

Mid-Year Report La'o Hamutuk January – June 2018

La'o Hamutuk's vision

The people of Timor-Leste, women and men, of current and future generations, will live in peace and contentment. They will control a transparent, just and sustainable development process which respects all people's cultures and rights. All citizens will benefit from Timor-Leste's resources, and will accept the responsibility for protecting them.

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La'o Hamutuk

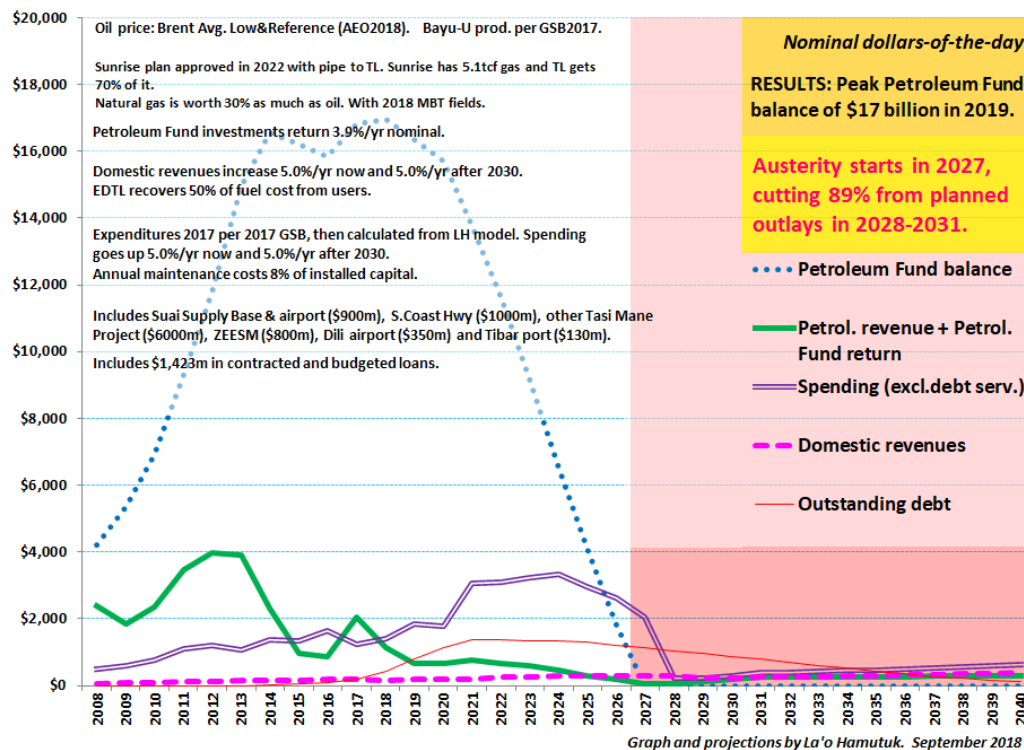
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Mission and Situational Context

La'o Hamutuk ("Walking Together" in English) is an independent, Timor-Leste non-governmental organization which monitors, analyzes and reports on development processes in Timor-Leste, particularly the programs and policies of the national government and international agencies operating in the country. La'o Hamutuk produces fact-based analysis in order to educate the public on the decisions being made by its representatives. We also consult with and lobby decision makers in government, Parliament and international agencies to advocate for more equitable, sustainable and people-focused policies.

Timor-Leste has been heavily dependent on oil revenues for the last decade. During 2017, 88% of state spending was funded by oil revenues and investment returns from the Petroleum Fund. This reliance on oil money has caused Timor-Leste to fall into the 'resource curse', which has manifested in a lack of long-term planning and neglect of non-oil sectors and economic diversification. Symptoms of the resource curse can be seen year after year in State budgets that prioritize infrastructure and mega-projects over basic services, such as education, health and access to clean water.

Timor-Leste has already received more than 95% of the revenues it will receive from its developed oil and gas fields (mainly Bayu-Undan). Even if an agreement is made soon on the development of Greater Sunrise oil and gas field, significant revenues from this field will likely not reach Timor-Leste for another ten years, by which point the Petroleum Fund could be entirely depleted. Over the lifespan of the field, Greater Sunrise will bring in less revenues for Timor-Leste than Bayu-Undan has already. Therefore, we do not expect that Greater Sunrise can finance high levels of spending over the long term.



When oil money runs out, it will be crucial for Timor-Leste to have developed productive non-oil sectors and diversified its economy. Agriculture, which is the livelihood of over 2/3 of the working age population, will be an important key to diversification. However, to date it has been largely ignored as a sector, having been allotted only 1.6% of the 2017 budget.

2017 and 2018 were important years for politics in Timor-Leste. After the 2017 elections, Parliament was unable to form a majority and therefore unable to pass the government program or 2018 State Budget. This has forced the government to use the “duodecimal system” since January 2018, under which the government can spend 1/12 of the previous year’s budget each month. This system was designed to allow the state to continue functioning until a new Budget could be passed.

At the end of January, President Francisco Guterres “Lu-Olo” dissolved Parliament and called for new Parliamentary elections. During a peaceful campaign season, the parties and coalitions presented their platforms, many of which promised increased investment in important areas such as health, education and agriculture. La'o Hamutuk hopes that these pre-election promises will be reflected in the actual State Budget and Program.

On 12 May, the people of Timor-Leste headed to the polls to vote in the Fifth Parliamentary Election. This election was deemed democratic, transparent, fair and free by national and international observers, including La'o Hamutuk. The results of the elections were: AMP – 34 seats, Fretilin – 23 seats, PD – 5 seats and FDD – 3 seats in Timor-Leste’s 5th Parliament.

