, set strict environmental laws and use environmental assessments on all new public and commercial infrastructure projects, and develop an inexpensive public transport system for all areas in Timor-Leste. Protestors also encouraged individuals to take on climate challenge, challenging on the people of the people of Timor-Leste to “do what they can to reduce their impact on the environment”. Individual action includes recycling rubbish, planting trees, limiting electricity use, saying no to single-use plastic and riding a bicycle instead of driving a car. The protest took place following the opening day of the UN climate summit, called by the secretary general, Antonio Gutteres, to inject urgency into government action to restrict the rise in global temperatures to 1.5C, as agreed under the 2015 Paris agreement. Climate protests were held in an estimated 186 countries around the world.
The Thai Government through its ambassador to Timor-Leste reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting Timor-Leste’s education and health development. Ambassador, Danai Karnpoz, made the commitment when meeting with President of the Republic Francisco “Lu Olo” Guterres on Tuesday at Presidential Palace to say goodbye as his mission in Timor-Leste coming to conclusion. Speaking to media after the farewell meeting, Ambassador Karnpoz said Thailand and Timor-Leste’s cooperation had been running well and through the cooperation there were around 400 Timorese students who pursued their studies in Thailand. “Thailand has been supporting Timor-Leste’s education and public health, two important areas to build a better nation,” Karnpoz said. Mr. Karnpoz also thanked the Timorese Government and its people for their cooperation and collaboration during his mandate in Timor-Leste.

**Fighting diarrhea: MS and WHO introduce new vaccine**

Timor-Leste’s Ministry of Health (MS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Timor-Leste organized a workshop to introduce Rotavirus Vaccine to Timorese health professionals to fight against rotavirus infections - leading cause of severe diarrhea among young children. Speaking in the seminar at UNICEF Hall in Kaikoli on Friday, Ministry of Health’s Acting Director for Health Service, Horacio Sarmento said it was important for health professionals to understand about this new vaccine before going to the field and introducing it to parents and children under five years old. “We have been giving nine vaccines to children under five and now we have new vaccine, Rotavirus Vaccine, therefore, it is important for health professionals including directors and programs coordinators to understand about the vaccine, which will prevent children under five years old having severe diarrhea,” Mr. Sarmento said. Speakers in the seminar included WHO Representative, Mateus Cunha, and UNICEF Representative Denis Muhoja. The 2-day seminar was attended by Directors of Health from 12 municipalities and Oecusse Region, responsible persons for maternal and infantile health, and also John Snow Inc. Organization.

**Government signs annual grant agreement with the Timorese Episcopal Conference**

Timor-Leste’s Prime Minister, Taur Matan Ruak and the President of Timorese Episcopal Conference (CET), Bishop Norberto do Amaral, signed an agreement that set out the attribution, by government, of public subsidy to the value of US$10 million for the financial year of 2019 to support activities in educational, social and ecclesial areas. The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Finance Office, in Dili on September 23. This agreement is concluded under the Concordat signed on 14 August 2015 between Republic Democratic of Timor-Leste and the Holy See, which establishes the legal framework for bilateral relations between the two states and the Framework Agreement signed on 16 June 2017 between the Government and the CET. These agreements provide for an annual contribution, according to the government’s financial availability, to the activities of a social, educational and ecclesial government of the Catholic Church. The quantity and modalities of the grant are regulated annually by specific agreements between the Government and the Timorese Episcopal Conference. The agreement now signed provides that 50% of the value of the subsidy will be used for educational purposes, 25% for social purposes, 15% for ecclesial government purposes and the remaining 10% for grant management purposes. The Prime Minister in his speech, took advantage of the “opportunity to praise the educational, social and ecclesial work of the hundreds of institutions distributed throughout the country, which daily with their selfless effort and dedication contribute to this great strategic mission of the State, to build well educated, healthy, interested, active and participative citizens, able to seize opportunities and contribute to the good development of the country, communities and their families”. Dom Norberto do Amaral thanked the government’s attention to the Catholic Church and the efforts of the two teams, from the government and the CET, responsible for the discussion and preparation of the agreement that was signed.

