**May 17, 2019**

**General Lere disagrees with decision on arming PSIK**

*Televisanun Timor-Leste, May 15, 2019* language source: Tetun

Chief of Defence Force (F-FDTL), Major Lere Anan Timur has stated he disagrees with the Government’s decision on purchasing weapons for the Scientific and criminal investigation police (PSIK) as they are considered to be civilians. Lere said such decision was against the law and constitution, which said that only the police force (PNTL) and F-FDTL had the right to carry weapons, not the civilians. “I think we have breached the law, as the law does not permit civilians to carry weapons. If so, all civilians in the country can carry weapons, only F-FDTL and PNTL are allowed to carry weapons,” he said. He called on the Government to consider the decision it had made before purchasing the weapons for PSIK officers.

**Govt makes logistical and security preparations for referendum day**

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

Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak (TMR) said the Government of Timor-Leste was currently making logistical and security preparations for international guests coming to take part in the commemoration day referendum, falling on August 30. “We are making preparations; in this regard the president of the republic invites the head of states of other countries.” “In my side, I invite head of the governments. The invitations have been issued, but it depends on their agenda,” TMR said.

**Human resource important for TL to go into ASEAN, says Horta**

*Televisanun Timor-Leste, May 16, 2019* language source: Tetun

The ex-President of the Republic, who is also the noble Peace Prize Laureate, Jose Ramos Horta said capacity building for the country’s human resource was important for Timor-Leste to join ASEAN. Horta made the comments after holding a short notice visit to Timor-Leste’s Human Development Institution (FDCH) on Thursday (16/5). He affirmed that investment in human resources would help facilitate the country’s adhesion of ASEAN. “I need some information on the country’s human resource development as sometimes I should explain to the international community about progresses that Timor-Leste has, concerning human resources,” he said.

**MUTL calls on President Lu-Olo not to pardon corruptors**

*GMN TV, May 16, 2019* language source: Tetun

MUTL (Timor-Leste’s Students Movement) has called on the President of the Republic, Francisco “Lu-Olo” Guterres not to give pardon to the prisoners who were found guilty of committing acts of corruption. Representative of MUTL, Novelino dos Santos made the comments during a press conference, which was held on Thursday (16/5) at the Campus of UNTL, Dili. Novelino said the president of the republic should learn and analyse the Government’s proposal before making decision. “Acts of corruption is act of crime that must not be pardoned as it affects people’s lives. Therefore, the president of the republic should learn and analyse well the proposal before giving pardon to the corrupt government members,” he said.

**New coalition government rumours denied**

*Independente, May 17, 2019*

President of the National Parliament, Arao Noe Amaral has dismissed claims of a new coalition government, labelling the list of alleged members circulating on social media as “fake news.” A story circulating on social media proposed a new coalition government made of 19 members from CNRT Party, 13 members from PLP party and six from the Democratic Party (PD). “The list of new names of new government members circulating on social media is written by someone who wants to spread false news, so do not trust the news,” Mr. Amaral said. Meanwhile, Fidelis magalhaes, the Minister of Legislative Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs said any consideration of cabinet reshuffle would be led by Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak (TMR).

**No problem PSIK carries weapons: Horta**

*Independente, May 17, 2019* language source: Tetun

The ex-President of the Republic, Jose Ramos Horta agrees with the Government’s policy on purchasing weapons to be used for arming the country’s scientific and criminal investigation police (PSKI) officers. Horta’s reason is that PSKI officers are currently doing investigation into the organized crime in the country. “Many countries, the prosecutors carry weapons, therefore I do not see it as a big problem when PSIK carries weapons. It is important they could be in the terrain and there is information for them, so that they can use weapons,” he said.

