

## NOTICE PLEASE READ ...

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

## Disclaimer

The contents of this service do not reflect the views of Guide Post (Magazine) and Guide Post does not vouch for the accuracy of these reports including the accuracy of the translations or the correctness of the original material or any loss or distortion of meaning caused by formatting the text provided, for the magazine. The reports have been provided by Timor-Leste Subscriber News Local and International Media Monitoring and any enquiries should be directed to that organization. The following statement is attached to every report we receive. Timor-Leste Subscriber News Local and International Media Monitoring. (The contents of this service do not reflect the views of FMDC. News and opinion is summarized; and headlines are edited in English to give the best possible sense of the original headline. For more detailed information about any story in this bulletin; or for tailored sector-specific monitoring contact: [francisco@tlmdc.org](mailto:francisco@tlmdc.org); [fernanda@tlmdc.org](mailto:fernanda@tlmdc.org))

---

## Local Daily News

**March 15, 2019**

### **MNEK calls on Timorese students to respect Japanese Government**

*Televizaun Timor-Leste, March 14, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Director-General for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Hercio Coelho has called on the 15 Japanese Government scholarship recipients to respect Japanese culture during their studies in Japan. Mr. Coelho made the comments after taking part in the farewell ceremony of the 15 young Timorese who would study in Japan this year. He affirmed that it was important for Timorese to take the opportunity to learn something new to contribute to the country's development. Meanwhile, Representative of the scholarship recipients, Patricia Fonseca thanked the Government of Japan for offering them scholarship.

### **JICA to rehabilitate roads in Timor-Leste**

*Radio Timor-Leste, March 14, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Japan International Corporation (JICA) is committed to providing maintenance for the roads, the clean water and sanitation throughout the country. President of Parliamentary Committee G for Infrastructure, Abel Pires made the comments after having a meeting with JICA representatives at the House of National Parliament on Thursday (14/3). Mr. Pires affirmed that they had three times of having audience with JICA, talking about the Government Japan's good will to provide maintenance for the roads, the clean water canalization and sanitation. "We have had talked about rehabilitations of the roads, ports, and the clean water in Dili and other places throughout the country. We got so many things from the meeting as it could help facilitate us in monitoring," he said.

### **Appeals Court rules in favor of Petroleum Fund change**

*Independente, March 15, 2019*

Timor-Leste's Court of Appeal has approved a decree allowing use of the country's petroleum fund for a US\$650 million buyout of ConocoPhillips and Royal Dutch Shell's holdings in the Greater Sunrise gas project, a move that had been questioned on the grounds of its legality by opposition parliamentary members. In a letter to Court of Appeal sent 30 January, 23 parliamentary members argued that the decree could allow the petroleum fund to be misused. The decree removes a 20 percent cap on state participation in oil projects and allows Sunrise and other projects to bypass approvals by parliament in the future. Timor-Leste's constitution specifies that the nation's Petroleum Fund Law must include a mandatory financial reserve. Following the judgment on Wednesday, Manuel Tilman, a lawyer, said the court had approved "immediate" transfer of funds, but warned some changes were found unconstitutional. "LAP (article 22) is welcomed and the government may take money to immediately buy the shares, but the government must also see article 2 regarding the Maritime Boundaries Treaty," Tilman said. In order to push forward with the government's bold onshore gas-processing industry plan, Tilman said the government must ratify the Maritime Boundary with Australia and revise the nation's tax and environment regulations. The ruling comes after Sara lobo, the Acting Minister of Finance, said the government would execute the purchase of Greater Sunrise holdings by transferring money from the Petroleum Fund to its State-owned company TimorGap. Under the plan, Lobo said 5% of the Petroleum Fund (about \$800 million) would be invested in TimorGAP, while the percentage of the fund invested in stocks would be reduced from 40% to 35%. Lobo said TimorGap would be obligated to use the investment to exploit unknown oil and gas fields that are commercially competitive and that would contribute to development and diversification of Timor-Leste's economy.

