

# **Report on the Election Observer Mission to the 2012 Timor-Leste Presidential Election and a visit to Aileu District**

**Prepared by Richard Brown  
April 2012**



## **BACKGROUND**

In March 2012, the East Timor Project Officer, Richard Brown, visited Timor-Leste to observe the 2012 Presidential Election and to meet with government officials and representatives of community organisations to discuss the progress of the Friendship relationship and projects in Aileu.

After observing the election, he joined a group tour and travelled to four of the Districts in the western part of the country, at his own expense.

An outline of the main activities undertaken during the visit is at Attachment 1. A list of people met during the visit is at Attachment 2.

The following is a brief summary of the activities undertaken during the visit and the key outcomes.

### **2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION**

The election was the first wholly organised by the Timorese, under the overall supervision of the National Electoral Commission (CNE) and implemented by a separate body, the Technical Secretariat of Electoral Administration (STAE).

The first round of the Presidential election took place on Saturday 17 March. Approximately 660,500 people were registered to vote with a minimum voting age of 17. Voting in Timor-Leste is not compulsory. In Aileu District, there were 24,926 eligible voters, able to vote at 43 polling centres. All voters were required to attend a polling centre in the suco where they were registered, which resulted in the movement of large numbers of people in the days before the election, made difficult by bad weather, poor roads and lack of public transport.

Prior to the election, the CNE undertook an election-related civic education program targeting the whole Timorese population. It also launched a national 'Conflict Prevention and Peace Strengthening' program.

Thirteen candidates stood for election, including the current President, Dr Jose Ramos-Horta, and one died during the campaign.

The poll was preceded by a 14-day campaign period, during which candidates used the local media to announce their 'policies' (although, strictly speaking, the president has only a ceremonial role), supporters held rallies around the country, and towns and villages were festooned with campaign banners and posters. All campaigning, including display of banners and posters, was supposed to stop two days before polling day, although billboards displaying the candidates image were still visible around Dili after the ballot was held.

The Project Officer was registered with the STAE as an 'International Election Observer' through the Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network (ATLFN), which organised participation by representatives of Australian friendship groups for both the Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

Fifty-four representatives of Australian Friendship groups participated as International Observers at the first round of the Presidential election, the largest international delegation to take part. Thirteen people, including the Project Officer, participated in the delegation

which observed the election in Aileu District. Most were members of the Friends of Aileu or its partners. They were: Gary and Anne Jungwirth, and Richard Brown (Friends of Aileu) Dr Vivienne French and John French, David and Suzanne Thwaites, Steven Lavender, and Geoff Phillips, (Bass Coast Friends of Laulara), Dr Peter Cock and Sandra Cock (Friends of Besilau), Nancy Price (Friends of Suai) and Shirley Carlos (Timor Adventures).

On Tuesday 13 March, Richard Brown participated in a briefing by the ATLFN for members of the Australian observer delegation held at the Esplanada Hotel in Dili. Professor Damien Kingsbury of Deakin University gave an overview of the responsibility of election observers and Michael Maley, formerly of the Australian Electoral Commission, outlined the election procedure. Observers were issued with a tee-shirt, identifying them as election observers and the STAE issued a registration card for each individual.

On Friday 16 March, the day preceding the ballot, Richard Brown attended a ceremony, presided over by the District Administrator, to launch the election, which was held at the Aileu District Administration offices. It was attended by nearly 100 members of the police force (PNTL), 30 CNE 'monitoring officers' and about fifty STAE staff. The equipment for each polling station, including ballot boxes and polling stalls were loaded onto vehicles, together with a number of police and electoral officials, which then drove off to the different *sucos* to set up the polling stations for the next day's ballot.



Ceremony at the Aileu District Administration offices to launch the first round of the presidential election



Poster showing the ballot paper

On polling day, because of the state of the roads in Aileu and limited access to transport, the thirteen members of the observer delegation in Aileu decided to focus on seven polling stations in five locations around Aileu Vila Sub- District: Aileu Vila, Faharia, Matebeno, Aisirimou and Bandedetto.

The observation process began at approximately 6.30am, before the polling stations opened, with the checking of the polling station equipment by the electoral officials. Polling began at 7am and the polling stations remained open until 3pm. The voters, many of whom had walked for hours to get to their polling station, formed long queues, before entering the station, checking their voter registration cards against the official voters roll, receiving a ballot paper, marking the paper by pushing a 4-inch nail through the preferred candidate's image and having their index finger dipped in indelible ink.



Sealing the ballot box



Voters queue at the Aileu Vila polling station

The number of voters attending grew quickly after the polling station opened, then fell away, so that most voting was completed by early afternoon. The polling stations then closed and the counting began, with each voting paper being held up by the 'president of the polling station for all to see and the name of the chosen candidate called out. In some polling stations, this counting process continued until late in the evening. At the completion of counting, a list of the provisional results was posted on the door of the polling station. The final results were compiled and announced in Dili some days later, when all of the ballot papers had been returned to Dili.

Each polling station was also attended by a number of local Timorese 'national observers', who monitored the voting and counting process.



The count



TV coverage of the national tally

On Sunday 18 March, the Timor-Leste national television service, TVTL, ran continuous coverage of the national tally. The official outcome of the poll was announced on 22 March.

