



## Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Prime Minister's Office

---

Media release  
26 May 2007

### More clean water for Dili

**Completion of a major water supply project means the Timor-Leste (East Timor) capital of Dili now has 10 times the volume of clean drinking water it had before independence in 2001, FRETILIN Prime Minister Estanislau Da Silva said today.**

Da Silva welcomed the completion of a joint project between the governments of Timor-Leste and Japan to provide potable water to large sections of the Dili population.

The joint project involved the rehabilitation of three water treatment plants in the Dili suburbs of Bemós, Lahane and Benamauk and the laying of 21km of pipelines. East Timorese have been trained to operate and maintain the treatment plants and pipelines.

Clean drinking water is now flowing to parts of the following Dili sucos (administrative areas): Comoro, Bairro Pite, Santa Cruz, Bemori, Lahane Ocidental, Lahane Oriental, Kulu Hun and Becora.

Da Silva said: "Providing clean drinking water to the population is an essential aspect of increasing life expectancy and the standard of living of the people of Timor-Leste. This project is of real benefit to our people."

The government of Japan contributed \$USD10 million to the project, while the government of Timor-Leste contributed \$USD 81,000. The government of Timor-Leste will pay for the management and other ongoing costs of the treatment plants and distribution lines.

Da Silva praised the Japanese government for the generosity of its contribution. "The joint project demonstrates the Japanese government's commitment to sustainable development in Timor-Leste and their faith in the local population to manage and operate their infrastructure," he said.

Da Silva said the project shows that the government of Timor-Leste is developing the infrastructure of the country despite claims to the contrary by sections of the local and international media and opposition parties.

"Water treatment plants in the southern central towns of Ainaro and Same are next on the government's list of plants soon to be rehabilitated and upgraded. New water distribution lines in these towns will also be laid."

**For more information, please contact:**  
Jose Teixeira (+670) 728 7080