



[UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION]

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TIMOR LESTE'S GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES PUBLIC DISPLAY OF PILOT LAND DATA COLLECTION IN MANATUTO AND LIQUICA

Today the Minister of Justice, Lucia Lobato, and the Director of the National Directorate for Land, Property and Cadastral Services (DNTPSC), Antonio Verdial de Sousa, launched the public display of the pilot land data collection areas in Liquica and Manatuto.

The land data and claims collection process was authorized by the Minister of Justice in Ministerial Decree 229/2008 of 1 July 2008. This decree also requires the DNTPSC to publish all the data gathered for a minimum period of 30 days. In the pilot areas, the DNTPSC has decided on a public display period of six weeks, beginning on the 5th of June 2009 and closing on the 17th of July.

The areas which will be included in this public display period are:

- Liquica District: Sub-District of Liquica, Suco Data, Aldeia Leopa; and
- Manatuto District: Sub-District of Manatuto, Suco Maabat, Aiteas, Sau, and Ailili; Aldeia Maabat, Bi'uac, Sau, and Ailili.

Public display is a critical process that guarantees the transparency of the land claims collected, since it provides an opportunity for the public to verify all the land claims that were collected at the community level. During the public display period, a new claim can be made, or a counter-claim can be made to dispute another claim. Once the public display period has closed, new claims and counter-claims will no longer be accepted in the closed areas.

During the public display period, land maps and the names and photographs of each claimant can be found at 4 levels: locally in the relevant aldeia or suco; at the district DNTPSC and Ita Nia Rai offices; nationally at the DNTPSC headquarters in Bebora, Dili; and internationally via the Ministry of Justice's webpage, at: <http://www.mj.gov.tl/pt/index.php?p=55>.

According to Decree 229/2008, once the public display period has closed for an area, the data will be considered official, and the Government may use this information as the basis for land titling according to the forthcoming Transitional Land Law.

This initiative is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the 'Ita Nia Rai' ("Our Land") program, a five-year, \$10 million dollar project that is supporting the DNTPSC and the Ministry of Justice to develop a land administration framework for independent Timor-Leste.

- Remata -

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