



Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

Volume I, Edition IX
September 2008

Local Government as the Key to Development

Baucau District Assembly Proves Local Management Capability

On September 18, 2008, the District Assembly of Baucau debated on the 2009 investment plan and decided on six projects that had been proposed for this current year, the 2008 budget, and adding four new proposals. In the meeting room of the District Administration, Assembly members discussed and debated different ways to prioritize the 26 proposed projects, and finally voted on nine



An executive member of the Baucau District Assembly debates about different options for allocating the 2009 Local Development Funds on 18 September 2008

projects to receive funding from the expected Local Development Fund 2009 allocation, and one to receive the remainder from the 2008 budget.

The decision on which proposals to fund, and which to defer until 2010, was a difficult one for the local assembly members to make. Proposals come from community consultation, thus reflect the needs and aspirations of the people the Assembly members represent.

The Executive Secretary of the Baucau District Assembly, Sr. Antonio Augusto Guterres, explained that the Assembly had to prioritize projects because the total expected budget for 2009, however, would probably not have enough funds needed for the 26 projects which were proposed by individual Sucos and recommended

by the Sub-District Development Committees for funding. "I don't believe that the budget for 2009 will be much bigger than the budget for 2008, and because of this we should only recommend projects which have the highest priority [for our district]. In order to correspond to the estimated budget from the technical staff, we can only recommend 10 projects, because anything more than that will be too expensive," said Executive Secretary Guterres.

After the meeting, most Assembly members were pleased with the proposals that were approved for the 2009 draft investment plan. Some members, however, were disappointed that the proposals from their sub-district or suco were not included in the list of projects that the Assembly plans to fund. According to José Vicente Pereira, a representative from the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management observing the meeting, the main lessons from these meetings are not which projects are funded, but how the Assembly members choose the projects based on community needs and following regulations. "A good result is not that all proposals are approved, but that Assembly members decide on projects that are important for development in Baucau, and make decisions based on Baucau District's development needs in general," said Mr. Vicente.

The main topic of this meeting of the District Assembly was to discuss development priorities and the allocation of the 2009 budget. Assembly members also raised concerns about the impending rainy season, and urged the executive members to ensure projects from the 2008 investment plan are completed before the rains start.

Mr. Antonio Augusto Guterres, the Executive Secretary of the Baucau District Assembly, gives interviews to journalists about the Assembly's work and the LD P programme



Baucau District:

Priority Projects in the District's Draft 2009 Investment Plan

Priority projects at the sub-district level are:

- Installation of a water system in Lakuliu Quelecai
- Construction of a primary school in Osso Gori Venilale
- Building of a small market in Lavateri Baguia
- The rehabilitation of a health post in Ostico Vemasse
- Construction of sanitation facilities in Bahu that will use the remainder of the 2008 budget

Priority projects at the district level are:

- Building of a small road in Uaibobo Venilale
- Rehabilitation of the road from Triloka to Lolibo, Vemasse
- Rehabilitation of the road from Laga to Bileha in Laga
- Building of a secondary school in Baguia
- Building of a secondary school in Vemasse



Decentralization

In Brief

- 7-10 October: Study Tour Visit from the Laos Saravane Governance, Public Administration Reform and Decentralization Service Delivery Project
- Discussion of Local Governance Laws in the Council of Ministers
- Finalization of the 2009 Draft Investment Plans
- 10 October 2008: Launching of the Ministry's Website

Radio Talk Show helps Assembly Share Information

On 18 September 2008 in Baucau, at 7:30 in the evening, the Baucau Community Radio station, Lian Mate Bian (RCLM) stopped their regular program to announce the broadcasting of a talk show. The topic of the talk show was the Local Development Programme (LDP), and the presenters were members of the Baucau District Assembly. The objective of the talk show was to share information about their work to the community, because if everyone understands the program then they can participate in LDP.



Representatives from the Baucau District Assembly at the Community Radio Station Preparing for the Talk Show

With LDP, the proposals for development come directly from the community, so when people have access to information about the process they can also understand how they can participate in LDP. Holding a talk show with the local media station also helped the local journalists engage with the LDP process, so that they too can understand how it works and encourage community participation.

Before the talk show began, the first thing that was prepared was the list of presenters—and also nominating someone to be the narrator. Then, journalists and the Assembly members discussed how to prepare the program. They asked questions like the following:

- Who is our audience?
- What are the topics we want to focus on?
- Does our audience understand this topic already? What do they not know about this

topic and about the LDP program?

• What do they want to know?

After thinking about the objectives for the talk show, they picked three or four main ideas that they wanted to share during the talk show, so that the topic of the talk show would not wander off into unrelated issues.

One of the main objectives of a talk show is to explain clearly the work of the Assembly members and LDP to the public. Therefore the best talk shows present information that is correct, clear, understandable to the people who are listening and has a few main points that the audience won't forget.

In the Baucau District, they have started this process already. In the future, they plan to continue to share public information to ensure that all of Baucau District understands the work of the Assemblies and can help the Assemblies with the development of the nation.

Photos from the Swearing in Ceremony, 12 September 2008

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



On the 12th of September the Minister of State Administration and Territorial Management held the Swearing in Ceremony at the INAP Office in Comoro, Dili. During this ceremony, six directors, 25 heads of departments and the District Administrator of Oecusse received their posts. During the ceremony, the Minister said that civic servants should serve all the people with impartiality for the future of the nation.



On the left, the Minister of MSATM Arcângelo Leite with the Director of Civil Service Mr. Liborio Pereira, during the opening of the ceremony. On the right, Directors in MSATM wait to be sworn in and official begin working in their new capacities. Above, the signing of the book at the moment that each public servant officially is sworn in. Also participating in the ceremony was the Secretary of State for Administrative Reform and the Secretary of State for the Region of Oecusse.