The four leading candidates receiving a percentage of the votes, as follows:

Francisco 'Lu Olo' Guterres (President of the FRETILIN Party) – 28.76%

Jose Maria de Vasconcelos, 'Taur Matin Ruak', (former head of the Timor-Leste Defence Force) – 25.71%

José Ramos-Horta (President of Timor-Leste since 2007) – 17.48%

Fernando de Araujo, 'Lasama' (President of the Democratic Party (PD) and Speaker of the National Parliament 2007-2012) – 17.3%

As there was no clear winner i.e. no-one who had over 50% of the vote, a second ballot for the two highest scoring candidates was scheduled for Monday 16 April.

According to the view of the International Observers, the election was 'free and fair'. Following the poll, Professor Damien Kingsbury issued a report on behalf of the Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network (see Attachment 3), in which he stated, inter alia, that the polling and counting processes had 'substantially met internationally recognised standards for free and fair elections at the venues observed'. He noted that there were no reports of significant political or other violence or intimidation leading up to or on the day of the poll' and that the atmosphere in the polling stations was 'peaceful and positive, with a clear commitment on the part of both electoral staff and voters to an orderly and successful process'. These comments accord with the observations of the International Observer group in Aileu District.

Following the election, the Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network called for registration by Australian volunteers to attend the second round Presidential Election and the Parliamentary Election due in late June.

The Aileu District Development Officer, Sr Mario Soares, also expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the Aileu District Administration and the local community, of the participation by the International Observer group in the elections in Aileu District.

On Sunday 18 March, Richard Brown attended a reception for the Australian International Observers at the residence of the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, H.E. Miles Armitage. He thanked the observers for their participation in the election. The meeting was also addressed by Professor Damien Kingsbury and Rae Kingsbury on behalf of the ATLFN.



Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Myles Armitage (r), addressing the International Observers



The leader of the Australian Observer Mission, Professor Damien Kingsbury, addressing the Observers

## MEETINGS IN DILI

Prior to the Presidential Election, Richard Brown attended a number of meetings in Dili, as follows:

## **Department of Oral Health**

On 12 March, Richard Brown met with the Director of Clinical Services at the Timor-Leste Department of Oral Health, Sr Victorino Araujo, to discuss a proposed evaluation of the Aileu Oral Health Pilot Project. He was accompanied by Abilio de Araujo who acted as an interpreter.

Sr Araujo agreed to the participation by a representative of the Department in discussions with the Project leader, Dr Martin Hall and Dental Nurse Sally Vong, when they visit Dili and Aileu in the week beginning 16 April. He also agreed to consider an agreement for the future development of the project and the possibility of the folding portable dental chair, which has been manufactured in Aileu, being used in other parts of Timor-Leste.

## **Alternative Technology Association**

On 12 March, Richard Brown met with Dr Prabir Majumdar, International Project Manager for the ATA, who was in Timor-Leste to assess progress on ATA solar projects in the Districts (including Aileu) and its AUSAid-funded national solar training program. He discussed the plan to assess the village solar lighting systems in Remexio Sub-District and Besilau *aldeia*, in Aileu. It was agreed to meet in Besilau on 16 March (see below under **AILEU MEETINGS**).

While in Dili, Richard Brown also visited the offices of *Fundasaun Alola* (the Alola Foundation) and met briefly with the Prime Minister's wife, Kirsty Sword Gusmão, and visited the *Chega!* Museum, which houses an exhibition of the work of the Timor-Leste Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Reception (CAVR), spoke to a representative of the national women's organisation OMT, which is doing a project on domestic violence, and to one of the Tour Guides who conduct tours of the exhibition for the Post-CAVR Technical Secretariat.

## **Aileu Science and Technology Institute**

On 12 March, Richard Brown met with Sr Abilio de Araujo, a board member of the newly-established Aileu Science and Technology Institute (ASTI). The college was started by the Rai Husar Foundation, which was established in January 2011. The college is to offer an alternative to going to Dili for students from Aileu wanting to gain a tertiary education, with a focus on preparing for employment.

Sr de Araujo is currently employed as the Quality Coordinator at the National Agency for Academic Assessment and Accreditation, the body which accredits tertiary institutions and courses in Timor-Leste.

Also present was Chris Adams, the former Friends of Aileu-AVI Volunteer in Aileu, who was due to complete a second volunteer assignment at the Timor-Leste NGO Forum (FONGTIL) in Dili at the end of March.

Sr de Araujo said that teaching had begun at the Institute in temporary premises in Aileu Vila, with an initial intake of 220 students. The Institute plans to offer courses in

Mathematics, (for potential maths teachers), English (again, for future English language teachers), Management and Information Technology, (for students wishing to set up their own businesses), Public Administration, (to meet the need for trained public servants), Business Management, (with a view to producing future entrepreneurs and business leaders), and finally, Sustainable Agriculture, (a course being developed in conjunction with local NGOs Permatil and The Haburas Foundation). The Institute also plans to establish technical training courses for local people, including carpentry, welding, mechanics and languages and IT. These would be certificate-level courses, aimed at preparing young people for employment in areas of high labour demand.

Sr Araujo indicated that it would be looking to the Friends of Aileu for support for the development of the Institute in future, although no specific requests were made.

He also reported on the activities of the Aileu University Students Council for the May 20 Independence Day celebration. (Sr de Araujo founded the Council, and is now an advisor to it). He said that the activities in Aileu had been very successful, although no funds were received from the Friends of Aileu this year. Richard Brown said that if the Council wished to seek funding for future activities, it should be done well in advance, through the Aileu Friendship Commission.