TimorGAP will pay 4.5% interest on the investment and comply with reporting requirements. The buy-out of Shell and ConocoPhillips holdings gives Timor-Leste a majority stake in the Greater Sunrise project, along with remaining partners Japan's Osaka Gas and Australia's Woodside Petroleum. The move by Timor-Leste government to become a majority stakeholder in Greater Sunrise follows the agreement between Timor-Leste and Australia on a new maritime boundary signed in March 2018, 18 months after a UN court forced Australia to renegotiate its existing boundary treaty with Timor-Leste. Under the new treaty, Timor-Leste will give up 10 percent of its royalties if the gas is piped to and processed in Timor-Leste rather than Darwin, Australia. Timor-Leste would receive 70% of an estimated US\$11 billion royalties, based on revenues of US\$65 billion, over the projects life, the Australian Financial Review reported September 2018. The Australian government has said it is undecided about where the gas from Greater Sunrise should be processed.

### **Ruak vows to complete his cabinet soon**

*Independente, March 15, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) coalition government cabinet is still nine members short until now. However, Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak is confident he can finalize his government structure shortly. Speaking to media outside Presidential Palace on Thursday (14/03), Ruak recognized until now the President of the Republic and he had not yet found solution to the current cabinet stalemate, but he believed later or sooner, his government would be complete. "We continue discussing about the matter, but to resolve, it takes time, but I believe we will find a solution soon. I think we can finalize it this month, but let's work and see how it is going," Ruak said. The AMP government's cabinet has been without nine members since the President of the Republic Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo rejected a dozen nominations because of allegations of corruption against them in June 2018. At the time, three other proposed ministers refused to be sworn in as a show of solidarity for their colleagues, leaving Timor-Leste without ministers of finance, health, and natural resources, among others. The blocked nominations are seven people from the CNRT Party: Francisco Kalbuadi Lay, Helder Lopes, Tomas Do Rosario Cabral, Virgilio Smith, Jacinto Rigoberto Gomes De Deus, Sergio Gama Da C. Lobo, Amandio de Sa Benevides and two Jose Manuel Turquel and Antonio Verdial from the coalition's other partner, Khunto. Two nominees, Francisco Kalbuadi Lay and Antonio Verdial have returned to parliament despite their rejection in the government cabinet.

## **ILO cooperates with CCI-TL to build entrepreneurs' capacity**

*Independente, March 15, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The International Labor Organization (ILO) will cooperate with the Timor-Leste's Commerce and Industry Chamber (CCI-TL) to build Timorese entrepreneurs' capacity about project management. ILO's Representative, Nivio Magalhaes said private sector was a development partners for government and international agencies, and it should have proper ability and ready to carry out government's projects, so ILO wanted to help entrepreneurs by providing training to build their capacity on project management and implementation. Meanwhile, CCI-TL President Oscar Lima recognized Timorese private sector was still lack capacity in terms of human resources and facilities; therefore, he welcomed ILO's initiative to cooperate with CCI-TL to enhance entrepreneurs' capacity. Mr. Lima said ILO had been supporting CCI-TL's programs in different areas; therefore, he welcomed the new cooperation to enhance Timorese entrepreneurs' capacity.

## **Maritime Boundaries Treaty Ratification: Ruak says Timor-Leste waits for process in Australia**

*Timor Post, March 15, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak said Timor-Leste was waiting for Australia regarding the ratification of the two countries' Maritime Boundaries Treaty which was signed in March 2018 because it would not be valid if only Timor-Leste that ratified the treaty. Speaking to media outside Presidential Palace on Thursday, Ruak said the process of ratification in Australia was different with in Timor-Leste since Australia had lower house and upper house parliament, it needed more time than the process in Timor-Leste. "Our preference is that both countries ratify the treaty at the same time because if Timor-Leste ratifies it first and Australia has not yet ratified, it has no force because if only one country that ratifies the treaty it is not valid," Ruak said. The Maritime Boundary Treaty was signed by Australia's then Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Timor-Leste's Minister for the Office of Prime Minister for Maritime Boundaries, Agio Pereira on March 6, 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The ratification of the treaty requires both countries to complete all the domestic processes and obligations.

