



# Vote for FRETILIN!

2007 Parliamentary Elections

“Defending Timor-Leste’s independence”

Media release

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27 June 2007

## We are the only party with clear policies to develop Timor-Leste, says FRETILIN

Dr Mari Alkatiri, the Secretary General of FRETILIN, said FRETILIN is the only party that has presented a clear policy program for the economic and social development of Timor-Leste during campaigning for the 30 June parliamentary elections. He also vowed to promote a new generation of FRETILIN leaders.

Dr Alkatiri said, “Throughout this election campaign we have been the only party that has presented a clear policy platform for the sustainable economic and social development of Timor-Leste.

“Our program is based on continuing the implementation of the national development plan created by the first government and to focus particularly on health, agriculture, education, youth, infrastructure and the prudent management of our petroleum resources.”

“On more than one occasion I challenged CNRT’s leader Jose Alexandre Gusmao to a debate on economic and social development, the issue of the petitioners and the 2006 crisis. Each time CNRT and Gusmao refused to respond which demonstrates their failure to present any clear policies for taking the country forward.”

Dr Alkatiri vowed as the only remaining founder of FRETILIN in the party leadership to promote a new generation of FRETILIN leaders.

“My focus will now be on promoting young leaders, including women, to take over the party. The fact that our parliamentary list has some young leaders high on the list reflects our ambition to push through new leaders. It is an excellent list which combines the wisdom and experience of senior leaders with the creativity and dynamism of the younger generation.

“I urge people to select their party based on the quality of a party’s parliamentary list. The parliamentary elections are not about any individual, but about selecting the best team.

Alkatiri added that FRETILIN had learnt valuable lessons from its time in government which it could use to improve the lives of people. “Like everyone in Timor-Leste, FRETILIN is also learning about its responsibilities in an emerging democracy.

“The first five years have been difficult because we had to re-build the country after the destruction of 1999 and at the same time devote a lot of time and energy to securing our fair share of the petroleum resources in the negotiations with the Australian government.”

The comments were made at the party rally held in Dili at the city football stadium on the last day of campaigning (27 June). The rally was attended by approximately 30,000 people.

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