



# Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

Volume I, Edition II  
February 2008

*Local Government as the Key to Development*

## In Brief

### Dates for Consultation on Development Priorities in Manufahi:

- Consultations at the Suco and Aldeia Level:  
14-28 February
- Sucos and Sectors identify priority projects:  
3-8 March
- Submission of projects to the SDDC:  
10-11 March
- SDDC screen and prioritize projects:  
17-18 March
- Submission of projects to the Executive Secretary:  
27-28 March

### Other Information:

- Submission of the New Policy on Decentralization to the Council of Ministers in February 2008
- Regulations on the Suco elections are still being revised

## Second Edition!

Welcome to the second 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.

## Local Development Programme Training held in Manufahi District

In order to assist the work of the Local Assemblies, the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM) through the Local Development Programme (LDP) held training about the LDP process in the districts of Manufahi, Baucau, Ainaro and Covalima during February 2008. In the four districts, a total about 600 Assembly Members participated in the training.

In the Manufahi District, training was held during one week and 40 members of the District Assembly (DA) participated. The District Assembly is composed of voting members who are elected in order to make decisions, and executive members who are responsible for providing information or technical assistance to the voting members so that they can make decisions. Members of the Manufahi District Assembly come from the Sub-Districts of Same, Alas, Fatuberliu and Turiscaí.

This training was important for the Assemblies to be able to plan local development well and respond to the needs of the people. The training explained the work and responsibility of the Assembly members during the LDP processes of planning, implementation and monitor-



**Photo: Manufahi District Assembly Members participate in the LDP training**

ing. Training also focused on how the Assemblies would hold consultations and the decision-making process in planning for local development.

The training was not just based on theory, but also had various practical activities for the participants in order for them to understand how to put in to practice their work and responsibilities as Assembly members and in order to serve the people that they represent.

The training also provided methods for how the Assembly members would prioritize and decide on development projects in the district

and sub-district level. The tool that was taught is the 'Parallel classification, using Multi-Sectors and Multi-Criteria' method.

For the administration and archiving part of their work as Local Assemblies, during the training various formats were provided for the Assemblies, including the priority format, description format, minutes, estimation of the cost of the project, as well as other formats. Participants were taught how to use these formats, and also how to write reports, archive information and how to inform the community.

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## Name and Quotation — about the LDP Training in Manufahi

**Name:** Jose Antonio C. Braz, Development Official for Manufahi District

### **Quotation:**

“Friends, members of the Assembly, we have waited for and looked for the central government to believe in us, and now the time has come. Before we receive their trust completely, they are testing us through the Local Development Programme, and therefore we must use this opportunity to show that we, too, are capable.”



## 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!

### Local Government as the Key to Development



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### Support provided by:

Local Governance Support Programme  
and



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Participants received books about Ministerial Diplomas with directives and regulations from MSATM in order to regulate and administrate their work and responsibility as Local Assemblies, and also received a training book as a guideline for how to do their work well.

After the training was completed at the district level, an additional day of training was provided to the members of the Sub-District Development Commission (SDDC) in each Sub-District.

Training for the SDDC was about the work and responsibility of the SDDCs, and also how the SDDC can facilitate the consultation process at the

Suco (Village) and Aldeia (Sub-Village) level in order to determine the priorities and recommendations that they should make to the District Assembly about projects. Because of this, in order to finish the training, participants also make an action plan about how they would do the consultation program in the Suco and Aldeia level in 2008.

LDP, through practical trainings, will continue to accompany the work of the Local Assemblies in order to ensure that the Local Assemblies can accomplish completely and thoroughly their work and responsibilities. The next trainings will be held about on the finance system and the tender process.

## Interview: Hope for the Future of Decentralization

Decentralization will benefit the community and also change the life of the people because with decentralization, Local Government will have many initiatives for developing their community. This statement is from Mr. Miguel Pereira, the National Director of Administration and Finances in the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management during an interview that was held in his office.

The Director continued that when the Government is closer to the people, the community is also closer to the Government, and therefore the community will have the opportunity to articulate their needs through the local governments.

Assemblies will, in the future, be elected from the people, and therefore will think only of serving the community and not simply serve themselves. In addition, if perhaps the elected members do not want to serve their community, and only serve themselves, then certainly in the following election that will not be elected to a seat on the local assembly.

When the community has already started to participate in their local development, the community can also influence local government policies on how development is conducted in their area. And when the community expresses their thoughts and wishes, sometimes they feel that no one hears, but with local government they can speak to the local authorities, and local government can be responsible for responding to the needs and wishes of their community.

All of this means that when local government is able to respond to the needs of the people, this, by a little or by a lot, improve the lives of the people.

Development takes place over a long time, and the reduction of poverty also takes a long time, but



**Miguel Pereira, Director of National Administration and Finances, MSATM**

what needs to be done is to establish a good democracy in our nation, through the participation of the people, so that they can get good responses from their local government.

We asked the Director: how will people's lives improve through decentralization?

The director gave the example of a road that has fallen into disrepair at the sub-district or district-level. When the local government has been established, community representatives can sit in on the local assemblies. The local assembly may decide that the bad road is the highest priority for the community; therefore the local government's budget will be allocated to fix the road. This means that they also understand that other priorities will have to wait, however this also means that their lives improved a little bit, just through speaking to their local government. If they don't speak, or if they don't want to participate, then there are no benefits from decentralization. But improving the lives of the people can come from the participation of the people in the development process, and through the local government of their area.