



**REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE
GABINETE DO PRIMEIRO-MINISTRO
PRESS RELEASE**

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**Attention: International Affairs Reporter
Chief of Staff**

Vicente Maubocy Ximenes fools media

The international media was played for fools at a bogus media conference in the Hotel Timor yesterday, when suspended FRETILIN member Vicente Maubocy Ximenes had them believe they were attending a FRETILIN media conference.

Media outlets who reported the event as genuine included the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the BBC.

Vicente Ximenes was suspended from FRETILIN membership over a year ago, in March 2005, and this suspension was confirmed for another 12 months by an internal disciplinary panel of FRETILIN as recently as May this year.

This suspension was imposed because Mr Ximenes made public attacks on the FRETILIN leadership, and the charge was basic lack of party discipline.

Mr Ximenes had asked to be the Minister for Tourism in the first independent government of Timor-Leste, but was not appointed to this post. Since then he has made many public attacks on the FRETILIN leadership.

With Mr Ximenes at the bogus media conference was former Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia, Jorge Teme, who, while being a FRETILIN member, holds no post in the party. Mr Teme was reported to say that the FRETILIN Central Committee had 594 members, when it actually has 80 members, with nine alternate members, making a total of 89.

“Mr Ximenes and Mr Teme were telling the media that a majority of FRETILIN members and the Central Committee wanted to remove Mr Alkatiri from the Prime Ministership. The truth is the opposite – Mr Ximenes and Mr Teme are not authorised to represent FRETILIN at all. The great majority of FRETILIN members see the endless demands for the Prime Minister to resign as an attack on the basic principles of FRETILIN, of democracy, national independence and upholding the rights of the poorest citizens of Timor-Leste,” said senior FRETILIN leader and Minister for Agriculture, Mr Estanislau da Silva.

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