La'o Hamutuk urges the new Parliament and Government to put the needs of the people first and increase investment in education, health, agriculture and access to clean water.

The following describes some major results of our work between January and June 2018:

- On 6 March, after decades of advocacy from La'o Hamutuk, civil society and activists, Australia and Timor-Leste finally signed a treaty declaring a permanent maritime boundary according to the international standard median line. La'o Hamutuk congratulates the two nations on the agreement and for finally respecting Timor-Leste’s national sovereignty. After the treaty was signed, La'o Hamutuk sent a submission to the Australian Parliament calling on them to quickly ratify the treaty and to return the money from oil revenues it has stolen from territories it now recognizes are Timor-Leste’s.¹
- Timor-Leste experienced its highest voter-turnout since independence for the 2018 Parliamentary Elections with 81% of registered voters casting their vote on 12 May. Timorese voters were able to make informed voting decisions, in part due to a series of televised debates, brochures and radio programs produced by La'o Hamutuk during the campaign season.

¹ <http://laohamutuk.org/Oil/Boundary/JSCT/2018/LHtoJSCT18Apr2018.pdf>

- La'ó Hamutuk staff members served as national observers of the 2018 Parliamentary Election, ensuring free, fair and transparent voting procedures. Many of La'ó Hamutuk's recommendations from our observer report from the 2017 Parliamentary and Presidential elections were adopted for the 2018 election, such as allowing people to vote in a location other than the municipality in which they are registered.
- La'ó Hamutuk gave presentations at various national and international conferences, including presentations on the new land laws², and the sustainability of Timor-Leste's state finances³ at the Timor-Leste Update conference at Australian National University; a presentation on Dollarization at the Institute of Business seminar in Timor-Leste; and a presentation on the new maritime boundary treaty at Joao Saldanha University.
- La'ó Hamutuk was interviewed and cited more than 53 times in national and international media.

Program Activities

During the first half of 2018, La'ó Hamutuk continued to monitor, research and analyze the activities of the Timor-Leste Government and international agencies. We published our analyses, as well as hosted public meetings and consultations to help educate both the people of Timor-Leste and government officials. La'ó Hamutuk believes that an informed and participatory public, as well as evidence-based decision-making are essential for Timor-Leste's development.

Many organizations and individuals, including Government agencies, continue to rely on La'ó Hamutuk as a source of independent, factual information. Dozens of local and international researchers, NGOs, academics and development partners sought our perspective and expertise on Timor-Leste's economic and social context.

La'ó Hamutuk gave many interviews to local and international journalists, and appeared as panelists and moderators during public and televised debates. In collaboration with TV Edukasaun and Core Group on Transparency, we produced a series of eleven debates on various topics for representatives of all political parties and coalitions during the 2018 Parliamentary campaigns (see Appendix 3).

We also gave several briefings and presentations on economic sustainability, petroleum dependency and other topics to various groups, including visiting student groups and at academic conferences. (See Appendix 3)

We published many updates to our webpages, as well as created several new ones on the La'ó Hamutuk website (www.laohamutuk.org), which are in both Tetum and English. We also continued to add new information to our Reference page.⁴ Major new pages or updates published in the first half of 2018 include:

² <http://laohamutuk.org/Agri/land/2018/LandLaw.pdf>

³ <http://laohamutuk.org/econ/briefing/ScheinerANUJun2018en.pdf>

⁴ <http://laohamutuk.org/DVD/DVDIndexEn.htm> or <http://laohamutuk.org/DVD/DVDIndexTe.htm>

- Updated the webpage on the maritime boundary dispute 22 times as Timor-Leste and Australia signed a treaty establishing a permanent maritime boundary.
- Created a new webpage on the national curriculum for preschool and primary education,⁵ which informed the public about proposed changes to the curriculum and provided background, a sampling of curriculum materials, and documents to support fact-based policy discussions.
- Created a new webpage on the Early Parliamentary Elections⁶, with information on each party/coalition, explanation of the D'Hondt seat allocation method, results of the elections, our observer report⁷, and our open letter to newly elected members of parliament.⁸
- Updated our webpage on 2017 State Budget with information about the duo-decimal system.⁹

During the first half of 2018, people accessed our webpages an average of 16,900 times every day. Many of our webpages and articles are reposted on online journals, blogs and other media, so our actual readership is larger than our data indicates.

We also posted eight new blog entries, which were viewed 49,000 times during the six-month period. Our main new articles from the first half of 2018 are as follows:

- Potential of Small Processing Industry for Agricultural Products¹⁰
- 18 years Later: Should Timor-Leste Drop the Dollar?¹¹
- The Timor-Leste-Australia Maritime Boundary Treaty¹²
- Learning from our past to craft educational policy¹³
- Early election gives majority to AMP¹⁴
- Together we can! Trust in ourselves, move forward!¹⁵

⁵ <http://laohamutuk.org/educ/18CurriculumEn.htm> or
<http://laohamutuk.org/educ/18CurriculumTe.htm> or
<http://laohamutuk.org/educ/18CurriculumPt.htm>

⁶ <http://laohamutuk.org/Justice/2018/ElPar/18AntElec.htm>

⁷ <http://laohamutuk.org/Justice/2018/ElPar/LHRelObsEAMaiu2018.pdf>

⁸ <http://laohamutuk.org/Justice/2018/ElPar/KartaAbertaPNJun2018te.pdf>

⁹ <http://laohamutuk.org/econ/OGE17/16OGE17.htm>

¹⁰ <http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/03/potensia-industria-kiik-prosesamentu.html>