## **Police continues its tight vigilance in Dili**

*GMN Diario Nacional, March 15, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The Dili County Police Command continues its tight vigilance in the capital city to bring down the street violence rate and ensure security to the people in the capital. Police Deputy Commander, Euclides Belo said the underground violence had died down recently due to tight vigilance and gang patrol by police, but police continue its vigilance and strengthening community police cooperation with local authorities to prevent conflict and violence in the community. "The vigilance in community is continued and strengthened through community police cooperation with local authorities, particularly in potential conflict areas such as Bebonuk and Madohi," Commander Belo told reporters at his office in Kaikoli, Dili on Thursday. Belo continued calling on young people to remain calm and peaceful and focusing on their studies as young generations to contribute to the country's development one day.

## **PN calls on Faustino and Mateus to improve PNTL**

*Suara Timor Lorosae, March 15, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The National Parliament (PN) has called on new General Commander of National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL), Commissioner Faustino da Costa and his Deputy Mateus Fernandes to improve PNTL Command's works to better serve people in the country. Member of Parliament (MP) Francisco de Vasconcelos said the new General Commander of PNTL that was nominated to lead the institution needed to fix and improve some of the systems in the institution because recently there had been increased violence rate in communities. "I think there are many challenges for the new Commissioner and his Deputy because there had been many problems occurred in communities particularly in the eastern region, where murders and killings took place in Baucau and Viqueque very recently. While, in Dili, the same problems also happened," Vasconcelos told STL journalists at National Parliament, yesterday. Vasconcelos affirms that the institution needs to improve its work and services in order to promote security and stability to attract more tourists and investors to come to Timor-Leste. Vasconcelos called on the new Commissioner and his Deputy to implement rigorous laws and rules to control and capture perpetrators and handle problems in the communities with professionalism. Echoing Vasconcelos' words, Aderito Hugo, the President of Committee B of National Parliament (for defense and security affairs), said the new Commissioner and his Deputy needed to improve PNTL's professionalism. "We hope that the new PNTL's General Commander and his Deputy will bring significant contribution to improve PNTL's professionalism. So that PNTL officers could perform well within communities to build and gain trust in society," Hugo said. Da Costa takes over the top role after four-year serving as Deputy Commander to Julio Hornai, whose mandate expires on March 27. Meanwhile, Fernandes has been in charge of PNTL Administration for four years.

## **March 13, 2019**

### **It is necessary to make reforms within F-FDTL, says Minister Paixao**

*Televizaun Timor-Leste, March 12, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Minister for Defence, Filomeno Pixao who is also the acting minister of interior said it was necessary to make reforms within Timorese Defence Force (F-FDTL) and the police force to strengthen peace and stability in the country. Mr. Paixao made the comments on Tuesday (12/3) after meeting with the President of the Republic at the Palace of the President. He affirmed that making reforms was an important move to professionalize human resources of the defence and the police forces to guarantee the rule of law. "What the reform is, the first we should look at the revision of strategy. If we see the National Strategic planning, our police are community policing," he said.

### **ME pledges to provide proper facilities for schools in Oecusse**

*Televizaun Timor-Leste, March 12, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Deputy Minister for Education (ME) and Youth, Joao Zacarias has pledged to provide proper facilities, such as chairs and desks to the schools in the Especial Region of Oecusse-Ambeno as many of the children are sitting on the floor during the learning process. During an official visit to Oecusse-Ambeno, Mr. Deputy Minister directly visited numbers of school where he found the children sit on the floor. "This is the real conditions that we have seen; our children are sitting on the floor. It is our tasks to create proper conditions by providing the schools with appropriate facilities," he said. School children in the region called on the Government to provide them with proper facilities and rehabilitate their schools houses, so that they could be comfortable to take part in the learning process.

### **Female police officials yet to be nominated to lead PNTL: Paixao**

*GMN TV, March 12, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Minister for Defence, Filomeno Paixao, who is also the acting minister for interior said no female police officials were nominated to lead the country's National Police Force (PNTL) as they did not meet with set criteria. Mr. Paixao made the comments after meeting with the President of the Republic on Tuesday (12/3) at the Palace of the President. He affirmed that the requirements, which ought to be



fulfilled was the police officials had to be chief superintendent for four years. “Unfortunately, the police do not have that, and even the defence force also does not achieve such high-ranking and should take part in the official training course,” he said.

