



Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

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Local Government as the Key to Development

Timor-Leste Delegation Visits Indonesia for Comparative Visit

In November and December, representatives from the Government of Timor-Leste went to Indonesia to visit and hold a comparative study on local governance systems. The visit was prompted by the current process in Timor-Leste to establish a local governance system. Consultations have been held in all districts to compile feedback from interested groups. Therefore, to review the system that they have debated and discussed and to ensure that the system will truly benefit the nation, the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM), with support from the Local Governance Support Programme, organized a study tour to three municipalities in Indonesia during three weeks in November and December 2008, to learn about their governance systems.



*Representatives with the Comparative Study Tour with
Local Authorities in the Banten Province*

The delegation had representatives from the Ministries of Health, Infrastructure, Finance, Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Development and also State Administration and Territorial Management, including district administration officials and two representatives from the Local Governance Support Programme.

National Director of Local Administration Abilio Caetano, who visited Solo in the Jawa Tengah Province, spoke about the mission, "The objective of this visit was to learn from the experience of Indonesia about decentralization and local government reforms, in order to increase the understanding about the legal framework of decentralization, to compare to the draft laws which have been prepared already." The experience from this study tour, he said, would not affect the three draft laws which had been prepared already on local government, administrative and territorial division and municipal elections, because what the study tour had found in Indonesia reinforced the principles of the existing draft laws.

"This visit was a good reference so that we can begin to

implement the decentralization policies in our nation, because we need to learn many things before decentralization can happen based on our culture and the resources that we have," said Mr. Domingos Caeiro, the Secretary of State for Public Works, follow his participation in the comparative study to the Bukittinggi Municipality in Sumatra.

Mrs. Florentina Smith, the focal point from the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, who also participated in the visit to Banten, gave her thoughts on the tour: "I am pleased with this study visit, because we learned many things that will be important for our municipalities in the future. [In Indonesia] they already have clear laws that regulate all activities in the municipality, and at the village level they have organized themselves to work together with the community," Mrs. Smith said. The Banten province is a new province in Indonesia, and therefore also has recent experience with the decentralization process and local government reforms. Their livelihoods, as well, are similar to Timor-Leste, because Banten is also a coastal area. Mrs. Smith also said that the future municipalities should look to Banten's established system of industry and commerce, because Timor-Leste also has potential in the sectors of fishing and tourism.

For this first visit to Indonesia, the delegation was dividing into three parts. The first group traveled to the Bukittinggi Province in Sumatra, the second group traveled to Solo in the Jawa Tengah Province, and the third group traveled Lebak in the Banten Province. The delegation, in the coming months, will meet again to discuss the advantages and disadvantages that they saw during their experiences in Indonesia and make recommendations for the future of Timor-Leste's process of establishing a local government system.



*Mr. Domingos Caeiro, the Secretary of State for Public Works, gives his
presentation during the visit to the Bukittinggi Province, Indonesia*



Decentralization

In Brief

- January 2009: Evaluation of Minimum Conditions for the Eight Pilot Districts

Cassabuak Village Wins 2008 National Village Competition

From September to November 2008, a Suco Competition Programme has been held in order to encourage the community to participate actively in local development. The Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM) initiated this new programme, and the National Directorate for Suco Support (DNAAS) received the mandate from MSATM to implement the programme. "The objective of the Suco competition programme was to give motivation for voluntary community participation in the development of every village," said Mr. Celistino Marques, the Director of DNAAS.

The commission organized to evaluate the Sucos was composed of representatives from different Ministries and Secretaries of State, including the Ministry of Education, Secretary of State for Local Development and Cooperation, Secretary of State for Security (PNLT) and the Ministry of Health, as well as including MSATM itself. Director Marques explained, "The reason for forming a collaborative commission was to ensure that this competition event was held successfully and transparently." Evaluation committees were established at the District and Sub-District levels, based on the sectors in each area, which went to see and evaluate the activities in each Suco.



The President of the Republic, Dr. Jose Ramos Horta presents the winning certificate to the village leader of Cassabuak, accompanied by Minister of State Administration and Territorial Management Dr. Arcangelo Leite and DNAAS Director Mr. Celistino Marques, in Dili on 28/11/2008

environmental protection criteria.

Following these criteria, the evaluation committee announced that the winner of the National Suco Competition was Suco Cassabuak, from Tilomar Sub-District, Covalima District.

During an interview the Village Leader of Cassabuak, Mr. Quintino Cardoso, talked about his Suco's experience during the competition. "Before our Suco won this programme, our community made preparations, including in the areas of community health, community cleaning, cleaning toilets and bathrooms. In the security area, we built a security post in the Suco, and for education we made lists of the people who have received informal and formal education so that we have clear data on this." Mr. Quintino also said that the Cassabuak Village is pleased that they have won the national competition.

The village leader of Loihunu, Mr. Fransisco da Costa Guterres, explained that he supported the program even though his Suco did not win the competition. "Suco Loihunu, in the Ossu Sub-District and Viqueque District, will try to make better preparations and compete in the Suco Competition for 2009. Though we didn't win this year, we hope that in 2009 we can be stronger in the competition and become the national champions for next year.

In the Suco Competition Programme, winning Sucos at each level of the competition win prizes of different amounts. Winners of sub-district Suco competitions win \$600 and a certificate, winners of the district competition won \$1,000 and a certificate, and the winner of the national election won a prize of \$5,000 and a certificate. The prize monies were awarded on 28 November at a flag-raising ceremony held in each district.



The Evaluation Committee at Suco Bahu, doing a check of the administration system of the village.

The Suco competition at the sub-district level involved all Sucos throughout the country and began on 10 September and ran through 8 October. The Sucos that were selected as the best Suco in each Sub-District then competed at the District level between 13-27 October, with the winners of each District-level competition continuing to compete at the national level. The national level Suco competition - between the winners of the Suco competition in each district, was held between 28 October until 14 of November. The criteria that were used for the evaluation were security aspects, education, local authorities, health, economic and

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