¹¹ <http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/03/18-years-later-should-timor-drop-us.html> or

<http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/03/depois-tinan-18-presiza-atu-husik-dolar.html>

¹² <http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/03/the-timor-leste-australia-maritime.html>

¹³ <http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/04/learning-from-our-past-to-craft-good.html> or

<http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/04/aprende-husi-pasadu-hodi-konstrui.html>

¹⁴ <http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/05/early-election-gives-majority-to-amp.html> or

<http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/05/eleisaun-antesipada-fo-maioria-ba-amp.html>

¹⁵ <http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/07/together-we-can-trust-in-ourselves-move.html> or

<http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/07/hamutuk-ita-bele-fiar-lao-ba-oin.html>

We also produced four Tetum-language radio programs, which were broadcast on seven community radio stations in rural areas:¹⁶

Date	Topic	Participants
January 2018	Voices of the Voters on the Early Elections	Joana de Jesus Soares (UNTL Student), Frederico Hornay (Manager of the Inclusive Program in the SOVER Center), Domingus do Reis (UNTL Student), Julio da Silva (UNDIL Professor), Carly Munnelly (LH)
February 2018	Voices of the Atauro Community on ZEESM	Zito Freitas Ximenes (Administration Official for Atauro), Mariano da Cruz (President of the Fishing Cooperative Federation of Atauro), Putri does Santos (Students at ICS), Jonas Fernandes (National Parliament Member), Daniel Martins (Xefe Suku Bikeli), Pinto Araujo (Youth from Makadadi)
May 2018	Small Industries for Agricultural Processing	Antonio da Costa (General Director of Industry and Cooperatives in the Ministry of Commercial Industry and Environment), Natersia Matos da Costa Lemos (Coordinator for the Processing Group TRM-OCA in Baucau) and Adilson da Costa Junior (LH)
June 2018	Food Sovereignty	Rofino Soares Gusmão (Department Head of Food Production in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), Eugenio Lemos (activist from Environment and Permaculture Timor-Leste, PERMATIL)

Additionally, La'ó Hamutuk published our *Bulletin*,¹⁷ which has been distributed widely across NGOs, academics, national and international researchers, members of government and published on our website. Alongside articles reworked from blog and webpage additions already mentioned above, the *Bulletin* also includes an article about Timor-Leste's first Freedom of Information Law (Decree-Law 43/2016) and a political cartoon conveying the experience of La'ó Hamutuk and other NGOs in accessing official documents related to the National Curriculum.

Analysis, Monitoring and Research

Economy and natural resources

State Budget, economy and fiscal sustainability

Since Parliament was unable to pass a 2018 State Budget Law before September, the government had to use the “duo-decimal” system to manage its state finances starting in January. The duo-decimal system is outlined in the Budget and Financial Management Law and allows the government to spend up to 1/12 of the previous year's budget each month. The duo-decimal system enables the State to function when enactment of the annual budget is delayed.

However, the duo-decimal system was never intended to be used as a long term solution and cannot sustain State activities for more than a few months. In the beginning of 2018, La'ó Hamutuk estimated that the Treasury would run out of money by June, likely before the 2018 budget would be passed. We raised this with the Minister

¹⁶ <http://laohamutuk.org/media/radio.htm>

¹⁷ <http://laohamutuk.org/Bulletin/2018/May/bulletinv19n1en.html> or <http://laohamutuk.org/Bulletin/2018/May/bulletinv19n1te.html>

of Finance and the Petroleum Fund Director of the Central Bank and researched whether it was legal to transfer money from the Petroleum Fund to the Treasury without Parliamentary approval. In May, the State Treasury fell so low that the government instructed the Central Bank to transfer \$70 million from the Petroleum Fund to the State. La'o Hamutuk will continue to monitor and engage with State finances, transfers from the Petroleum Fund, and legislative measures to deal with the cash flow problem.

In January, La'o Hamutuk was invited to present¹⁸ at an IOB Seminar entitled "Can Timor-Leste have its own currency? Perspectives and Challenges", alongside the Minister of Finance, a Director of the Central Bank and a Professor from Monash University. All of the presenters, including La'o Hamutuk, agreed that Timor-Leste is not yet ready for its own currency due to oil dependency, lack of diversified export sectors and a weak financial market. We also published a blog¹⁹ and *Bulletin* article summarizing our findings.

La'o Hamutuk continued to monitor and publish updates²⁰ on the Petroleum Fund, which finished 2017 with the highest end-of-year balance to date. However, most of the recent gains were from unrealized investment returns and changes in foreign exchange rates. In meeting with the Petroleum Fund Director of the Central Bank, we expressed concerns that this trend should not be expected to continue long-term, and it remains vital for the government to stop withdrawing more than the Estimated Sustainable Income (ESI) level from the PF. If high withdrawals continue, La'o Hamutuk projects that the Petroleum Fund could be completely depleted by 2027. We will continue to engage with the Petroleum Fund's managers at the Central Bank and Ministry of Finance to encourage responsible and sustainable spending, ensuring Timor-Leste's prosperity for generations to come.

In June, La'o Hamutuk presented on the sustainability of state finances in Timor-Leste at the Timor-Leste Update sponsored by the Australian National University. This presentation discussed the impact of high government spending, planned mega-infrastructure projects, and declining oil revenues on Timor-Leste's finances.²¹

TimorGAP, the Tasi Mane Project and Onshore Petroleum Exploration

La'o Hamutuk continued to monitor the promotion and implementation of the Tasi Mane Project by the national oil company, TimorGAP, and raised the issue with policy makers and journalists, as well as in many of our own publications.