## **Military response to gangs could “do more harm than good,” warns Fundasaun Mahein**

*Independente, March 13, 2019*

Calls for military curtailment of Martial Arts Groups (MAGs) activities by the National Defense Force in Timor-Leste “could do more harm than good,” Fundasaun Mahein has warned. Joao Almeida, Fundasaun Mahein’s Acting Director, said that expansion of F-FDTL mandate into domestic issues would be a “violation of the law, and a slippery slope toward increased military involvement in internal matters” – pointing to examples around the world where military had overstepped domestically and become “difficult to rein it in.” The comments come as the Chief of State-Major General of the F-FDTL Lere Anan Timur called for military intervention to combat MAGs last week. Timur has said that MAG violence poses a threat to public safety. In a lengthy statement released Friday, Almeida warned of a danger to tackling MAGs without addressing the “underlying trends that have led to the rise of MAGs,” pointing to potential threats and opportunities posed by MAGs in tackling issues of youth violence. “MAGs must be understood in the context of several demographics, economic, and political factors in Timor-Leste,” he said. He pointed particularly to Timor-Leste’s youth bulge, high unemployment rate, “inadequate education systems and lack of alternative communities for young people, such as sport teams, volunteers groups or etc. Just on a quarter of Timorese youth are currently employed in the formal sector with statistics showing the rate decreasing.

He said of the 8,600 young people who received vocational training in 2017, only about 800 went on to find jobs – less than 10 %. “Quite simply, there are not enough new jobs being created to meet the needs of the growing youth population,” he said. “This is due in no small part to the government’s lack of investment in the non-oil economy.” “Taken together, these trends result in a population of young people, who, without work or school to fill their days and with few prospects for the future, will naturally seek out other forms of social interaction, stimulation, self-worth, and meaning.” “MAGs thus fill a gap in society formed by lack of opportunities for youth,” he said. Almeida said he agreed that MAGs potentially threatened Timor-Leste’s peace and security, but warned against overlooking the role of MAGs or sensationalizing their impact. “It is important to keep worried about MAGs in check,” he said. “While MAGs do present a challenge, they often demonized in public discourse and made to be a bigger problem than they are.” “Only 4 percent of police officers say that MAGs police are the greatest threat facing their locality.” Amongst the security watchdog recommendations to address MAG violence the organization called on the government to boost youth employment opportunities, revise the educational curriculum to “ensure it matches Timor-Leste’s current and future needs,” work with families to keep children in school and develop more alternative forms of social association. The organization also called for MAGs to be made legal and regulated. “Banning MAGs will only drive them underground, making the problem more difficult to address and increasing youth resentment. “It is important to acknowledge that MAGs are not inherently problematic. While some MAGs act as vehicles for violent competition, the practice of martial arts itself can serve a valuable social function, giving young people a healthy outlet for aggression and a sense of camaraderie.”

## **PNTL Command proposes two candidates for new Police Commissioner as Hornai’s mandate expiring**

*Independente, March 13, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The Timorese National Police (PNTL) Command through its Superior Council meeting has proposed two candidates for new Police Commissioner Post as Julio Hornai’s mandate is coming to an end at the end of March. A source close to government said the Acting Minister of Interior would only present one candidate in the Council of Ministers meeting to be nominated as new Police Commissioner. The source said the two packages of candidates were Julio Hornai who was running with Afonso De Jesus as his deputy and the current Police Deputy Commander Faustino da Costa ran with Mateus Fernandes as his deputy for the next four years term. Furthermore, Acting Minister of Interior, Filomeno Paixao recognized there were two candidates running for the Police Commissioner Post, but he would present only one candidate to the Council of Ministers on Wednesday (today, red). “There are two candidates that running for the Police Commissioner post, but as Minister of Interior, I need to choose one between the two candidates to be presented in the Council of Ministers meeting,” Paixao told media outside Presidential Palace on Tuesday (12/03). Julio Hornai’s four-year mandate as Police Commissioner will expire on 27 March as well his Deputy Faustino Da Costa’s mandate. And now both of them are running for the Police Commissioner Position.

