



FRENTE REVOLUCIONÁRIA DO TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE

FRETILIN

Media Statement - Secretary General of Fretilin¹

Dili, 12th of April 2007

FRETILIN always believed that its candidate would win the presidential elections. The publicly announced results did not meet our expectations.

This is explicable due to the existence of a well mounted campaign against FRETILIN and its leadership during the past months, with particular force in the last weeks.

This campaign included disinformation, abuse of power, intimidation, etc.

Just in the last days we lived through a situation of deliberate disinformation as concerns the counting of the votes, a situation which contributed to the creation of false expectations with respect to the results.

Even so, FRETILIN always maintained quiet. Our parallel counting clearly indicated that our candidate, Francisco Guterres LU OLO was leading.

In order to break the false expectations, FRETILIN decided to inform the public, via a Press Conference, that it had a parallel counting system which indicated clearly that Lu Olo was leading.

In truth, our count, save minor discrepancies, coincides with the counts by independent Groups. The spokesperson for the CNE irresponsibly insisted on transmitting only information which would agree with his own publicly declared political position.

If not for the calmness and confidence of FRETILIN, this disinformation transmitted by the spokesperson for CNE could have provoked undesirable reactions. We can only hope that was not the intention.

The media was equally the victim of this disinformation. The media was deliberately used to misinform.

FRETILIN regrets this fact and appeals to the independent media to undertake further investigation of the reasons behind this attitude by the spokesperson for CNE.

In spite of all of this, FRETILIN considers that, the general count, and taking into consideration the specific situation in Timor-Leste of a young democracy, the process occurred in an acceptable form.

FRETILIN congratulates the International Defense and Security Forces who, in an ethical and efficient manner, guaranteed Law and Order, in so doing demonstrating that our nation will still need for some time to come their presence so as to consolidate stability and peace and to sketch the irreversible path towards democracy.

FRETILIN equally congratulates the PNTL and F-FDTL for their contribution to the maintenance of Law and Order.

¹ (Translation from Portuguese to English)

FRETILIN congratulates UNMIT and all international Institutions and observers who, with their varied forms of support and assistance, made possible the realization of these elections without alarm.

Finally, FRETILIN congratulates all of our people, our citizens, for their participation in these elections in a calm, mature and responsible way. The attitude of our people demands of the whole Leadership greater calmness and maturity in the management of this situation and respect for the rules of democracy.

Sekretáriu Jeral da FRETILIN

Mari Alkatiri