### **Dili Weekly**

On 13 March, Richard Brown met with Emanuel Braz, Director of the independent newspaper, The Dili Weekly. He was a former project coordinator for the Friends of Baucau in Melbourne and currently teaches journalism at the National University in Dili. He said that the news media in Timor-Leste are under-resourced and lack skilled personnel, with the result that the current elections were not getting adequate coverage. In his view, much of the broadcast media was politically partisan, with government radio and TV favouring the governing coalition, and with the opposition Fretilin Party having its own network of radio stations. However, he was optimistic that the next generation of journalists, who are currently being trained, would be more independent and enquiring. He also said that the volunteer-run community radio station in Aileu could benefit from some financial support from the Friends of Aileu.

### **Nerissa Murphy**

On Monday 19 March, Richard Brown had an informal meeting with Hume resident, Nerissa Murphy, from Moreland Council's Communications Unit, who has been working on the dissemination of the 2010 Timor-Leste Census results, and her husband, Jose, who is currently working as a consultant at the National Development Agency, under the Timor-Leste Prime Minister's Department.

Nerissa Murphy described the project, *Sensus Fo Fila Fali* ('giving back the census'), which involved preparing a detailed analysis of the census results for each of the 442 sucos in the country, which have been published in hard copy and on disk, and providing briefings to local community leaders. She gave Richard Brown an electronic copy of the publications. The data are also available at <http://www.mof.gov.tl/about-the-ministry/statistics-indicators/sensus-fo-fila-fali/download-suco-reports/aileu-suco-reports/?lang=en>

Jose outlined the work of the National Development Agency, which is responsible for reviewing all capital development projects, based on an analysis of their respective cost-benefits, as well as for monitoring the implementation and execution of projects through a quality certification system. This includes the major projects currently being implemented by the Aileu District Administration.

## **MEETINGS IN AILEU**

### **District Administration**

Richard Brown had a number of meetings with officials at the Aileu District Administration, including the District Administrator, Sr Martinho Matos, the Deputy DA, Sr Abel de Conceicao, and the District Development Officer and Friendship Commission Liaison Officer, Sr Mario Soares.

Key outcomes of the meetings are as follows:

#### *Review of the scholarship program*

Richard Brown discussed the draft report of the review of the secondary and tertiary scholarship programs with Mario Soares. He agreed with most of the recommendations in the report and undertook to communicate it to the Aileu Friendship Commission for discussion and endorsement.

In particular, he agreed to provide Friends of Aileu with photographs of each scholarship recipient, together with some biographical information, and annual reports on their academic progress. He also stressed that students nominated for the scholarships are screened to assess whether they were recipients of other government financial support, which would prevent them receiving a scholarship under the programs.

He provided a list of the scholarship recipients for 2012 for the secondary and tertiary programs (see Attachment 4).

He requested funding support to attend the graduation of two of the students who have been studying in Indonesia. A costed proposal will be forwarded to the Friends of Aileu.

#### *Development Projects*

Mario Soares outlined the 39 development projects for which the District Administration has received funding from the National Government in 2012 to a total value of US\$4million, for which he is responsible. They cover a wide range of infrastructure and other areas, including schools, health centres, roads and bridges.

#### *Staff development for District Administration staff.*

Mario Soares requested funding to support him to undertake a further year's study at Cristal Institute in Aileu so that he can gain a full bachelor's degree in Economics and Accounting,

(he completed a diploma-level course in 2011, with funding support from the Friends of Aileu). He also requested funding for three District Administration staff to undertake short training courses. Costed proposals for both of these requests will be forwarded to the Friends of Aileu.

#### *Visit to Australia*

Mario Soares indicated his interest in visiting Melbourne to observe the October 2012 local government elections. This request will be put to the Friends of Aileu.

#### *Volunteer's House*

Richard Brown discussed the preparation of the Volunteer's House, which is managed by the Aileu District Administration, for the arrival of the new AVI Volunteer and his wife in May. Mario Soares agreed to ensure that the windows and doors are secure and to supply a new bed.

#### *Sarlala Primary School*

As schools in Timor-Leste were closed for two days before the presidential Election (due to many of them being used as polling stations), Richard Brown was unable to visit the primary school at Sarlala, which has a friendship relationship with Brunswick North West Primary School. Instead, he gave a parcel of friendship bands, made by students at BNWPS for the students at Sarlala, together with a letter in English and Tetum, to Mario Soares for later delivery to the school.

#### **Padre David Alves Da Conceicao**

While travelling to Aileu Vila, Richard Brown briefly met with Padre David Alves Da Conceicao, the parish priest in Remexio Sub-District, who is the local contact for the Kangaroo Valle-Remexio Partnership, a partner organisation of the Friends of Aileu. He gave Padre David a letter and some money from KVRP.

#### **Uma Ita Nian Clinic**

On 14 March, Richard Brown visited the Uma Ita Nian Parish Health Clinic in Aileu, run by the Maryknoll Sisters, and met with Sister Dorothy McGowan, Sister Susan Gubbins and agricultural advisor, Rui Sarmento Araujo.

Richard Brown gave Rui some packets of vegetable seeds which had been donated by the St Kilda Community Garden via former AVI Volunteer, Paul Coghlan. The seeds were packed in very small plastic envelopes and given to villagers to propagate and to collect more seed for future use.