## **The result of LAP’s constitutionality review: only an article about Maritime Boundary in the law is unconstitutional**

*GMN Diario Nacional, March 13, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The Court of Appeals has announced its decision regarding the legality and constitutionality of changes to the Petroleum Activities Law, singling out only an article about Maritime Boundaries Treaty in the law that is unconstitutional. “I just want to inform that only one article in the changed Petroleum Activities Law that is unconstitutional and against Timor-Leste’s constitution,” Deolindo Dos Santos, the President of Court of Appeals, told media at his office in Kaikoli, Dili on Tuesday (12/03). The Court rules on changes to the Petroleum Activities Law comes as the government is pressing forward to withdraw US\$650 million from the nation’s Petroleum Fund to buy out ConocoPhillips and Royal Dutch Shell’s holdings in Greater Sunrise fields. The government made the move after the President of the Republic approved the government’s controversial amendment to the country’s Petroleum Activities Law after first vetoing the change amid concern it would lead to misuse of funds. However, soon after the President of the Republic approved the changes, on January 30, a letter signed by 23 members of parliament from the opposition parties asked the Court of Appeals to review the legality and constitutionality of the changed Petroleum Activities Law. The oppositions maintained the decree was illegal, and warned its modification risked losing transparency and accountability of petroleum fund use.

Commenting on the Court’s rules, President of National Parliament, Arao Noe said all the changes to the Petroleum Activities Law were constitutional; only one article about Timor-Leste and Australia’s Maritime Boundary Treaty was against the law because National Parliament had not yet ratified the treaty. “The Court said only one article about Maritime Boundary Treaty is against the law, so others are legal and the government could continue its plan to withdraw money from Petroleum Fund to buy out ConocoPhillips and Shell’s stakes in Greater Sunrise,” Noe said. The purchase of Shell’s 26.56 percent and ConocoPhillips’ 30 percent stakes in the project will allow Timor-Leste to push for development of the field and its gas-processing industry in the southern coast of the country.

## **UNICEF supports medical equipments to MS**

*Timor Post, March 13, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Timor-Leste gave medical equipments for maternal and infant health care to the Ministry of Health. The equipments were handed over by UNICEF Representative in Timor-Leste, Valerie Taton to the Ministry of Health’s Director for Health Service, Odete Viegas on Tuesday (12/03). “These equipments come in handy and will be used to serve patients, particularly mothers and infants. Timor-Leste has reduced its maternal mortality rate in the last five years, but the newborn mortality rate remains high and it concerns everyone, therefore, every support from donors and development partners that helps to reduce the rates is highly appreciated,” Viegas said after receiving the equipments. UNICEF Timor-Leste provided the equipments to

the Ministry of Health with the support from the Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI). UNICEF has been cooperating with the Ministry of Health to reinforce good quality of service provision to mother and children in Timor-Leste with supports from UNICEF Australia.

## **Today, KM to appoint new Police Commissioner**

*Suara Timor Lorosae, March 13, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

It is scheduled that today (Wednesday, 13/03), the Council of Ministers (KM) is going to discuss and nominate new General Commander of the Timorese National Police (PNTL) to lead the institution for the next four years as Julio Hornai's mandate is expiring. Hornai and his Deputy Faustino Da Costa's four-year mandate expire on March 27, 2019. The Minister for Defense and Interior (MDS) Filomeno Paixão said KM meeting on Wednesday was to present to the Prime Minister and other Ministers about candidates for the next General Commander of PNTL. Paixão told media after meeting with President of the Republic Francisco Guterres Lu Olo at the President Palace, Bairro Pite, Dili, yesterday. "Security Superior Council has presented two candidates, but as MDS, I need to weigh up and choose one candidate, and then present it to the KM to be nominated as new Police Commander," Paixão said. He said in relation to the criteria, technically the candidates have a minimum of four-year working experience as a Chief Superintendent, and have taken the course or training of defense and security. "We will discuss in KM, so tomorrow or the day after tomorrow the name of the new Police Commissioner will be announced," said Paixão.

