

Vote for FRETILIN!

2007 Parliamentary Elections

"Defending Timor-Leste's independence"

Media release

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FRETILIN holds dialogue with the people

FRETILIN, the largest political party in Timor-Leste (East Timor) held dialogue meetings in the districts of Viqueque, Lautem, Baucau and Manatuto in its first week of campaigning for the 30 June parliamentary elections (29 May – 1 June).

FRETILIN President Fransisco Guterres Lu Olo said "The dialogue meetings were led by myself and party General Secretary Mari Alkatiri.

"We were assisted by the Minister for Agriculture Francisco Benevides, the Vice-Minister for Education IIda Maria da Conceição and the Minister for Public Works Odete Vitor."

Lu Olo said "The dialogue meetings involved a high degree of interaction between the party leadership and its supporters and members. The members and supporters were encouraged to ask questions about the government program in the last five years and our focus over the next five years if FRETILIN were to return to government.

"The role of the leadership during the dialogues was to provide to clear answers to questions and reinforce the talent on FRETILIN's parliamentary list".

Lu Olo continued: "We also reinforced that it was the FRETILIN government that was able to build and establish the government institutions and develop a political, economic, social and cultural program for the nation."

"The next five years the government will focus on education, health, infrastructure and agriculture. In respect of Timor-Leste's infrastructure, a FRETILIN government would focus on transport and communication, electricity and water."

Lu Olo said "We have also kept our message very positive and spoke about our program.

"We will avoid confrontational language against opposition parties and keep our criticism to the policies of the opposition parties.

"This approach is in accordance with the electoral code of conduct signed by the representatives of all political parties under which each party has agreed to promote a clean campaign which does not involve personal attacks, violence or insults.

Lu Olo said "FRETILIN only makes promises which can be fulfilled. FRETILIN only makes concrete promises. We do not want to give the people of Timor-Leste false hopes."

Dr Alkatiri said "When I took on the role as the leader of the first constitutional government I knew that the first five years of government was always going to be difficult. However, I don't regret the decision."

"At the end of every dialogue I emphasized the need for FRETILIN to win the parliamentary elections so that there was a counterbalance to the power of the President of the Republic who has become a representative of the opposition parties.

"The President campaigned on the basis that he was an independent figure, however to get the support of all the opposition parties he made many promises which he will struggle to fulfill. The promises he made means that he is a compromised figure.

"If the opposition parties form government, the President will be further compromised in his position."

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