Lu Olo: if we don’t act now on combating climate change, small nations will likely go under the sea

The President of the Republic, Francisco Guterres Lu Olo congratulated the steering committee for organizing students and civil society to do protest on climate change in Dili to show the world about Timor-Leste’s concerns over the issue. “According the findings of the scientists, our home the ‘Planet Earth’ is in risk. Therefore, urgent intervention is needed to combat the climate change because it has threatened lives on earth, and not to forget that our country is located in the region where many of the pacific islands are in danger and threatened to be drown due to increased global heating,” said Lu Olo in a statement released on Tuesday. Lu Olo said to combat the climate change it was important for the international community to cooperate with the vulnerable countries. “Our urgent and active participation on combating climate change is very important. So don’t turn a blind eye to what we will pass on to our future generations. If we want a green environment, then we need to respect our nature by doing simple act like do not throw rubbish arbitrarily in our home, community, city and anywhere,” said Lu Olo in the statement. “By looking back to our past history, we need to follow our grandparents’ steps. Such as the tradition of ‘Tara Bandu’ was one of the good examples of taking care of the nature and environment,” he said. He said the initiative from an individual would bring a significant change to the environment. The President called on all leaders and citizens to work together to protect the environment.

A man killed and two wounded in Aimitun clash

GMN TV reported that one man killed and two sustained serious injuries during a clash happening in Aimitun, suburb of Timor-Leste’s Capital Dili on Monday (23/9) morning. The one who was killed is believed to be the member of an organization known as Colimau 2000. Head of Aimitun village, Martinho Gusmao said this incident was unknown to him, but it was identified that one man killed during the clash. “I did not know about the incident at first, but I was told by a community member, saying group of people are attacking each other. I was then directly contacting the police to respond to the situation,” he said. He called on the police to launch an investigation into the case in order to uncover what the motive is.
Chinese doctors offer free health service to local residents

GMN TV, September 22, 2019 language source: Tetun

Ten Chinese special doctors on Sunday (22/9) provided free health treatment for local residents living in Kampung Alor, Dili. This health free health service is part of cooperation between the embassy of China in Dili and local authority of Kampung Alor. Head of village for Kampung Alor thanked the Chinese Government for providing this free medical service to her communities. "I am very proud of this free medical treatment as it is the first time held in my village. I thank the embassy for providing my communities with free health service," he said. Meanwhile, the Chinese Ambassador to Timor-Leste said this free medical service would also be conducted throughout the country and said his men would contact all the local authorities about it.

Horta encourages President Lu-Olo to visit Indonesia and Japan

Radio Timor-Leste, September 23, 2019 language source: Tetun

Noble Peace Prize Laureate, Jose Ramos Horta who is also the ex-president of the republic has encouraged President of the Republic, Francisco “Lu-Olo” Guterres to make state visits to Indonesia and Japan next month really happen, despite parliament’s opposition. President Lu-Olo is invited to take part in swearing-in ceremony of Indonesia’s newly elected president, Joko Widodo and swearing-in of Japan’s emperor. Horta extended his support to the President’s state visit plans when meeting with Guterres on Monday (23/9) at the Palace of the President. He said the invitations from the Government of Indonesia and Japan were important to strengthen Timor-Leste’s ties with Indonesia and Japan. "I told the President of the Republic to depart for Jakarta and also Japan as it is very important to strengthen Timor-Leste’s relation with these two countries since Mr. President was officially invited," he said. Last week the ruling coalition in parliament has just canceled the President of the Republic’s trip to New York to participate in the UN General Assembly meeting this week. In 2018, the Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) government had also blocked a planned trip by President Francisco Guterres to the Vatican, Indonesia and Portugal.

Government block of President’s state visits “isolates” nation, says Lere

Independent, September 24, 2019

The Major General of Timor-Leste’s defense force has warned of dangerous repercussions of the ruling coalition in parliament block of the President of the Republic’s representation at the UN General Assembly in New York this week, saying it sets a “bad image” for Timor-Leste’s commitment to democracy on the world stage. Speaking publicly in Metinaro on Thursday, Lere Anan Timur expressed caution against the politicization of state visits, where the head of state customarily represents the national unity and legitimacy of a sovereign state. “We isolate ourselves by boycotting our President abroad,” Lere said. “The President of the Republic goes abroad not for personal use but for the sake of the nation and state,” he said. The Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) government also voted to block a planned trip by President Francisco Guterres to the Vatican, Indonesia and Portugal in 2018. The AMP coalition includes the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction (CNRT) party of independence hero Xanana Gusmao. Guterres is from the opposition Fretilin party. Lere said that parliament’s vote was influenced by personal political agendas that were “devastating” Timor-Leste’s long-fought independence. “We earned our independence with blood flowing everywhere, therefore, this personal revenge must stop,” Lere said. He said Asia’s youngest democracy, which became independent from Indonesia in 2002, has worked hard to push reconciliation and peace with other countries, warning political uncertainty threatened progress.

