



FRENTE REVOLUCIONÁRIA DO TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE

FRETILIN

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New party's name is misleading and deceptive

A new political party which, media reports say, will be led by Timor-Leste (East Timor) President Xanana Gusmao, has deliberately been given a misleading name in order to confuse and deceive voters, Fretilin Secretary General Mari Alkatiri said today.

Dr Alkatiri said Fretilin would take legal action based on East Timor's constitution and laws to prevent the use of the name "National Congress of Timorese Reconstruction", with the acronym CNRT.

"Use of CNRT is an opportunistic and cynical attempt by the party's founders to associate it with the former resistance organisation, the National Council of Timorese Resistance also known by the acronym CNRT," he said.

"When more than half the electorate is illiterate, there is a moral obligation on all parties to be transparent and unambiguous in their identity, campaign messages and policies."

Dr Alkatiri added there was reason to suspect that President Gusmao was delaying the announcement of a date for parliamentary election in order to give his new party more time to get organised.

"If this is the case, it is a clear abuse of power by the president," he said.

The National Council of Timorese Resistance, initially known as the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM), was created by the Fretilin leadership in 1987 as a non-

partisan umbrella organisation designed to involve all East Timorese political organizations in the struggle for independence from Indonesia.

When CNRM was created, the Fretilin leadership decided that Xanana Gusmao should leave Fretilin to become the leader of CNRM and it was also decided that Falintil would become the armed wing of the entire independence movement as opposed to being the armed wing of Fretilin only.

During the 1999 independence referendum, the pro-independence political parties, including Fretilin, campaigned under the name of CNRT.

“Once independence was achieved, CNRT had served its purpose and was dissolved in 2001 so that East Timorese political organisations could participate in a multi-party democracy” Dr Alkatiri said.

“We welcome the decision by Xanana Gusmao and others to form a political party and Fretilin looks forward to the up-coming electoral contest. However, it is unacceptable for any political party to seek to capitalise on the name of CNRT which is an organisation of historical significance to the people of Timor-Leste.”

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