**March 12, 2019**

## **Pipeline building done after payment for ConocoPhillips and Sell: Xanana**

*Radio Timor-Leste, March 11, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Special Representative of Timorese Government, Xanana Gusmao said the Greater Sunrise gas and oil field pipeline building concretized after payment for ConocoPhillips and Shell Energy companies' share purchase had been made. Xanana was referring to the process of payment for ConocoPhillips and Shell Energy's share by the Government. He affirmed that Timor Gap Company, would be in cooperation with other international companies to begin process of building pipelines of the Greater Sunrise into the country. "Timor Gap will begin sitting together with other companies, such as Osaka Gas and Woodside to talk about concept of the Greater Sunrise gas and oil field pipeline into the country," Xanana said in his speech during the post graduate graduation ceremony of UNPAZ last Saturday.

## **Minister Paixao to visit Australia**

*Radio Timor-Leste, March 11, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Minister for Defence, Filomeno Paixao is scheduled to pay an official visit to Australia on the coming Saturday (16/3) to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Australia in the field of defence. Ms. Paixao said during his visit to Australia, he and the Australian defence minister would talk about the boats that Australia committed to be offered to the country's defence force. "We have very good cooperation with Australia; the first is human resource development, training for our soldiers and also help develop the defence force's management and logistics. We have four masters, graduated from Australia," he said.

## **Minister Paixao and Alkatiri inaugurate police training centre in Oecusse**

*Televizaun Timor-Leste, March 11, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Minister for Defence, Filomeno Paixao and President of Special Region of Oecusse, Mari Alkatiri last Friday officially inaugurated training centre for the country's National Police Force (PNTL) in the region. Police Academy Director, Arquemino Ramos said this training centre would help facilitate basic training on criminal investigation and domestic violence to better develop the police officers' competence. "This training centre will help facilitate the police officers in Oecusse to get access to basic training," he said. Mr. Ramos called on the police officers in Oecusse-Ambeno to use this training centre to learn something new.

## **Public Prosecution Office to summon Kalbuadi with legal means**

*GMN TV, March 11, 2019 language source: Tetun*

Prosecutor-General Jose da Costa Ximenes said the Public Prosecution Office would summon the current Secretary-General of CNRT Party; Francisco "Kalbuadi" Lay to face legal charge as he had previously been notified. Mr. Ximenes made the comments after meeting with the President of the Republic, Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres at the Palace of the President. He affirmed that the Public Prosecution Office would send an official letter to the National Parliament to remove political immunity of Mr. Kalbuadi in order to respond to the court in accordance with the existing law. "As you know that he is now in the Parliament as an MP. So, what we can do is that we will actuate on the basis of the legal means," he said. The Public Prosecution Office notified Kalbuadi as he suspected of being engaged in acts of economic crime participation.

## **Xanana Gusmao says Timor-Leste will be selling gas by 2026**

*Independente, March 12, 2019*

Xanana Gusmao has said that Timor-Leste would be selling gas by 2026, in a reference to the government's bold plan to create an onshore gas-processing industry. In a speech to students at Universidade Da Paz (UNPAZ), the Chief Negotiator for Maritime Boundaries and Greater Sunrise oil and gas fields went on to say that a pipeline from the Sunrise gas field to Suai would be complete by 2025 and that it and a new LGN plant at Beacu would be operating commercially 12 months after. "Timor-Leste will get money," he said. As the government's multi-billion dollar plan to develop a domestic oil and gas industry continues to cause waves, Xanana again spoke of "prosperous" future for Timorese people under the vision. Gusmao has said development of Greater Sunrise would provide enough revenue to Timor-Leste to prevent the country's Petroleum Fund from being drained in about ten years as forecast. He has also insisted the plan would develop down-stream benefits of jobs and the creation of a new industry for Timor-Leste. The government and commentators have been asked to better detail risk associated with Greater Sunrise plan. La'o Hamutuk, a Dili-based think-tank, has said: "Timor-Leste's Petroleum Fund could be empty by 2027 even if the State does not spend or invest in the Sunrise project." In a lengthy blog, "miss-information and factors and facts about the Greater Sunrise project," published 6 March, the organization warned: "If everything goes as planned, proponents of the Sunrise project expect production to start toward the end of 2026." "However, the experience of Bayu-Undan and other projects is that significant revenue does not come in until about two years after production begins, because production ramps up slowly and capital investors must be repaid first."