Sr Susan outlined progress on projects funded by the Friends of Aileu and its partners. So far, little of the funds provided in December 2011 have been expended. Sister Susan agreed to provide detailed report when more progress has been made.

Sr Dorothy talked about the need to undertake maintenance of the clinic and residence buildings, which were re-built 12 years ago, after being totally destroyed by the militias in 1999. She asked for assistance with getting a costed estimate of work needed and in particular the water supply at the residence. Richard Brown undertook to investigate sources of assistance.



Meeting at Uma Ita Nian Clinic – (l-r) Sister Dorothy McGowan, Richard Brown, Sister Susan Gubbins, Rui Sarmento Araujo



Trainees in the computer room at the Aileu Resource & Training Centre

### **Aileu Resource and Training Centre**

On 15 March, Richard Brown visited the Aileu Resource and Training Centre and met with the Director, Sra Maria Diamantina Martins, and other staff. He inspected the computer training facilities and the new Internet cafe, and the geological display installed by Monash University Science Centre. Sra Martins provided Richard Brown with a report on the Produce Expo, held over three days in December 2011, which show-cased the activities of ten community groups.

She outlined the current training programs run by the Centre, which include computer and English language training at the *Biblioteca* in Aileu and at the Manucasa Community Centre in Lequidoe Sub-District and literacy programs in the villages of Sarlala, Manucasa, Manulesa and Suku Lurai.

She also reported on the two staff undertaking professional development training in Indonesia, with assistance from the Friends of Aileu: Guida Periera is completing her final year studying management at Bradwiyawa University in Jogjakarta and Natalia Ximenes is completing her first year studying accountancy at Muhammadiyah University in Malang.

### **Besilau Village Lighting System**

On 16 March, Richard Brown attended a community meeting in Besilau *aldeia*. The meeting was also attended by Dr Peter Cock and Sandra Cock from Moora Moora Community, which has a friendship relationship with Besilau, and Dr Prabir Majumdar, International Project Manager for the Alternative Technology Association, his Timorese technician Julio, and Sr Mario Soares, representing the Aileu District Administration.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss an audit of the existing solar lighting systems in the village, about 50% of which had fallen into disrepair, and a program to repair them. There had also been a failure of some community members to make their monthly contribution to the maintenance fund, which had prevented the four ATA-trained community technicians from carrying out maintenance on the systems.

The meeting was addressed by Dr Cock, Prabir Majumdar, Mario Soares, Richard Brown and the village Chief, Sr Manuel Monis. The meeting agreed to ask Julio for assistance in undertaking the audit during the following week and to ask community members to make the required payments. Prabir Majumdar undertook to provide the necessary spare parts and replacement equipment to repair the systems once the funds were collected.

Peter Cock also offered to discuss funding another project in the village once the lighting system is repaired.



(l-r) Dr Peter Cock, interpreter, Dr Prabir Majumdar, technician Julio, Chefe de Aldeia, Sr Manuel Monis



Member of the Village Lighting System Committee and other Besilau community members

### **Visit to Laulara Birthing Centre**

On 13 March, Richard Brown visited the site of the Laulara Birthing Centre Project in Kotolau village. The building has been substantially renovated and remaining work, i.e. installation of plumbing and electrical wiring, and painting, was due to be completed by the end of March. He signed a plaque, on behalf of the Friends of Aileu, which will be installed at the building when it is completed. He also met with the contractor for the project, Sr Lai Kiang Sen in Aileu Vila.

### **Visit to Sao Paolo Secondary College**

On 14 March, Richard Brown visited the Sao Paolo Catholic Secondary College in Aileu with Sister Julia Shideler, a Maryknoll Sister who teaches part-time at the school. Sao Paolo has a friendship relationship with St Joseph's College in Echuca.

He met the Deputy Principal, and other teachers, including Esperanca de Jesus Mesquita, a former Friends of Aileu scholarship student, who now teaches Portuguese at the school. There is also another former scholarship student, Elisa de Conceicao, on the teaching staff at the school.



Entrance to the re-furbished birthing centre building



Richard Brown (l) with students at Aileu Senior High School and (c) Sister Julia Shideler

### **Visit to Aileu Senior High School**

On 14 March, Richard Brown visited the Aileu Government Senior high School at Malere, near Aileu Town, with Sister Julia Shideler, who teaches English at the school. He met with the Principal, Sr Joao Ximenes, other teachers and students. He gave the principal an album prepared by students at Salesian College, Sunbury, four netballs and four soccer balls donated by Salesian College and some literature about the College. The Principal expressed his appreciation of the friendship relationship with Salesian College and later delivered a letter expressing those sentiments.

### **Meeting with Camilo da Costa**

On 15 March, Richard Brown met with Sr Camilo da Costa, Community Development Officer at the Aileu Vila Sub-District Administration. He was in Melbourne during 2010 as part of an AUSAid-funded Victorian Government training program for local government officials. He was due to spend time with the Australian mentor from the training program who arrived in Aileu as Richard Brown was leaving.

### **FOSCACA Youth Group**

On 15 March, Richard Brown met with Jose Vallente, the convenor of the FOSCACA church youth group, which provides support and assistance to young people from local villages. The group operates a centre, where young people grow and cook food for sale, and undertake various training activities, including computer training. They have received some funding support from the Friends of Aileu in the past and, more recently, from the students at St Joseph's College, Echuca. Richard Brown undertook to identify a youth group in Melbourne which could link up with FOSCACA.