**Horta 100% support Southern Coast LNG project**

*Suara Timor Lorosae’e, May 17, 2019* language source: Tetun

The ex-President of the Republic, Jose Ramos Horta who is also the noble peace prize laureate said 100% he supported the southern coast LNP project, which Xanana Gusmao led and said Xanana learnt this project within 15 years. “I support 100% the southern coast project, I was previously doubtful when Xanana began doing negotiation with Australia.” I was little bit concerned, but then I admired and proud when Xanana showed his leadership at that moment,” he said.

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**NOTICE PLEASE READ ...**

The news below is translated to English from all media in Dili including hard copy, radio and Television media.

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**Local Daily News**

There will be no news on Mon 20th due to the national holiday.
Minister for Education and Youth, Dulce de Jesus Soares on Thursday (16/5) officially launched an online library installed at Catholic School of Sao Pedro, Comoro, Dili. Ms. Dulce said she did appreciate the initiative of Sao pedro school as it could help facilitate the children getting access to such an online library without assistance of the Government. “I will challenge the public civil servants working at all ministries to follow this example as this school set up this online library without getting support from any ministry, which is costing any fee,” she said. Director for eskola Sao Pedro Aderito Victor said this online library would help facilitate the children to get access to references.

Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak (TMR) said he had not yet received any request concerning the Government’s policy on purchasing weapons for the country’s scientific and criminal investigation police (PSIK). “No request to my office, I have the information from the newspapers, but not the official information, which is naturally the decision is from the Council of Ministers,” TMR said after meeting with the president of the republic. Meanwhile, Director for NGO Mahein, Joao Almeida said it was unnecessary for arming the PSIK officers as it could emerge another problem in the country as by nature PSIK was there to investigate the organized crime. According to him, it is good to capacitate the PSIK officers to increase their knowledge than arming them.

Chief of Defence Force (F-FDTL), Major Lere Anan Timur has stated he disagrees with the Government’s decision on purchasing weapons for the Scientific and criminal investigation police (PSIK) as they are considered to be civilians. Lere said such decision was against the law and constitution, which said that only the police force (PNTL) and F-FDTL had the right to carry weapons, not the civilians. “I think we have breached the law, as the law does not permit civilians to carry weapons. If so, all civilians in the country can carry weapons, only F-FDTL and PNTL are allowed to carry weapons,” he said. He called on the Government to consider the decision it had made before purchasing the weapons for PSIK officers.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday (15/5) realized a workshop sharing information on productive and maternal health progresses to the country’s Parliament Members. MP Maria Bareto from the Committee F said the workshop was important to share the information on the progresses of the productive and maternal health with the members of the Parliament. “The objective of today’s conference is to share the information in the field of health and to increase knowledge of the MPs, so that can better facilitate the MPs when carrying out their work,” she said.

Three people have died and relief workers have reported flood damage to roads and flattened houses in the wake of cyclone Lili, the late-season cyclone that continues to track west across the coral sea. The storm hit the municipalities of Lautem, Viqueque, and Manufahi on Saturday, killing three people, with heavy rain and high-speed winds causing wide spread flooding and damage house and infrastructure. Relief workers said the victim in Viqueque died the tree struck them, the second victim in Lautem when flood water entered their homes and the third victim drowned when a river in Manufahi burst its banks.
Lere gives ultimate to MP Guntur
_Independente, May 16, 2019_ language source: Tetun

Following the recent comments by member of the Parliament Sabino Guntur in his Facebook account, saying President of the Republic, Francisco “Lu-Olo” Guterres “goblok” has drawn criticism. In regard to this, Chief of Defence, Major General Lere Anan Timur said he was ready to breach the law if Guntur again insulted the president of the republic. "As chief of defence, I am calling on the politicians to respect the country’s leaders. If I had the authority, I should have captured Guntur in the Parliament," he said.

**May 15, 2019**

**NZ Govt invites President Lu-Olo to visit New Zealand**
_Independente, May 15, 2019_ language source: Tetun

State of New Zealand has officially invited the President of the Republic, Francisco “Lu-Olo” Guterres to pay an official visit to that country for strengthening the two countries’ bilateral cooperation. The invitation was officially conveyed by New Zealand Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Philip Hewit after meeting with the president of the republic on Tuesday (15/5) at the Palace of the President. Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Cooperation Affiars, Asilio Coelho said the Government would communicate it through diplomatic channels. “We will see the agenda, as there are many invitations from the prioritizing state partners,” he said.