Horta laments government does not provide proper condition to street vendors

Independente, September 24, 2019 Language source: Tetun

Former President of the Republic, Jose Ramos Horta, lamented the Timorese government, particularly Dili Municipality Authority, did not provide proper conditions to Dili’s street vendors. He said the authority only knew to evict the street vendors, but they did not have a proper plan to provide a better condition to these vendors. “These street vendors are hardworking people, they do not know what is weekend and what is holiday, they push their carts along the streets every day to get some money to feed their family and support their children to school, but authorities only know to chase them away, in the name of cleaning of the city, that is unacceptable,” Horta said. Horta urged the government to create proper plan to place these street vendors in a strategic place, so that they could even get more income instead of eviction and banning them selling on the streets. In April this year, dozens of street vendors had taken to the street and occupied Main Street in front of National Parliament to protest Dili Administrator’s policy for banning street vendors to peddle around the Capital. The protest turned chaotic at that time, with police firing tear gas canisters to disperse the crowd. The incident had left four people suffered minor injured and many people trauma.

Lere officially closes 2019 Harii Hamutuk Exercise

Suara Timor Lorrnae, September 24, 2019 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste’s Defense Force (F-FDTL) Commander, Major General Lere Anan Timur had officially closed 2019 Harii Hamutuk Exercise at Metinaro Training Center on Thursday. The closing ceremony of the Harii Hamutuk exercise was also attended by the Australian Army First Division Commander Justin Ellwood, Australian Ambassador Peter Roberts, the U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Japanese Embassy’s Representative and Japan’s Chief of International Security Cooperation Colonel Yoichiro Rokutan. In his remarks, Commander Lere emphasized the importance of Harii Hamutuk exercise to Timorese defense force command growth and its members ability in the field of engineering. “Harii Hamutuk Exercise is very important to F-FDTL Command because it could enhance military forces ability, particularly in the field of engineering and humanitarian assistance, we hope in the future, F-FDTL Command could do this assistance to our community alone,” Commandner Lere said. At the same place, the U.S. Ambassador, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, in her speech, said Harii Hamutuk Exercise had brought together military forces from Australia, America, Japan and Timor-Leste to demonstrate defense force in a democracy work for the people and how they behave according to democratic norms. “On behalf of the United States of America, I am proud to be with you today for the 7th anniversary of the Hari’I Hamutuk exercise. This multinational exercise brings together the F-FDTL, the U.S. Marines, the U.S. Navy Seabees, the Australian Defense Force, and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. This year, HAR’I HAMUTUK included 200 service members working side-by-side for a month to train and collaborate in construction and combat engineering projects,” Ambassador Fitzpatrick said. “The work of our militaries with the citizens of Timor-Leste demonstrates how defense forces in a democracy work for the people and how they behave according to democratic norms. In Harii Hamutuk, we learned from each other, provided support to the people of Timor-Leste, and built stronger bonds of lasting friendship and cooperation," she said. Harii Hamutuk is a military annual exercise that brings together military forces from the United States, Australia, Japan, and Timor-Leste to do construction works, infrastructure development, and equipment maintenance. This partnership demonstrates the commitment shared by the partner nations to support the growth of Timor-Leste’s defense force capability.

China and TL strengthen bilateral cooperation

GMN Diario Nacional, September 24, 2019 language source: Tetun

Chinese Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Xiao Jianguo met with President of the Republic Francisco “Lu Olo” Guterres on Monday at the Presidential Palace to discuss about bilateral cooperation of the two countries. Speaking to media after the meeting, Ambassador Xiao said the government of China would strengthen its bilateral cooperation with Timor-Leste especially in education sector, in which
Government executes US$100 million of fund from UNFCCC

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Demetrio de Amaral de Carvalho, said Timor-Leste had executed around US$100 million of fund from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 2017. “As a developing country we received the fund from UNFCCC and executed it for adapting to the climate change in the country. So, from 2017 until now we had executed the total fund of US$100 million, and there is a possibility that we might get more funding, totaling US$64,700,” said Carvalho in a Press Conference at Mandarin in Dili, on Monday, amid the UN Climate Change Summit in New York. Carvalho said today (23/9) was a very important day for the UN, in which the discussion of the Climate Change was taking place in New York at the UN General Assembly meeting with the theme ‘Climate Actions Summit 2019: A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win’. He said the theme would motivate all the countries in the world to pay attention to the climate change and act accordingly to adapt to the change. “Timor-Leste is not a greenhouse gas-emitting country, because our gas emission is only 0.03 percent a year. Therefore, we want to participate in the meeting to insist the industrialized countries to be responsible for their activities on the degradation of the environment,” said Carvalho. He added the small pacific countries are vulnerable to the effects of the Climate Change and the issue could not be solved in the national level, therefore, participating in the UN General Assembly meeting was crucial to insist the developed countries to accept and consider Climate Change issue into the global policy agenda.