### **Plan Timor-Leste**

On 15 March, Richard Brown met briefly with Helen Hayes of Plan Timor-Leste. She reported that Plan is about to commence a 5-year project involving youth development in Aileu, which has been funded by the Oaktree Foundation. Richard Brown undertook to follow this up with the Oaktree Foundation in Australia.

## **Other Activities**

While flying to Dili, Richard Brown met Peter Dugan, Director of Smallholder Agricultural International, a Perth-based company, which is training agricultural advisers in Timor-Leste. Richard Brown provided him with contacts to source solar water pumps for agricultural use.

Following the Presidential Election, Richard Brown joined a tour group led by Timor Adventures, at his own expense, which travelled in three 4WD vehicles over some very bad roads through the districts of Ainaro, Covalima, Bobonaro and Liquica.

While in Suai (Covalima District) he visited the Covalima Community Centre, a project of the Port Phillip Friends of Suai, a local pre-school, and two women's weaving groups, supported by the Covalima Community Centre. In Balibo, (Bobonaro District), he visited the 'flag house' where the five Australian journalists, known as the 'Balibo Five', were killed, which now houses a community learning centre. He also met the AVI Volunteer working at the Bobonaro District Administration, Peter Sibly.

At Darwin Airport, Richard Brown met Anton Horvat, Manager of Tourism and Events at William Angliss Institute, Melbourne, who had been conducting tourism training at the East Timor Development Agency. He offered to provide advice about developing tourism in Aileu District.

While they were in Aileu, members of the Friends of Aileu and the Bass Coast Friends of Laulara visited the Uma Ita Nian Clinic and one of its pig-breeding projects, the St Francis of Assisi Disability Workshop, (where the portable dental chairs are manufactured), the Aileu Science and Technology Institute, the Aileu Training and Resource Centre and the FOSCACA Youth Centre.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**RICHARD BROWN – VISIT TO TIMOR-LESTE 11-24 MARCH 2012**

**PROGRAM**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Sunday 11 March	Depart Melbourne – arrive Darwin Meeting with Rob Wesley-Smith, member of Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership
Monday 12 March	Depart Darwin – Arrive Dili Visit to Alola Foundation Meeting with Prabir Majumdar, Alternative Technology Association Meeting with Chris Adams, FONGTIL AVI Volunteer and Abilio de Araujo, Board member of Aileu Science & Technology Institute Meeting with Victorino Araujo, Director of Clinical Services, Department of Oral Health
Tuesday 13 March	Election Observer Briefing by Australia-Timor-Leste Friendship Network Meeting with Friends of Same scholarship students Meeting with Emanuel Braz, Director of <i>Dili Weekly</i> Travel to Aileu Meeting with Padre David, Remexio Meeting with Mario Soares, Aileu District Development Officer Meeting with contractor for Laulara Birthing Centre Project, Ken Lai
Wednesday 14 March	Meeting with Sister Dorothy McGowan, Sister Susan Gubbins and Rui Sarmento at Uma Ita Nian Clinic Visit to Sao Paulo Catholic Secondary College Visit to Aileu Senior High School, Malere Meeting with Mario Soares, visit Volunteer's House
Thursday 15 March	Meeting with Jose Vallente, Coordinator, FOSCACA Youth group Meeting with Helen Hayes, Plan Timor-Leste Meeting with Maria Diamantina Martins, Director, Aileu Resource & Training Centre Meeting with Camilo da Costa, Community Development Officer, Aileu Vila Sub-District Administration Meeting with Mario Soares
Friday 16 March	Ceremonial launch of Presidential Election at District Administration Meeting re Village Lighting System in Besilau <i>aldeia</i>
Saturday 17 March	Observe Presidential Election voting in Aileu Vila and Fahisoi Observe Election counting in Aileu Vila
Sunday 18 March	Travel to Dili Attend reception for Australian International Election Observers at Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste's residence
Monday 19 March (on leave)	Sightseeing in Dili, including visit to Alola Foundation office and <i>Chega!</i> Museum

Tuesday 20 March Friday 23 March (on leave)	Travel to Aileu, tour to Ainaro, Covalima, Bobonaro, Liquica and return to Dili
Saturday 24 March	Travel to Darwin – Melbourne