In May, La'o Hamutuk traveled to Suai with Core Group on Transparency to meet with the local community and members of government to discuss the impacts of the Tasi Mane project on the lives of the people. Also in May, we met with the President of TimorGAP to discuss preliminary findings from this collaborative research.

¹⁸ <http://laohamutuk.org/econ/curr/LHMoedaIOB29Jan2018.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/03/18-years-later-should-timor-drop-us.html>

²⁰ <http://laohamutuk.org/Oil/PetFund/05PFIndex.htm>

²¹ <http://www.laohamutuk.org/econ/briefing/ScheinerANUJun2018en.pdf>

In January, La'o Hamutuk published a new webpage on regulating onshore petroleum operations²² describing the history and our analysis of the proposed Decree-Law for Onshore Petroleum Operations in Timor-Leste and our 16-page submission²³ to ANPM. We will continue to monitor developments related to onshore oil and gas exploration and contracting.

Transparency and accountability

La'o Hamutuk continued to urge the Government to implement and improve transparency and accountability throughout the first half of 2018. We wrote an article on Decree-Law 43/2016, Rules Relating to Access to Official Documents (published in our *Bulletin*), which, shares important information about Timor-Leste's current Freedom of Information Law and recommends how to improve official transparency and accountability. Alongside other recommendations, we called on the Government to improve its transparency via the Internet, to publish information in a more timely and regular manner, and to ensure all laws are available in both Tetun and Portuguese, as Law No. 1/2002 requires.

La'o Hamutuk continues to monitor Timor-Leste's participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and publish updates on our webpage.²⁴ In February, the EITI international Board ended the suspension of Timor-Leste for its late publication of reports, determining determined that Timor-Leste again meets all the requirements of the international EITI standard.

We continued to be the Timor-Leste researcher and contact for the International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Survey (OBS) project, and circulated the 2017 Open Budget Survey when it was released in April.²⁵

Maritime boundary

On 6 March, Timor-Leste and Australia signed a Maritime Boundaries Treaty at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Treaty follows international practice drawing the boundary at the median line between the two countries and lays out potential revenue-sharing options for Greater Sunrise depending on where the gas is processed (if it is processed in Darwin, Timor-Leste will receive 80% of upstream revenues and if it is processed in Timor-Leste, we will receive 70% of revenues).

Although the treaty was signed early in the morning, Dili time, La'o Hamutuk hosted a celebration in our office, with live-streamed video of the signing ceremony and participation by many members of the Movement Against the Occupation of the Timor Sea (MKOTT), journalists, veterans, officials and activists. After the ceremony, we made a procession of appreciation to the Australian embassy -- a welcome change from the numerous protests we have organized there since 2004.

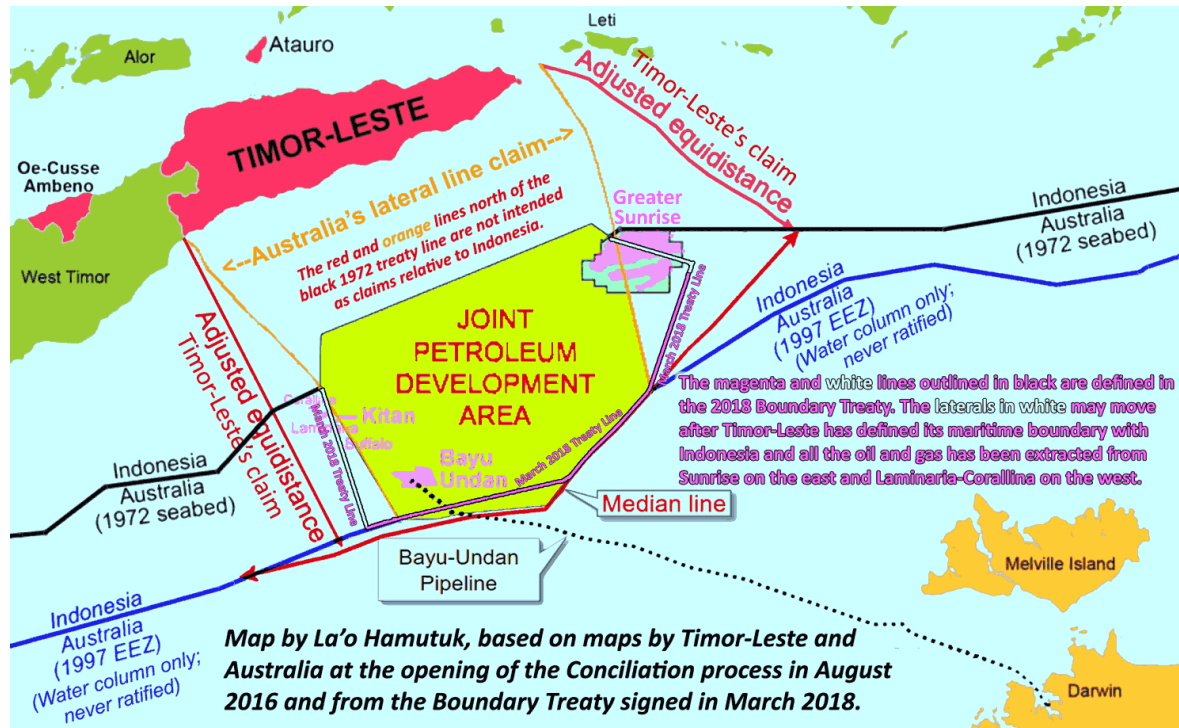
²² <http://laohamutuk.org/Oil/onshore/17OnshorePetrolRegs.htm>

²³ <http://laohamutuk.org/Oil/onshore/LHSubDecreeLawOnshorePetroActivities15Aug2017en.pdf>

²⁴ <http://laohamutuk.org/Oil/EITI/10EITIndex.htm>

²⁵ <http://laohamutuk.org/DVD/2018/IBPLH30Apr2018en.pdf>
<http://laohamutuk.org/DVD/2018/TLinOBS2017en.pdf>

We analyzed the details of the treaty and created this map explaining its content.