September 23, 2019

Australia committed to supporting F-FDTL: Australian defence minister

The Australian Defence Minister, Linda Reynolds said the Government of Australia was committed to supporting Timor-Leste in the fields of human resource capacity building, basic infrastructure, equipment and other sectors. Ms Reynolds made the comments after meeting with Timorese Defence Minister, Filomeno Paixao on Friday (20/9). Mr. Linda was here in Dili to take part in the celebrations of over the past 20 years anniversary of the deployment of INTERFET in Timor-Leste.

Parliament’s decision damages TL’s image: Horta

The ex-President of the Republic, Jose Ramos Horta who is also the noble peace prize laureate has expressed his concerns over the recent decision of the Parliament on blocking the departure of President Francisco Lu-Olo Guteries for taking part in the UN General Assembly. Horta said the decision of AMP Coalition on voting against the president of the republic’s participation in the UN General Assembly would impact on the country’s image and multilateral cooperation with other countries. He blamed Timor-Leste’s first Constituent Assembly which led by Fretilin Party for producing Timor-Leste’s constitution, which forced President of the Republic to acquire parliament permission before travelling abroad. “I disagreed with the decision of the parliament for blocking President of the Republic’s trip abroad. We need dialogue to get a national consensus, so that the state organs can work together. I have never agreed with the majority of Fretilin Party in 2001that copied an article from Portugal and included in our constitution that demands President to get parliament permission before travelling abroad,” he said.

INTERFET’s deployment restored peace: Horta

The Noble Peace Prize Laureate, Jose Ramos Horta said the presence and the deployment of the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) in 1999 had helped restoring peace and stability in the country. Horta made the comments after taking part in a courtesy dinner with the foreign guests, which was held on Friday (20/9) Palacio do Nobre, Dili. Horta said it was necessary to commemorate the deployment of INTERFET as it had helped save Timorese people. “It is about the messages from all Timorese leaders, asking for commemorating the Day of INTERFET Deployment. The organizing committee has done numbers of activities, we do appreciate that,” he said.

Civil society says disputed Kaitehu land must go through court process

The Director of Timor-Leste’s Civil Society Forum, Daniel Dos Santos, has said that the disputed land in Kaitehu should go through official land law channels, paving the way for intervention by the courts that should set a precedent in private land acquisitions across the country. Private land at the Kaitehu site in Liquica is being used by the Marino enterprise and Harbour Company as part of the State’s port development project. Two weeks ago a fence that local landholders had erected to keep construction companies off their land was destroyed by Xanana Gusmao, Timor-Leste’s chief negotiator for the Greater Sunrise oil and gas field development, claiming the land had been acquired for state purposes. Now, civil society leaders are condemning the move, saying that the state must negotiate land acquisitions with owners of private land, and use formal court processes to establish compensation. Santos said Timor-Leste’s land and property regulations were “very clear” and that private land could no longer be seized in the interest of state projects. In June 2017 the President of the Republic enacted Timor-Leste’s first “Land Law”, heralded at the time as major breakthrough in strengthening land rights for Timorese people. Legislation approved after Timor-Leste’s independence concentrated land ownership power into the hands of the state. In 2016, a survey by the Asia Foundation found that at least 45 per cent of households in Dili, and more than 80 percent in two rural districts had no legal rights to the land where they lived and were at risk of state eviction. These households also had no legal right to compensation. Commentators close to Dili say some politicians continue to justify situation by arguing that the state needs to ensure quick and cheap access to land in order to implement key infrastructure projects that will help the country to develop.

Babo denies rumors of President Lu-Olo impeding appointment of Timorese ambassadors

Timor-Leste’s Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister, Dionisio Babo has denied rumors of President of the Republic impeding appointment of Timor-Leste ambassadors to foreign countries, saying the list that was presented to President of the Republic needed adjustment. Previously President Francisco Lu-Olo Guteries had rejected a list of candidates for Timorese ambassadors to foreign countries. Minister Babo said President of the Republic was asking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to revise the list of candidates before sending it back to him for inauguration. “President of the Republic said he had no intention to impede or not to swear in Timorese representatives to foreign countries because it is a state interest,” Babo told media outside Presidential Palace in Altarak Laran, Dili recently. He said President of the Republic had constitutional responsibility to remind the government or a ministry of important matters that related to the state interest.
Fiji is ready to support F-FDTL Naval Component