"Even if Sunrise goes perfectly, Timor-Leste will probably face several years of austerity – not having enough money to pay for basic services – unless the economy is rapidly diversified into non-oil sectors." Timor-Leste's energy sector accounted for around 60 percent of GDP in 2014 and more than 90 percent of government revenue. Gusmao's comments come as the government presses forward to become major stakeholders in Greater Sunrise gas project, buying out ConocoPhillips and Royal Dutch Shell interests. Remaining partners include Australia's Woodside Petroleum and Japan's Osaka Gas. The agreement for Shell's 26.56 percent stake and ConocoPhillips' 30 percent state in the project will allow Timor-Leste to push for development of the field. The site, which was discovered



in 1974, sits between Timor-Leste and Australia and disputes between the two countries over the border has delayed development. Energy companies have resisted gas processing in Timor-Leste, with Woodside saying it could be uneconomic. The exit of ConocoPhillips, which owns the Darwin gas-processing plant, where gas was originally proposed to go, changes the equation, people familiar with the deal said. La'o Hamutuk has warned that buying an interest in Sunrise Gas Project was not akin to buying shares of a company's stock, which can be easily be resold and don't involve obligations." "The world contains many prospective petroleum project which are likely to be more profitable than Greater Sunrise, and experienced, legitimate companies may choose to invest elsewhere unless special incentives are offered to buy into the Sunrise project," it said.

## **Kalbuadi Lay faces two corruption-related charges**

*Independente, March 12, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The Secretary-General of National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction (CNRT), Francisco Kalbuadi Lay is charged with money laundering and business and economic participation crimes. Lay's Lawyer, Jose Pedro Camoes said his client was suspected of committing two acts of crime in 2014 and 2018. "My client is charged with money laundering and business and economic participation crimes, but the details are still confidential as the investigations are still on-going," Camoes told the Independente at Dili District Court on Monday (11/03). The defense comments come after the former Minister of Tourism, Arts, and Culture was seen leaving Timor-Leste through Nicolau Lobato Airport in Dili, just two days after he was appointed a Member of Parliament early this month. Mr. Camoes said his client still considered innocent before court decided otherwise, therefore, he was still a free man and had right to travel abroad. Speaking in parliament on his inauguration as a Member of Parliament, Lay promised he would cooperate with the court. "I will be examined by the Public Prosecutor whenever it is necessary .... Whether (I have been) wrong or right will be determined in court," Lay said. The high court investigation into the corruption scandals has been repeatedly delayed, with Lay missing several court summons because he was getting medical treatment in Singapore.

## **General Prosecutor asks not to politicize Public Prosecutor Office's works**

*GMN Diario Nacional, March 12, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

Timor-Leste's General Prosecutor, Jose Ximenes asked politicians and publics not to politicize Public Prosecutor Office's services. The General Prosecutor's comments come as National Parliament and Publics poking Prosecutor Office to start press charges against President of Special Administration Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (RAEOA), Mari Alkatiri based on audit report from the Audit Court. "I will not allow anyone to politicize Public Prosecutor Office's services," Ximenes told media outside Presidential Palace after meeting with the President of the Republic on Monday. He said the Public Prosecutor's services were based legal procedures and evidences and it would not act based on political statements. Last month, Parliament members from the coalition party had questioned Public Prosecutor's works for not pressing charges against the Secretary-General of Fretilin party after the Audit Court released its audit report on RAEOA and Exclusive Economic Zone and Social Market (ZEESM) Projects implementation from 2014 until 2015 in which many irregularities were found during the audit process. "Partiality is shown through no initiative from Public Prosecutor Office to follow through with the Audit Court's report of millions of financial offense which committed by RAEOA/the Special Zones of Social Market Economy (ZEESM)'s Authority in 2014 – 2015. There are many recommendations in the report that could lead Public Prosecutor Office to run investigation," Veneranda Lemos, CNRT Bench member, said.