La'o Hamutuk frequently updated our webpage with a wide range of materials on the boundary issue, and gave many interviews to national and international media. We also presented our analysis of the Treaty at Joao Saldanha University in March, and met with the government's Maritime Boundary Office to improve mutual understanding.

In late March, the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties invited submissions to its process for ratifying the Treaty. La'o Hamutuk sent a five-page submission²⁶ asking Australia to return the \$5 billion it has taken from Timor-Leste's territory, to ratify the treaty quickly and unconditionally, and to rejoin international mechanisms for resolving maritime boundary disputes.

Environment

During the first half of 2018, La'o Hamutuk continued to monitor the implementation of environmental licensing laws and compliance (or lack thereof) by developers.

In March, La'o Hamutuk met with the Vice Minister for Development of Housing, Planning and Environment and his technical team to discuss the implementation of the Environmental Licensing law.

In June, La'o Hamutuk gave a presentation to journalists at the Media Development Center to strengthen their capacity to report on environmental issues in Timor-Leste.

²⁶ <http://laohamutuk.org/Oil/Boundary/JSCT/2018/LHtoJSCT18Apr2018.pdf>

Our presentation²⁷ was on the implementation of the environmental licensing laws and their relationship with infrastructure development projects.

Statistics and data on Timor-Leste

We continued to communicate with government, international agencies and international reporters to improve statistics and data relating to Timor-Leste. This included monitoring Petroleum production and revenue reports and bringing discrepancies to the attention of the ANPM and Central Bank, researching and fact-checking statistics presented in the international media, and analyzing reports produced by the Directorate-General for Statistics and others.

We also provided comments on numerous academic papers and international reports, including the 2018 UNDP National Human Development Report, and the World Bank's Timor-Leste Update.

During the first half of 2018, a number of important international agencies changed their top personnel here, and La'o Hamutuk helped the newcomers improve their understanding of Timor-Leste. We provided a briefing for the new U.S. Ambassador and her key staff, and hosted the new Australian Ambassador and the new UN Resident Representative in our office for get-acquainted meetings. We also met frequently with technical experts from the ADB and World Bank, sharing information and encouraging them to prioritize more equitable and sustainable development. As the U.S. government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) developed its upcoming program in Timor-Leste, we interacted with them many times in an effort to make the program beneficial for the less privileged people of the country.

Agriculture

Food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture

We provided our feedback and analysis to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through La'o Hamutuk's Submission on the draft Mechanization policy,²⁸ and Submission on the draft Pesticide Law,²⁹ and consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In June, we broadcast a radio program about sustainable agriculture, which included interviews with the Manager of the Department of Food Production in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and an activist from PERMATIL, the environmental organization promoting permaculture in Timor-Leste.

We also updated our own data and information on food production in Timor-Leste based on government and international agencies' reports.

²⁷ <http://laohamutuk.org/Agri/EnvLaw/2018/FMDJornalizmuJun2018te.pdf>

²⁸ <http://laohamutuk.org/Agri/2018/LHDraftMechanizationPolicy01Mar18en.pdf>

²⁹ <http://laohamutuk.org/Agri/2017/LHLeiPestisida02Jul2017en.pdf> or <http://laohamutuk.org/Agri/2017/LHLeiPestisida02Jul2017te.pdf>

Small Agriculture Processing Industry

During the first half of 2018, La'o Hamutuk continued our research on food processing in five Municipalities: Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima, and Dili.

In February, La'o Hamutuk organized a public seminar entitled "Challenges and Potential for the Development of Small Agriculture Processing Industry in Timor-Leste", which included speakers from La'o Hamutuk, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and NGO PARCIC. We presented the findings from our research and published articles on our blog³⁰ and in our *Bulletin*.³¹

In May we produced a radio program on this topic which included interviews with the General Director of Industry and Cooperatives in the Ministry of Commercial Industry and Environment, a Coordinator of the Processing Group, TRM-OCA in Baucau and a La'o Hamutuk staff member.

Land rights

La'o Hamutuk closely followed and participated in the creation of the Land Laws, which were passed and promulgated in 2017. During 2018, we continued to monitor the process of implementing these laws and developing complementary laws and policies.

In collaboration with other members of the Land Network, we have identified that more than 15 complementary laws and decree-laws are needed to properly implement the primary Land Laws. In March, La'o Hamutuk and other members of the Land Network presented our analysis and specific recommendations to the Justice Ministry.

We published an article in our *Bulletin*³² discussing a brief timeline of the Land Laws and some recommendations to ensure proper implementation of the Laws. We also continued to update our webpage with new information as it is made available.³³

In March, La'o Hamutuk gave a presentation on land registration with respect to the new Land Laws at a training organized by Oxfam and Tahan Consulting.