**Govt to arm scientific police: Minister for Justice**
_Radio Timor-Leste, May 14, 2019_ language source: Tetun

Minister for Justice, Manuel Carceres said the Government of Timor-Leste was planning to arm the country’s scientific and criminal investigation police officers with weapons when carrying out their duties. Mr. Carceres made the comments after the commemoration ceremony of the anniversary of the scientific police on Tuesday (14/5). He affirmed that the scientific police officers had to be armed when capturing criminals and that was the way of self-defence if their lives were threatened. “It is not high-powered weapons, the proposal was submitted and it has been approved in the Council of Ministers,” he said.

**NZ pledges to continue supporting TL’s development**
_Televisuaun Timor-Leste, May 14, 2019_ language source: Tetun

Government of New Zealand has pledged to continue supporting Timor-Leste’s development in the field of education, tourism and justice. New ambassador of New Zealand to Timor-Leste made the comments during the meeting of handing over letter of credentials to the President of the Republic on Tuesday (14/5). Speaking to journalists, Director-General for Foreign Affairs, Ensino Coelho said the ceremony of handing over letter of credentials was a normal process to introduce a diplomat representing the country of origin. “The letter of credentials is handed over in order to strengthen the two countries in bilateral ties,” he said.

**Govt likely to announce cabinet reshuffle next week’s evaluation meeting**
_Independente, May 15, 2019_

The ruling coalition government is likely to announce a cabinet reshuffle after next week’s internal party meeting, a source from CNRT Party said. The source who did not to be named, said during the meeting that marked almost 12 months since the alliance for change and progress (AMP) government had been elected to power, the performance of cabinet members would be evaluated. While, the source would not comment on who may be reshuffled, it has been confirmed that some government members is unsatisfactory. In a media interview on Tuesday (14/5),Duarte Nunes, Chairperson of CNRT Party bench, said the rumoured news government was "fake news'.

**Pedro Carrascalao calls on govt to set up Aviation Company**
_Independente, May 15, 2019_ language source: Tetun

Timorese Specialist of Aviation, Pedro Carrascalao has called on the Government of Timor-Leste to set up its state-own aviation company in order to help facilitate the country’s people in the future. Pedro Carrascalao made the comments after a meeting with Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak (TMR) and the US’ Alton Aviation Consultancy, Adam Cowburn on Tuesday (15/5) at the Palace of the Government. During the meeting, the prime minister, Carrascalao and Mr. Adam talked about the current situation of the flight, which had impacted the country’s economy. "We have seen that situation of the flight in the country has impacted the economy of the state, especially affecting the price of the air-ticket," he said.

**TAF realizes meeting on domestic violence**
_Timor Post, May 15, 2019_ language source: Tetun

The Asia Foundation (TAF) through its program called “Nabilan” realized a meeting on domestic violence against women and children in the southern municipality of Manufahi. Speaking to journalists, TAF Program Officer Saturnina Freitas Belo said the meeting was held to prevent communities from engaging in domestic violence against women and the children. "It has been five times, we realized this kind of meeting in partnership with the Government and international organizations to increase knowledge of the communities on prevention," she said.

**PERMATIL installs school garden in TL**
_Timor Post, May 15, 2019_ language source: Tetun

NGO, PERMATIL is in partnership with the Ministry of Education (ME) has installed school gardens throughout the territory of Timor of Timor-Leste. Executive Director for PERMATIL, Ego Lemos said his organization and Ministry of Education signed agreement in 2017 aimed at installing school garden at all schools throughout the country. “We help support the Ministry of Education in implementing the installation of school garden throughout the country in order to contribute to the school feeding program,” he said.