



Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

Volume I, Edition X
October 2008

Local Government as the Key to Development

Lao Delegation Visits Timor-Leste for Comparative Study

A 13-person delegation from the Lao People's Democratic Republic has come to do a comparative study in Timor-Leste to learn from the experiences Timor-Leste has gained through the preparations for the decentralization process and the establishment of local government. The delegation from Lao proposed to visit Timor-Leste and officially visit the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM) to do a comparative study on the Local Development Programme (LDP) which started in 2005. Based on Timor-Leste's experiences with the LDP, the Lao delegation hopes to learn from the many experiences of the program about how to manage local budgets and how to build local capacity.

The delegation's visit was from 7-10 October 2008, and when they arrived they were received immediately by the National Director for Local Development and Territorial Management Miguel de Carvalho, as well as the National Director for Support to Sucos Celestino Marques and the



Members of the Lao Delegation are met by a traditional dance group upon their arrival in Baucau District on 8 October 2008

National Director for Local Administration, Abilio Caetano.

To study the lessons learned by the LDP, the delegation also visited the Baucau District from the 8-9th of October, meeting with the District Administrator of Baucau. During their meeting, the District Administrator explained about the LDP, including the composition and function of the District Assembly.

"We are very pleased because we learned many new things from the Baucau District, such as the process that they use to get proposals from the community, the process to submit



The Lao Delegation met with MAEOT Directors to discuss how the Government is progressing on decentralization and the LDP in Timor-Leste

these proposals to the District level, and also how to transfer funds from the national level to the district level from the allocation for the Local Development Programme," said Mr. Nisith KEOPANYA, Delegation Leader, when he met the Baucau District Administrator.

The leader of the delegation was also appreciative of the ways local leaders (Chefe Sucos) share information with their communities, such as meetings and the consultation process with communities about local needs for local development to develop proposals that will be recommended from the community up to the Assemblies.

"We think that we can learn good lessons, here (in Timor-Leste), that we can then implement in Lao. We have seen the involvement of women is strong and balanced," said Mr. KEOPANYA yesterday.

During the meeting, the Baucau District Administrator said he was pleased that people from other nations could come and learn from the experience of the Baucau District with the LDP. "They decided to come to the Baucau District because our programme is going well, and from their visit we also are benefiting from new experiences," he said.

Mr. Cristovao Miranda explains about the LDP programme to the delegation during lunch in Baucau District



Announcing the Ministry's New Website



Decentralization

In Brief

- November: Study Exchange Visit of MAEOT Officials to Indonesia
- District Exchange Visits to be held in Lautem and Bobonaro
- Consultation for Laws
- Finalization Investment Plan for 2009 in Ainaro

On 10 October 2008, the Minister of State Administration and Territorial Management officially launched the Ministry's Website. The website is now available on the Internet by pointing your browser to www.estatal.gov.tl.

The Website Launching Ceremony was held at Fundasaun Oriente, beginning at 9 AM and finishing at 10 AM. During the Ceremony, the Minister spoke about the Ministry's commitment to establishing the website.



The Minister official launches the Ministry's website at Fundasaun Oriente, Dili on 10 October 2008

"The website is an important tool for disseminating information to the public," said the Minister during his opening speech, "Now that we have established a website, we commit to updating it regularly about the Ministry's work."

Go CHECK IT OUT!
www.estatal.gov.tl

This is also our commitment to transparency – we are not just going to wait for questions to come from you, but we will simply immediately broadcast information about our work so that you know what we do here at the Ministry."

The Ministry has many activities, and the Website is but one way that the Ministry can distribute information. During the launching ceremony, the Minister explained that the website is a symbol of the Ministry's commitment to distribute public information about the Ministry's work. Because the Ministry works in the name of the people, therefore the people have a right to know the activities of the Ministry.

The website contains information about each Directorates' responsibilities, information about the district, contact information for the Ministry, government policies and information about decentralization. The website will be updated regularly with new information, so the Ministry encourages everyone to visit the website frequently.

Monitoring and Evaluation Visits Conducted in Bobonaro and Lautem

From 13-24 October, the Local Development Programme (LDP) technical staff have been visiting project sites to monitor and evaluate quality for projects which have already been completed through LDP. Mr. Carlito Alves, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer working with the Local Government Support Programme, visited the Bobonaro and Lautem districts to view projects completed in 2005 and 2006, and interview local officials about how the completed projects were withstanding the test of time.

Mr. Alves's job is to ensure that all projects are built following the regulations from the Government and to find problems which may arise during the LDP process. He has been focusing on two areas which are of particular concern to LDP: finding out information about the level of community participation in the planning process and checking on technical designs for the projects for the implementation phase. According to Mr. Alves, these two indicators are important because the LDP procedures require high community participation in the planning level in each Suco and because the final quality of the LDP projects are always dependent on the quality of the initial design.

During his visits, Mr. Carlito Alves must check all areas of the project planning and

implementation, including how the community uses the projects after they have been completed. During this visit, he found that some projects, such as roads, bridges, and irrigation projects do not have maintenance following their initial construction. "These projects won't last for a long time, and because of this we encouraged local leaders and the community in those Sucos to pay closer attention to their projects, which have already begun to deteriorate, so that these projects will have a longer lifespan." Mr. Carlito said following his return from the visits. "In some LDP projects which finished in 2005 and 2006, which have been handed over to the health and education departments, they are maintaining these projects well because they allocated funds for the maintenance. With the information we have found we are going to be making recommendations about how we can fix these problems in the future," said Mr. Alves.



A Clinic Post in Bauro village, Lospalos Sub-District has been well maintained, and the community built a fence to prevent animals from entering the building

Local Government as the Key to Development



Ministry of State
Administration and
Territorial Management

Rua Jacinto Candido
Dili, Timor-Leste

Phone: 3317202

E-mail: comunicacao.maeot@gmail.com

Support provided by:
Local Governance Support Programme
and