In June, La'o Hamutuk gave a presentation on the impacts of these Laws on rural communities at the Timor-Leste Update at the Australian National University.³⁴

Governance and Democracy

Elections

In January, President Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres called for early Parliamentary Elections following the Fourth Parliament's inability to pass a program or state budget. Within this context, La'o Hamutuk helped raise public awareness around party and coalition platforms, policies and programs, as well as shared our perspective on key

³⁰ <http://laohamutuk.org/Bulletin/2018/May/bulletinv19n1en.html#agri>

³¹ <http://laohamutuk.org/Bulletin/2018/May/bulletinv19n1te.html#ambiente>

³² http://laohamutuk.org/Bulletin/2018/May/bulletinv19n1en.html#Lei_ba_Rai

³³ <http://laohamutuk.org/Agri/land/17LandTe.htm>

³⁴ <http://laohamutuk.org/Agri/land/2018/LandLaw.pdf>

challenges facing Timor-Leste. We distributed questionnaires³⁵ to each party or coalition, disseminated a brochure³⁶ with questions for voters to ask of campaigning politicians, and broadcast a radio program³⁷ with interviews of voters and community members. We also consistently updated our webpage³⁸, and encouraged voters to ask candidates about their stances on key issues.

La'ó Hamutuk also collaborated with TVE and Core Group on Transparency to produce a series of televised debates with representatives from each party/coalition. The debates covered a broad range of topics, including education, economics, state finances, gender, health, and human rights.

During the campaign period and election day, La'ó Hamutuk staff acted as National Observers in Dili and various municipalities and found that the elections were carried out in a transparent, free and democratic manner. After election day, we submitted an official observer report³⁹ to the Technical Secretary of Electoral Administration (STAE) and the National Commission of Elections (CNE) detailing our observations and recommendations for the future.

La'ó Hamutuk published one of the first announcements of the results of the election on our blog,⁴⁰ with information about the number of seats allocated to each party/coalition and lists of the candidates from each party to take seats in Parliament.

In the immediate post-election period, many observers, journalists and civil society people were confused about the system for allocating Parliamentary seats: The D'Hondt method. La'ó Hamutuk produced a detailed explanation⁴¹ about the system, including an explanatory video⁴² to help explain the method.

La'ó Hamutuk sent an open letter⁴³ to the newly elected members of Parliament welcoming them to Parliament and encouraging them to prioritize the needs of the people over partisan interests. Specifically, we urged them to approve the Anti-Corruption Law and to reject the Mining Law which comes with serious environmental and social risks. We encouraged them to use their Constitutional power to review and reject two Decree-Laws which would essentially scrap the current Preschool and Primary Curricula. We also reminded them of the pressing need to diversify the economy and invest in basic services, such as access to clean water, health and education.

We created a new webpage⁴⁴ on the VIII Constitutional Government, with information about their proposed Government Program and links to important documents.

³⁵ <http://laohamutuk.org/justice/2018/ElPar/LHkestionnaire12Apr2018te.pdf>

³⁶ <http://laohamutuk.org/justice/2018/ElPar/BroxuraEA12Apr2018.pdf>

³⁷ <http://laohamutuk.org/media/2018/RadIgEleisaunJan2018.mp3>

³⁸ <http://laohamutuk.org/justice/2018/ElPar/18AntElec.htm>

³⁹ <http://laohamutuk.org/justice/2018/ElPar/LHRelObsEAMaiu2018.pdf>

⁴⁰ <http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/2018/05/early-election-gives-majority-to-amp.html>

⁴¹ <http://laohamutuk.org/justice/2018/ElPar/dHondtMay2018en.pdf>

⁴² <http://laohamutuk.org/justice/2018/ElPar/LHdHondt.mp4>

⁴³ <http://laohamutuk.org/justice/2018/ElPar/KartaAbertaPNJun2018te.pdf>

⁴⁴ <http://laohamutuk.org/misc/gov8/18VIIIGov.htm>

Education

In January, the Council of Ministers approved a proposal from the Ministry of Education and Culture to amend two 2015 Decree Laws defining the preschool and primary school curriculum. La'o Hamutuk and other members of the Advocacy Network for Education wrote a letter⁴⁵ to the President, asking him to not promulgate the proposed Decree-Laws until there was time to independently evaluate the curriculum in place and consider input from civil society. La'o Hamutuk and other NGOs worked hard to access the draft laws, but were unsuccessful in receiving them in time to give detailed input before they were promulgated by the President in early March.

La'o Hamutuk published a webpage⁴⁶ on this topic, which details the history of the curricula, includes key documents and materials related to the curricula, and is updated as more information is made available.

Human rights

In February, we participated in a civil society consultation for a Government report to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Also in February, we participated in the launch of the renovation of the *Chega!* Museum. We spoke both personally and publicly with leaders about the importance of the *Chega!* recommendations being incorporated in the Government program; specifically, as it relates to education and the curriculum.

La'o Hamutuk continues to fight for the rights of marginalized groups, including women, the LGBTQ community and people with disabilities. In April, La'o Hamutuk participated in the launch of a report by the National Women's Network and ASEAN SOGIE Caucus on the experiences of lesbian, bisexual and transgender violence in Timor-Leste, as well as a film launching on LGBTQ issues. We included information about these events and the growing movement for LGBTQ rights in our *Bulletin*. We also began researching Family Planning in Timor-Leste, with an emphasis on access to information and choice as a human right.

La'o Hamutuk continues to raise the issue of impunity for past crimes with PDHJ (Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice) and the Public Prosecutor, as well as other relevant entities.