## ATTACHMENT 2

### LIST OF PEOPLE MET DURING VISIT

Sr Abel de Conceicao, Aileu Deputy District Administrator  
Sr Abilio de Araujo, member ASTI board  
Sr Alberto Barros, Coordinator, Covalima Community Centre, Suai  
Anton Horvat, Manager Tourism and Events, William Angliss Institute  
Camilo Da Costa, Community development Officer, Aileu Vila Sub-District Administration  
Chris Adams, AVI Volunteer Organisation Development Adviser, FONGTIL, Dili  
Professor Damien Kingsbury, ATLFN International Observer Mission leader  
Padre David Alves Da Conceicao, Parish Priest of Remexio  
Sister Dorothy McGowan, Sister of Maryknoll, Aileu  
Emanuel Braz, Director, Dili Weekly, Dili  
Sra Eugenia Lopes, Tour Guide, *Chega!* Museum, Dili  
Helen Hayes, Plan Timor-Leste, Dili  
Sr Joao Ximenes, Principal, Aileu Senior High School  
Sr Jose Vallente, Coordinator FOSCACA Church Youth Group, Aileu  
Sister Julia Shideler, Sisters of Maryknoll, Aileu  
Kirsty Sword Gusmão, Chair, Alola Foundation, Dili  
Sr Lai Kiang Sen, Building Contractor, Aileu  
Sr Manuel Monis, Chefe de Aldeia, Besilau, Aileu District  
Mario Soares, Aileu District Development Officer, Aileu Friendship Commission Liaison  
Sr Martinho Matos, Aileu District Administrator  
Miles Armitage, Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste  
Officer  
Peter Dougan, Director, Smallholder Agriculture International  
Peter Sibly, AVI Volunteer, Bobonaro District Administration  
Dr Prabir Majumdar, International Projects Manager, Alternative Technology Association  
Rae Kingsbury, ATLFN Convenor  
Rob Wesley-Smith, KVRP member, Darwin  
Sr Rui Sarmiento Araujo, Agricultural Advisor, Uma Ita Nian Clinic, Aileu  
Sister Susan Gubbins, Sisters of Maryknoll, Aileu  
Sr Victorino Araujo, Director of Clinical Services, Department of Oral Health, Dili

## ATTACHMENT 3

### **Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network (AusTimorFN) in conjunction with Deakin University's Centre for Citizenship, Development and Human Rights (CCDHR) Formal Report: Presidential election 17 March 2012**

Prepared by Damien Kingsbury and Michael Maley

The Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network Facilitators Incorporated and Deakin University's Centre for Citizenship, Development and Human Rights congratulates the people of Timor-Leste on a successful 2012 presidential election and the consolidation of the democratic process in Timor-Leste.

Based on reports from more than 50 AusTimorFN observers deployed across 12 of Timor-Leste's 13 districts, despite poor weather and a number of manageable technical problems, all preliminary reports indicate that the polling and counting processes which were implemented on 17 March 2012 substantially met internationally recognised standards for free and fair elections at the venues observed.

The 2012 elections are the second national polls to be Timor-Leste administration, with support from the United Nations Integrated Mission (UNMIT) in Timor-Leste being provided on a more limited scale than in 2007. UNMIT is due to conclude its operations at the end of 2012.

AusTimorFN Timor-Leste coordinator and CCDHR Director, Professor Damien Kingsbury, said Timor-Leste's Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) and National Elections Commission (CNE) had very largely performed in a professional and competent manner. STAE is responsible for running the elections and the CNE oversees the electoral process.

All indications are that Timor-Leste is now very capable of running its own electoral process, based on reports from the Network's observers. Unlike the elections of 2007, there were no reports of significant political or other violence or intimidation leading up to or on the day of the ballot. The elections were undertaken in a very peaceful manner. Network observers all reported that the atmosphere in the polling stations attended by AusTimorFN volunteer observers was peaceful and positive, with a clear commitment on the part of both electoral staff and voters to an orderly and successful process.

AusTimorFN observers did note a number of technical problems with the election process, the main ones of which were shortages of ballot papers in a small number of polling stations; some quality issues with indelible ink used to mark voters (two types of ink were used in the process); some concerns with the requirement faced by some voters to travel at their own expense to their place of registration in order to vote; and some aspects of the counting process which gave rise to disputation. There was a shortage of ballot papers in some cases, which was primarily due to underestimating the number of voters and to spoiled ballot papers in transit as a result of poor weather conditions. Even though STAE attempted to get fresh ballot papers to the few affected polling stations, in a couple of cases road conditions and rising rivers impeded their timely delivery.

AusTimorFN observers noted a number of technical infractions of the ballot process. However, these infractions were relatively few and were not regarded as compromising the integrity of the vote in any of the polling stations observed. Observers noted that these

infractions reflected a desire to ensure that people could vote, but sometimes by stepping over the bounds of what is formally allowed by STAE.

There was also a report of confusion with the counting of votes, which was undertaken in local voting centres. This was due to using numbers rather than candidates' names, with number four on the list, Francisco Xavier do Amaral, being removed from numbering due to his prior death. This then moved the numbering of the following eight candidates by one, resulting in confusion in counting. This problem was, however, resolved by re-counting.

AusTimorFN wishes to again confirm that the 2012 Timor-Leste elections were a demonstrable success for the electoral administration and democratic process in Timor-Leste. AusTimorFN looks forward to its observers attending the expected second presidential round in mid-April, as well as the parliamentary elections in late June.

## **Technical Annex**

1. This Technical Annex elaborates three aspects of the polling and counting processes for the 2012 presidential election which could usefully be reviewed by the competent authorities of Timor-Leste in the light of experience on 17 March 2012.

### Indelible ink

2. Article 42, no. 9 of Regulation No. 04/STAE/X/2011 (Regulation on the Voting, Counting and Result Tabulation Procedures for the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections) provides that: "Once the voter has cast his or her vote, the indelible ink controller shall mark the right index finger of the voter in such a manner as to stain the cuticle so as to ensure that the voter exercises his or her right to vote only once".

Indelible ink has been used at elections in Timor-Leste on a number of occasions since 2002. The efficacy of its use as a mechanism for prevent multiple voting is, however, dependent on the ink being in fact indelible, as required by the Regulation.

3. Confirmed information was received by the observers from a number of sources that in various parts of the country the ink used proved not to be indelible, and was able to be removed with relatively little effort using a cleaning agent such as household detergent.

4. The use of indelible ink in the electoral context is intended both to prevent multiple voting, and to reinforce public confidence that effective prevention measures are in place.

