



FRENTE REVOLUCIONÁRIA DO TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE
FRETILIN

Resistance hero Lu-Olo to stand for President of Timor-Leste

Media Release

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The President of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste (East Timor), Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres, will be a candidate for President of the Republic in the election on 9 April 2007.

Lu-Olo, 53, is also the president of Fretilin, Timor Leste's largest political party.

He spent the entire 24-year Indonesian occupation of his country as a resistance fighter and independence activist based in the mountains.

He survived Indonesia's encirclement and annihilation campaign of the late 1970s when many of his Fretilin colleagues were hunted down and killed.

By the time the Indonesians left Timor Leste in 1999 Lu-Olo had become the most senior Fretilin leader inside the country.

Speaking in Dili yesterday, Lu-Olo promised that if elected President he would "be the President of all and a President for all" and added that as President he "will seek solutions for problems [and] never be a source of conflicts myself".

He pledged to promote the interests of youth and equality for women; to work to protect the elderly and the most vulnerable communities; and to promote housing, health care and pensions for veterans of the independence struggle.

Lu-Olo, a devout Catholic, also vowed to foster dialogue between religions, adding: "I shall fight with all my strength against any form of extremism or fanaticism, regardless of its origin. And I shall wholeheartedly promote ecumenism".

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Contact Sahe Da Silva in Sydney on 0414 807 824 for an English translation of Lu-Olo's announcement of his candidacy for President of the Republic, and also his biography.

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