## **PN concerned about inundation happened at HNGV**

*GMN Diario Nacional, March 12, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

National Parliament (PN) Committee F (for health and social security issues) concerned about inundation happened around the precincts of National Hospital of Guido Valadres (HNGV) during heavy rain on Sunday. "It is a national hospital and if inundation happened, it affected the lives of the patients in the hospital as it impeded doctors and nurses movement to attend to the patients," Committee F President, Maria Gorumali Barreto told reporters at PN on Monday. She said they received a report from HNGV saying the inundation happened because community lived behind the hospital broke concrete wall that protect the precincts causing the rain water to enter HNGV. "We have called on the Ministry of Health and HNGV Authority to talk to community lives around the hospital and warned them not to destroy the concrete wall that surrounding the buildings to protect patients and doctors and nurses that work to save people's lives," she said. The heavy rain on Sunday afternoon had caused an inundation at HNGV making it hard for doctors and nurses including patients' family to move around the area.

## **Commander Belo: Youth continues to provoke each other in some areas in Dili**

*GMN Diario Nacional, March 12, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

Dili Deputy Police Commander, Eulclides Belo said youth in some gangs in Dili still provoked each other during night time, but it the overall security situation remained normal. "The overall security situation in the capital is normal, but in certain place like Komoro, young people continue to provoke each other during the nighttime," Commander Belo told media at his office on Monday. He said police command continued deploying its members to do regular patrol to potential conflict areas to prevent young people from attacking each other and cause public disturbance. "We do 24 hours patrol to potential conflict areas such as Beto of Komoro and the area of Komoro Bridge III because young people lives in those areas tend to provoke each other a lot," he said.

## **KHUNTO appoints Longuinhos to replace Verdial**

*Timor Post, March 12, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

The Kmanek Haburas Unidade Nasional Timor Oan party (KHUNTO) has appointed Longuinhos Monteiro to assume Minister of Interior Post after its candidate Antonio Verdial resigned from his candidacy amid protracted stalemate of government members' appointments. Timor-Leste's coalition government cabinet has been nine members short since President Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo rejected nine ministerial nominations in June 2018 because of their involvement in corruption investigations. Two nominees include Antonio Verdial and Francisco Kalbuadi Lay had decided to return to parliament amid ongoing stalled nominations. KHUNTO's board member and Vice President of the National Parliament (PN) Luis Roberto said KHUNTO decided to nominate Longuinhos Monteiro to the Minister of Interior after António Verdial resigned. "We have appointed Longuinhos to be the candidate for Minister of Interior after Antonio Verdial resigned from his candidacy, and we will present it to the coalition party, Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP) to have a collective decision," Roberto told media at the National Parliament, yesterday. Roberto explained KHUNTO had appointed nominee for the Minister of Interior because based on the agreement of the three political parties of AMP; CNRT, PLP and KHUNTO, the candidate for the minister of interior should come from KHUNTO party. Mr. Monteiro had ever assumed the post before, during the previous CNRT-led government in 2012 - 2017.

## **Economic growth depends on private sectors**

*Timor Post, March 12, 2019 Language source: Tetun*

Security and stability of a nation play important role in attracting and bringing overseas investors into the country to improve its economic development, economist says. Timorese economist, João Saldanha said the Timorese government needed to ensure security and

stability of the country was reliable to attract private sectors investment to improve the economy of the country. “We need security and stability to develop our economy because investors from many foreign countries will invest in Timor-Leste when it’s peaceful and stable,” Saldanha said at his office, at TIDS Becora, Dili, and yesterday. He said the government needed to improve basic infrastructure in the country such as roads and electricity and the government also needed to revise the investment laws to bring more investors to Timor-Leste. “The government need to fix and improve Timor-Leste’s investment law to make it easier for overseas investors to invest in Timor,” said Saldanha. Currently Timor-Leste still depends on its oil and gas revenue as the sector accounted for around 60 percent of its GDP and more than 90 percent of the government revenue.