We remain active in the Human Right's Defenders Network. Through this network, we called for human rights to be upheld throughout the elections, especially by public security officers. We continue to work closely and share information with those in this Network, as well as the U.N. Office on Human Rights and PDHJ.

⁴⁵ <http://laohamutuk.org/educ/2018/NGOPR8Feb2018en.pdf>

⁴⁶ <http://laohamutuk.org/educ/18CurriculumEn.htm#recent>

La'ó Hamutuk's Networks

Timor-Leste Networks

- Rede ba Rai (Land Network)
- HASATIL (Sustainable Agriculture Network)
- Core Group on Transparency (CGT)
- National Alliance for an International Tribunal (ANTI)
- Street Vendor's Rights Solidarity Group (informal)
- FONGTIL (Timor-Leste NGO Forum)
- Free East Timor Foundation
- MKOTT (Movement Against the Occupation of the Timor Sea)
- Human Rights Defenders Network
- Klibur Solidariedade (Solidarity Association)

International Networks

- International Budget Partnership
- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)
- International solidarity and human rights organizations, especially ETAN
- Timor Sea Justice Campaign, Australia
- Timor-Leste Studies Association (TLSA)
- Amnesty International
- OilWatch (especially in Southeast Asia)
- Publish What You Pay (PWYP)

Organizational Report

During the first half of 2018, La'ó Hamutuk research staff included Adilson da Costa, Berta Antonieta, Carly Munnely, Celestino Gusmão, Charles Scheiner, Huw Davies Bell, Juvinal Dias, Mariano Ferreira, Marta da Silva, Maximus Tahu, Niall Almond, Pamela Sexton, and Pelagio Doutel. Our Finance Officer was Ricarda Martins and Assistant in Finance and Administration was Martinha Fernandes. We also have three security employees and one cleaner.

Charles mostly worked part-time from the U.S. and came to Dili twice in March and June, when he worked full-time for 6 weeks each time.

La'ó Hamutuk had a number of changes in staffing during this reporting period. Pamela and Berta joined staff in January and April respectively. In March, Niall left to pursue his master's degree the United Kingdom, and the organization and Huw mutually agreed to not enter a new contract. In May, Juvinal left to complete his bachelor's degree; and in June, Pelagio left to move to England with his family. Therefore, as of June 2018 our research staff is made up of Adilson da Costa, Berta Antoineta, Carly Munnely, Celestino Gusmão, Charles Scheiner, Mariano Ferreira, Marta da Silva, Maximus Tahu, and Pamela Sexton.

We also accepted two Timorese interns in administration, Sri Jeconia Geovania Gomes and Estela J.M. Guterres from STVJ training center, one international intern on the Economics team, Georgia Kelsey, as well as a two volunteer election monitors, Roelof Lanting, and Sapna Reheem Shaila.

We began the recruitment process for new research staff in June by sharing a job announcement through local and international networks. We have already received

several national and international applications and are currently in the process of interviewing the candidates. We hope to have two new staff members starting in August or September.

We continued to increase the capacity of our staff:

- We organized a series of in-house training sessions, facilitated by staff member Charlie Scheiner, to strengthen understanding of topics related to Economics, Petroleum and State Finances.
- Insight, a partner of our donor Misereor, facilitated two trainings for our staff on Project Cycle Management and Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Two La'o Hamutuk staff, Maxi Tahu and Adilson da Costa, were supported by Hivos to participate in a week-long Financial Resilience Training in Jakarta.
- Marta da Silva participated in a two-day training facilitated by Hivos on how to write on the web, collect information and organize press conferences.
- Marta da Silva and Martinha Fernandes participated in a three-day "Elections Observation Training" organized by the European Union.
- All La'o Hamutuk staff participated in a one-day training facilitated by STAE and EU Electoral commission in Dili to prepare for observing the 2018 parliamentary elections.

In January, we completed our three-year strategic plan, which included revising our vision and mission and restructuring our research staff into six smaller teams (Agriculture & Land, Economics & Petroleum, Mega-Projects & Environment, State Finances, Governance & Human Rights, and Gender) as opposed to three broad teams (Economics & Natural Resource Governance, Agriculture & Land, and Governance & Human Rights). The Gender Team was added to ensure a feminist/gender perspective is incorporated in all our research, as well as doing some separate gender-specific analyses.

We also published our 2017 Annual Report⁴⁷ during the beginning of 2018.

⁴⁷ <http://laohamutuk.org/ARept/2017/LHAnnualReport2017en.pdf>

Appendix 1. Financial Report

This Mid-Year Report is being written before the end of the 2018 financial year. The figures below are preliminary and may differ from the final version in our Annual Report. All amounts are in U.S. dollars.

During the first half of 2018, we continued to receive project funding from Misereor (\$34,576), general support from the Norwegian embassy (administered by HIVOS, \$25,000) and The Asia Foundation (\$12,500). La'o Hamutuk signed a new contract with Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement - CCFD (France) and received the first installment of funding of \$34,967.

Balance Sheet

A more comprehensive balance sheet will be included in our Annual Report.