Independente, September 23, 2019 Language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste’s Defense Force (F-FDTL) Commander, Major General Lere Anan Timur, met with Acting Commander of Military Force of Fiji, Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto on Saturday, in Dili, talking about military cooperation of the two countries. Speaking to media at F-FDTL Headquarter after the meeting, Commander Timur said military force of Republic of Fiji was ready to support F-FDTL Command’s Naval Unit. “Rear Admiral Naupoto has ensured Fiji’s readiness to support F-FDTL Naval Component’s human resources capacity building, they are ready to welcome Timorese defense forces to take military courses in their country,” Commander Timur said. Rear Admiral Naupoto’s visit to Timor-Leste was to participate in the Anniversary Celebration of International Forces East Timor (INTERFET) Arrival in Timor-Leste on September 20. Some of Republic of Fiji’s Military Forces were also part of INTERFET that were deployed to restore peace in Timor-Leste on 20 September 1999. “I wanted to thank Fiji through Rear Admiral Naupoto for deploying its forces at INTERFET to restore peace in Timor-Leste in 1999. In the meeting we also discuss potential cooperation programs in future,” Commander Timur said.

Commander Timur proposes to include Indonesia and New Zealand forces in Harii Hamutuk Exercise

Independente, September 23, 2019 Language source: Tetun

Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL) Commander Major General Lere Anan Timur has proposed to the United States Military Commander to include Indonesia and New Zealand in Harii Hamutuk Annual Exercise which bring together military forces to develop their engineering skills as well as strengthening military relationship and cooperation of the partner nations. “I have talked to Admiral of the United States Force for Asia Pacific, I said instead of just four nations; U.S., Australia, Japan, and Timor-Leste, we could invite Indonesia and New Zealand to join the Harii Hamutuk exercise to strengthen our relationship,” Commander Timur told media at F-FDTL Headquarter in Fatuhda, Dili on Saturday. Harii Hamutuk is a military exercise that brings together military forces from the United States, Australia, Japan, and Timor-Leste to do construction works, infrastructure development, and equipment maintenance. This partnership demonstrates the commitment shared by the partner nations to support the growth of Timor-Leste’s defense force capability. Timur added the three partner nations had agreed to the idea and wanted to invite Indonesia and New Zealand military forces to participate in the exercise step by step, first, as the observers, then they could fully join the exercise afterward.

Alkatri: Fretilin does not want another early election

Suara Timor Lorosae, September 23, 2019 Language source: Tetun

The General-Secretary of the Revolutionary Front for an Independence of East Timor (Fretilin) Party, Mari Alkatiri, said Fretilin did not want another early election to happen in Timor-Leste, therefore, it would do its best to contribute to the current coalition parties’ leadership to lead the country up to a 5-year term. Alkatiri made the comment after participating in Fretilin third National Conference at Canossa Hall, in Dili, on Saturday. “We don’t want early election to happen again, so we will contribute to ensure ruling parties to stay in power until its term expired, it doesn’t matter whether it is a good or bad government,” Alkatiri told media. The conference of the Fretilin was to strengthen the party’s structure from national to the local level to prepare for the 2023 general election. Alkatiri explained that the conference was to prevent tentative to destroy Timor-Leste Democratic State Principles, prepare and solidify FRETILIN to win the 2023 parliamentary election. Speaking at the conference, Alkatiri denied the rumors of the party’s breakdown that had been widely spread recently.

PN to hold plenary session for President’s trip to Indonesia and Japan

Suara Timor Lorosae, September 23, 2019 Language source: Tetun

The National Parliament had scheduled to hold a plenary session on September 30 to decide on the President of the Republic request to visit to Indonesia and Japan in October. The President of the Republic was scheduled to visit Indonesia and Japan from 19 to 26 October this year. “Last week the President had sent a letter to the National Parliament asking for parliament permission on his departure to Indonesia and Japan,” said Noe at Hosana Hall, in Dili, after participating in the conference of the voice of the voiceless, on Saturday. Commenting on the National Parliament’s previous cancelation of President Francisco Lu-Olo Guterres’ departure to New York, Noe said as the President of the National Parliament he had to comply with the final decision of the Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) because he was elected by AMP. “The decision came from all of the MPs of AMP, as the House Speaker, I couldn’t do anything because it was a collective decision, not President of the National Parliament’s,” said Noe. As well as blocking attending the UN General Assembly, the ruling coalition government has also voted against the President’s sought approval from parliament for a state visit to Portugal, the Vatican and Indonesia in 2018.