

Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

Volume I, Edition I
January 2008

Local Government as the Key to Development

In Brief

Deadlines for Elections in the new Districts:

- From the village to the SDDC:
26 January 2008
- From the SDDC to the District Assembly:
1 February 2008

Training Dates for the New Districts for LDP:

- Manufahi:
4-14 February
- Covalima:
11-25 February
- Ainaro:
11-21 February
- Baucau:
18 February– 3 March

National Workshop for Local Assemblies

The Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management held the National Workshop for Local Assemblies from 17-18 December 2007 to discuss the Local Development Programme and strengthen the management of local development.

A total of 116 representatives from 13 districts participated in the workshop. Participants from four districts (Aileu, Manatuto, Latuem and Bobonaro) that have already started the Local Development Programme (LDP), shared their experiences in executing their Local Development Funds and their suggestions on how to improve the pilot system.

Minister for State Administration and Territorial Ordinance Dr. Arcângelo Leite addressed participants saying, "The Government's objective is to accelerate the decentralization policy. We need to look for how to fix those things which are not working, and to



Participants from Bobonaro District at the National Workshop discuss their experiences with LDP.

evaluate the work that we have done so far." The results from the workshop are a useful opportunity to learn from the districts that have already begun the LDP process for when the programme expands to other districts.

Assembly members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the Local Development Programme, and the results of this

workshop have provided valuable lessons that the Government will incorporate into the planning for local development and the 2008 decentralization process.

Assemblies are established as a pilot for a local governance system, and use the allocated Local Development Funds to address the needs of their community in order to reduce poverty.

First Edition!

Welcome to the first edition of the Local Governance Monthly Bulletin. This bulletin is produced monthly by the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management in order to inform the community about the Government's activities related to the decentralization process.

Name and Quotation — about the Local Development Programme

Name: Laurindo dos Reis Fernandes

Village Leader of Babulo in Same Sub-District, Manufahi District



Quotation:

"The LDP programme is a very important preparatory step that the Government is currently taking, especially for the community and how we can make progress. We, as the Village Leaders, will gather and inform the community about this so that they can actively participate in the LDP Programme."

Name: Antonio Meneses

Lopes

Village Leader Nunumoge in Hatubiliku Sub-District, Ainaro District

Quotation:

"I think that this program is good for us, because it is more than just talking; this program also is already testing a program through which decentralization begins development from the bottom up."



Announcement of the Local Development Funds Allocation for 2008

On 10 January 2008, Minister for State Administration and Territorial Ordinance, Dr. Arcângelo Leite, announced the 2008 Allocation of the Local Development Funds at the Conference Room in STAE. All Local Development Funds are allocated to finance local infrastructure projects for districts which are participating in the Local Development Programme (LDP).

The districts of Bobonaro, Lautem, Aileu, Manatuto have already begun working with LDP, and in 2008 the program will expand to four new districts: Ainaro, Baucau, Covalima and Manufahi.

Local Development Funds (LDF) are allocated based on the population of each district, with four dollars allocated per person. The execution of each district's LDP is the responsibility of the Assemblies, which have the authority manage budgets and the planning process, make decisions about fund allocations, and organize activities.

These funds are allocated for development activities in rural areas that are based on community needs. Activities which have been completed in the four districts that have already begun the Local Development Programme are mostly infrastructure projects, and include school reconstruction, building local clinics, building water and sanitation facilities and other projects.

The allocation of the Local Development Funds according to each district in 2008 is as follows:

District	Population	Capital Investment (\$)
Bobonaro	82,384	330,000
Lautem	57,453	230,000
Aileu	36,889	148,000
Manatuto	38,580	154,000
Ainaro	53,269	213,000
Baucau	104,571	418,000
Covalima	55,941	224,000
Manufahi	44,235	177,000

Speak Out!

The Local Governance Bulletin is looking for your thoughts and opinion! If you want to make a submission to this bulletin, please write 75-100 words in Tetum or Bahasa Indonesian, include your name and contact number and send to the Communication Unit in MAE-OT. You can also call 3317202. Thank you!

Election Process for District Assemblies in the New Districts

In 2008, the Local Development Programme (LDP) will add expand to four new districts: Ainaro, Baucau, Covalima and Manufahi. In these districts, LDP will begin to facilitate the communities to establish Assemblies, which will be responsible for executing the allocated Local Development Funds.

Beyond these four new districts, LDP is also working in the districts of Bobonaro, Lautem, Manatuto and Aileu, which have already established Assemblies at the district and sub-district level. The districts which will begin the LDP process will have slightly different procedures from the previous districts, as the new districts will establish a Sub-District Development Commission at the sub-district level and Assemblies at the district level. The elections process for the Sub-District Development Commission and the District Assemblies are as follows:

Members of the Sub-District Development Commission (SDDC) are elected from each Village Council. Each Village Council will vote for two members — one man and one woman, and one of whom must be the Village Leader — to become Permanent Representatives to the SDDC. Two more people are elected as the Alternate Representatives who attend meetings in the place of the Permanent Representatives when they are unavailable. The Village Leader is also responsible for posting the name of the newly-elected Permanent and Alternate Representatives on the local information boards.

Members of the SDDC will also elect three Permanent SDDC Representatives to become representatives to the District Assembly. One man and two women can be elected, or two women and one man. Three people will also be elected as Alternate Representatives. The SDDC will post the name of the District Assembly representatives and the alternates on the local information board.

Local Government as the Key to Development

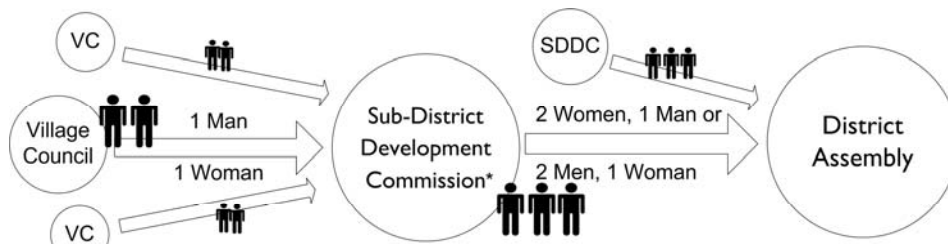


Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management

Rua Jacinto Candido
Dili, Timor-Leste
Phone: 3317202
E-mail: comunicacao.maeot@gmail.com

Support provided by:

Local Governance Support Programme and



*Sub-Districts that have only two Villages will elect three people (at least one man and one woman) to the SDDC