The use of ink which is not in fact indelible is therefore problematic even if no attempts are made by anyone to vote more than once, since the credibility of the mechanics of the electoral process can be undermined.

5. It is strongly recommended that at future elections, only indelible ink meeting the highest standards (such as those laid down for ink utilised at elections in India) be used.

### Place of voting

6. At the election, voters were required to vote in the sucos (local areas) for which they were registered. Such a requirement does not of itself breach international standards – indeed, at the Popular Consultation of August 1999, people were required to vote at the place where they registered - but it may in practice have undesirable or discriminatory effects. The observers received a number of reports of voters having to undertake significant travel at their own expense to go to the place where they could vote, and there was something of a mass exodus from Dili in the days prior to polling day as people returned to the districts. The costs to individuals of having to undertake such travel would in some cases have been

considerable, as would have been the economic costs to the nation of having people travelling rather doing productive work on the days in question.

7. It is a recognised norm of legitimate elections that voters should not be required personally to incur other than the most nominal costs (such as the petrol required to ride a motorbike to a nearby polling station) in order to cast their votes: as a matter of principle, a voter should never have to ask whether he or she can afford to vote.

8. It is strongly recommended that the requirement that people vote in their *sucos* of registration be urgently and holistically reviewed, with the aim of ensuring that it cannot in practice serve as a disincentive to voting by people for whom travel costs would represent an unacceptable burden.

### Counting procedures

9. While counting at polling centres is a sound practice which in general worked very well, some difficulties arose in at least one large centre (> 3700 voters) witnessed by observers. As a result, the counting did not finish until the early hours of the morning on Sunday 18 March, and took longer than the polling had taken.

10. It is recommended that the following aspects of the process be reviewed.

- Premises: If large numbers of ballot papers are to be counted at a centre, a spacious room is needed for the conduct of the counting. At the particular centre in question, both polling and counting took place in old, small classrooms, while much newer, better lit and better equipped classrooms were not used. (This, of course, may not have been STAE's decision.) Avoidance of bottlenecks: At the centre in question, the counting for four separate polling stations at the centre was done centrally and consecutively, and with ballot papers from all four amalgamated. This converted the task facing the counters from four smaller and basically manageable operations to one very large and difficult to manage operation. The process would have worked much more efficiently had each polling station secretary been able to conduct a separate count, under the overall supervision of the centre president, with figures being added together at the end to produce a consolidated centre result.
- Standardisation of process: counting venues should always have pre-printed cards to organise stacks of counted ballot papers. Similarly, there should be a requirement to use names of candidates or parties when calling out the votes from particular ballot papers: at the centre in question, the initial use of numbers in lieu of names led to confusion as to the candidate for whom some ballot papers had been counted, because of the cancellation of the candidacy of the deceased candidate.
- Transparency: The need for counting to be done transparently cannot be over-emphasised in training. As part of this training, the need for counting officials to explain to all present, in detail, what is going to be done in each phase of counting as it arises should be emphasised.
- Training of *fiscais* (party agents, scrutineers): It would also be useful if parties and candidates could emphasise, in their training of their *fiscais*, the need to treat all STAE and CNE staff with appropriate courtesy and respect.
- It was reported that subsidised rice was distributed from at least one polling station prior to the election, which could have been construed as buying support for a particular candidate supporting by the main government party. While this was not

- regarded as a critical matter, care should be taken in future to ensure that there is no confusion, potential or otherwise, between government programs and polling stations.

For further information, please contact:

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Dili

21 March 2012

**ATTACHMENT 4****SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS 2012****Hume-Aileu Secondary Scholarship Program**

No	Name	Sub-district	School	Year	
01.	Augusto Mendonça	Aileu Vila	Sec. Voc Aileu	1	New
02.	Benedita de Jesus Pereira Araujo	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	1	New
03.	Calistro Amaral	Lequidoe	Sec. Leq	1	New
04.	Carlota de Jesus Carvalho	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	2	Renewed
05.	Clementino Mendonça	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	2	Renewed
06.	Delfina Pires Soares	Laulara	Sec. Pub Laulara	1	New
07.	Estanislau da Costa	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	2	Renewed
08.	Elisabeth Pires	Aileu Vila	Sec. Cath Aileu	3	Renewed
09.	Fidelis Xavier Pereira	Aileu Vila	Sec. Cath Aileu	3	Renewed
10.	Fátima Lemos Araujo	Laulara	Sec. Pub Laulara	1	New
11.	Filomeno Tilman	Aileu Vila	Sec. Pub Aileu	3	Renewed
12.	Flaviana M. M. Da Silva	Aileu Vila	Sec. Cath Aileu	3	Renewed
13.	Gonsalo Amarante da Silva	Laulara	Sec. Pub Laulara	1	New
14.	Geraldo da C. Mendonça	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	2	Renewed
15.	Imaculada Mesquita	Lequidoe	Sec. Pub Aileu	3	Renewed
16.	Imaculada da Conceição	Laulara	Sec. Pub Laulara	3	Renewed
17.	Jaime Reinato Soares	Aileu Vila	Sec. Pub Aileu	1	New
18.	Joana José	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	1	New
19.	Judith do Rêgo	Lequidoe	Sec. Cath Lequidoe	1	New
20.	Leonardo Pereira Araujo	Aileu Vila	Sec. Voc. Dili	1	New
21.	Manuel Tilman Magalhães	Aileu Vila	Sec. Pub Aileu	3	Renewed
22.	Matias Mali	Aileu Vila	Sec. Voc Maliana	3	Renewed
23.	Matilde Carvalho Amaral	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	1	New
24.	Mariana de Jesus Soares	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	2	Renewed
25.	Mariana da Silva Bi-quinta	Aileu Vila	Sec. Voc Dili	3	Renewed
26.	Natalina Ximenes	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	2	Renewed
27.	Natalino Faria da Silva	Aileu Vila	Sec. Cath Aileu	2	Renewed
28.	Natalino Soares	Aileu Vila	Sec. Cath Aileu	3	Renewed
29.	Natalisa Isaura Fátma Almeida	Aileu Vila	Sec. Pub Aileu	2	Renewed
30.	Rosita Fátima	Aileu Vila	Sec. Voc Aileu	1	New
31.	Ricardo Joaquim Pereira	Laulara	Sec. Pub Laulara	1	New
32.	Rosario Ramos	Lequidoe	Sec. Cath Lequidoe	1	New
33.	Fernando dos Reis Araujo	Aileu Vila	Sec. Cath Aileu	1	New
34.	Paulo da Costa Xavier	Aileu Vila	Sec. Cath Aileu	3	Renewed
35.	Pascoela Mendonça Carvalho	Remexio	Sec. Cath Remexio	1	New
36.	Pedro Soares Ramalho	Lequidoe	Sec. Cath Lequidoe	1	New

