



Vote for FRETILIN!

2007 Parliamentary Elections

“Defending Timor-Leste’s independence”

Media release

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FRETILIN stands for responsible management of public funds

FRETILIN, the majority party in Timor-Leste (East Timor), has said it will continue to responsibly manage state funds and criticised opposition parties for making promises which will bankrupt the country. The party made these comments during its recent dialogue meetings held in the districts of Aileu, Manufahi and Ainaro south of Dili and in the districts of Covalima and Bobonaro west of Dili in the period 3 June to 8 June.

The dialogue meetings were led by FRETILIN President Francisco Guterres Lu Olo, FRETILIN General Secretary Dr Mari Alkatiri, senior FRETILIN leaders and government ministers.

Dr Alkatiri said “In the last five years we have set up the legal framework and state institutions to allow state funds to be managed responsibly, kept tight financial control over state expenditure and refused taking loans from the World Bank.

“These measures were taken so Timor-Leste would keep control of its economy in order that real benefits can flow to the East Timorese for generations to come.”

Alkatiri continued: “The opposition parties have made promises without thinking through the consequences for the economy. For example, some of them promised the establishment of banks in each of the 442 sucos (administrative level), to repair every single road in five years or give money away from the petroleum fund. These promises lack any real development vision.

“We have examined their promises and calculated that if the opposition parties’ ideas are implemented the petroleum fund which the FRETILIN government put so much effort in establishing will be bankrupt in less than 4 years. If this happens, Timor-Leste will be forced to borrow money from foreign nations and institutions, putting us into debt. This is something we have successfully avoided until now.”

“There are a number of nations that keep paying debts decades after their independence. If Timor-Leste follows the same road it will create a debt that won’t be paid even in our grandchildren’s generation. It will also mean that Timorese will not be in full control of their economy and be free to spend money in key areas of vital importance to the people such as health, education and agriculture” said Alkatiri.

Lu Olo said “The efforts made by the FRETILIN government have guaranteed a unique and stable development for Timor-Leste, one that ensures that Timorese stay in control. This could only have been done by the FRETILIN government which has the necessary experience and commitment to the Timorese people.”

Lu Olo said “Lets keep the campaign focused on policy issues and we challenge the other parties to a debate on economic development.”

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