### Cr. Andy Ingham-Aileu Scholarship Program

No	Name	Sub-district	Institution	Course	Yr	Obs
01.	Augusto Castro Braz	Aileu Vila	Cristal Institute	Economics and Marketing	1	New
02.	Adriano Verdial	Lequidoe	UNTL	Media/Broadcasting	1	New
03.	Abrão de Jesus	Remexio	UNTL/UnKris-Kupang	Agronomy	3	Renewed
04.	Abril Vilanova	Lequidoe	UNTL	Physics	3	Renewed
05.	Aservina Bete Simões	Aileu Vila	Cristal Institute	Accountancy	3	Renewed
06.	Beatriz Linda do Rêgo Castela	Aileu Vila	UNTL	Agronomy	1	New
07.	Carla carvalho dos Santos	Aileu	Uni of Proc 1945 Jogjakarta	Psychology	3	Renewed
08.	Ermelina do Rêgo	Laulara	UNTL	Political Science	2	Renewed
09.	Ernestro Mendonça	Remexio	DIT	Tourism	2	Renewed
10.	Eurogio A.M. Srmento	Aileu Vila	DIT	Petroleum studies	3	Renewed
11.	Filipe Boavida do Rêgo	Aileu Vila	UNPAZ	Architecture	1	New
12.	Felizarda Suriano	Laulara	UNTL	Agronomy	3	Renewed
13.	Francisco Nunes	Aileu Vila	UNTL	Chemistry	2	Renewed
14.	Felismina Lobato	Laulara	UNTL	Development and Mgt	2	Renewed
15.	Gabriela Ximenes N. Lobato	Lequidoe	UNTL	Political Science	2	Renewed
16.	Hermenegildo Alves Mesquita	Laulara	UNTL	Public Administration	3	Renewed
17.	Isabel Alves	Laulara	UNTL	Agriculture	3	Renewed
18.	Jaime Mouzinho	Aileu Vila	UNTL	Social Work	3	Renewed
19.	Joana Fátima	Aileu Vila	UNTL	Biology	3	Renewed
20.	Julio da Costa Correia	Laulara	UNTL	Chemistry	2	Renewed
21.	Juliana Bere	Aileu Vila	ICR	Social Work	3	Renewed
22.	Libania Martins Amaral	Aileu Vila	Gajayana- Indonesia	Media/Broadcasting	3	Renewed
23.	Lorenço Alves Falcão	Lequidoe	UNTL	Business Management	4	Renewed
24.	Laurindo Mendonça Exposto	Aileu Vila	DIT	Computer Science	4	Renewed
25.	Marcos de Jesus Amaral	Aileu Vila	Uni. Trib. Indonesia	Architecture	3	Renewed
26.	Madalena Exposto	Aileu Vila	UNPAZ	Political Science	2	Renewed
27.	Marcelino da Cruz Mendonça	Aileu Vila	UNTL	Animal Science	3	Renewed
28.	Natalino L. de C. M. Pereira	Aileu Vila	Gajayana Indonesia	Master of Ec Mgt	2	Renewed
29.	Pedro Audilio Mendonça	Aileu Vila	Gaja Mada Indonesia	Information Technology	1	New
30.	Paulina das Neves	Lequidoe	UNTL	Biology	2	Renewed
31.	Paulo Pereira da Costa	Aileu Vila	UNTL	Tourism	2	Renewed
32.	Ricardo de Sousa Paulo	Remexio	DIT	Petroleum Management	4	Renewed
33.	Sonia da Costa	Aileu Vila	UNTL	Chemistry	2	Renewed
34.	Salvador Mendonça	Lequidoe	UNTL	Biology	2	Renewed
35.	Tecla da Cruz Sousa	Aileu Vila	Uni Proc 45 Jogjakarta	Petroleum Science	4	Renewed
36.	Zaido Xavier Pereira	Aileu	DIT	Architecture	3	Renewed