	Cash & bank balances ⁴⁸	General support donors	Project donors (Misereor)	LH Earned income	Reserve Funds
Balance 31 Dec 2017	79,938	12,282	10,185	677	56,794
Income Jan-Jun 2018	107,911	72,467	34,583	860	3,346
Expenses Jan-Jun 2018	91,674	55,498	34,576	-	4,946
Balance 30 June 2018	96,175	29,251	10,192	1,537	55,194

Revenues received during the first half of 2018

Source	Budget 2018	Half year budget	Actual received	Difference	Explanation
Norway/HIVOS grant	30,000	15,000	25,000	10,000	Includes money for 2H2018
Development and Peace grant	29,000	14,500	0	-14,500	D&P did not renew their funding on time.
CCFD grant	35,000	17,500	34,967	17,467	Annual grant received in the beginning of the year
The Asia Foundation grant	12,500	6,250	12,500	6,250	Annual grant received
Misereor project grant	89,400	44,700	34,576	-10,124	For specific project; balance carried over from 2017
Earned for services	4,200	2,100	250	-1,850	This is lower because AVI, whose volunteers we trained, closed their country office.
Interest, donations	1,400	700	618	-82	Bank interest and donations from individuals and organizations
Total	201,500	100,750	107,911	7,161	

⁴⁸ Includes bank accounts, cash, salary advances and program advances.

Expenditures during the first half of 2018

Category	Budget 2018	Half year budget	Actual spent	Difference	Explanation
1. Non-recurrent expenditure					
Capital Equipment	500	250	430	-180	Laptop
2. Staff costs					
Personnel	163,300	81,650	78,128	3,522	Salaries, Health Insurance, housing allowance, International staff air fare, Readjustment and visa fees.
Training for Staff	500	250	649	-399	
3. Project activities					
Bulletin	2,000	1,000	-	1,000	Printing paid for after reporting period
Public Meeting	1,000	500	485	15	
Radio Program	1,700	850	270	580	Continued broadcasting on some community radio stations
Research	3,500	1,750	165	1,585	Research deferred until August
Resource Center	1,000	500	247	253	
Special activity related to election	800	800	300	500	Radio & TV talk show with political parties, monitoring and reporting on election
International Conference	1,500	750	357	393	
4. Project administration					
Operations & Supplies	4,700	2,350	3,116	-766	Electricity, supplies, bank charges, photocopying, etc.
Office Rent	9,000	4,500	4,500	-	
Transportation	700	350	189	161	Transportation and motorcycle maintenance
Telephone and Internet	5,400	2,700	2,838	-138	
Audit	5,400	2,700	-	2,700	Audit to be conducted in 2H 2018
Miscellaneous Expenses	500	250	-	250	
Total	201,500	101,150	91,674	9,476	

Appendix 2. Media Coverage of La'o Hamutuk

During the first half of 2018, La'o Hamutuk was quoted or cited more than 53 times in local and international print and online media. We also participated in many TV and radio interviews, which are listed here.

Title	Date	Medium	Authors	URL	Comment
The Origins and Onset of the 2006 Crisis in Timor-Leste	Feb 2017	Ph.D. Thesis	Ruth Elizabeth Nuttall		Several citations of LH and descriptions of our work (we just learned about this publication)
Momentu importante ba povu Timor-Leste atu aprende husi pasadu	Jan 12, 13, 15, 16, 17	Independente	Marta da Silva		Published LH Article
Moeda Timor nian	Jan 29	GMN TV			Interviews Juvinal
Rui Gomes: TL seidauk bele uza moeda rasik	Jan 30	Jornal Nasional Diario			Quotes Juvinal
Estudante IOB realiza seminar moeda rasik	Jan 30	Timor Post			Quotes Juvinal
Kapital Fundu Petroliferu Hamutuk Biliaun 16.80	Feb 1	Independente			Quotes Juvinal
Australia's secret Timor Sea deal could pave oil and gas revenue future for East Timor	Feb 11	Age and SMH	Lindsay Murdoch	http://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/australia-s-secret-timor-sea-deal-could-pave-oil-and-gas-revenue-future-for-east-timor-20180210-p4yzxn.html and https://www.theage.com.au/world/asia/australia-s-secret-timor-sea-deal-could-pave-oil-and-gas-revenue-future-for-east-timor-20180211-p4yzxn.html	Quotes Charles on maritime boundaries
Timor-Leste's Oil: Blessing Or Curse? – Analysis	Feb 16	Eurasia Review	Viji Menon, RSIS	https://www.eurasiareview.com/16022018-timor-lestes-oil-blessing-or-curse-analysis/	Cites LH on Petroleum Fund running out
Fronteira Maritima no oinsá pipeline dada mai TL	Feb 21	RTTL TV			Interviews Juvinal
Peskiza preliminararia La'o Hamutuk hatudu dezafiu ba prosesamentu produutu agríkola	Feb 22	Tatoli		http://www.tatoli.tl/2018/02/peskiza-preliminaria-lao-hamutuk-hatudu-dezafiu-ba-prosesamentu-produutu-agrikola/	Quotes La'o Hamutuk data
Peskiza indústria ki'ik no enkontru públiku	Feb 23	RTTL radio			Interviews Mariano
Arsenio Bano expels journalist in public place	Feb 27	Raimundos Oki Journal	R. Oki	https://raimundosoki.blogspot.com/2018/02/arsenio-bano-expels-journalist-in.html	Misquotes LH on ZEESM budgets (we corrected in a comment)
Clouds part on 'Greater Sunrise' gas fields	Mar 1	Asia Times	David Hutt	http://www.atimes.com/article/clouds-part-greater-sunrise-gas-fields/	Draws extensively on LH economic analysis

Title	Date	Medium	Authors	URL	Comment
Governu TL. Rekomendadu mantein ho Kompañia haat esplora GS	Mar 1	Timor Post			Quotes Juvinal
Parlamentu TL ho Australia mak retifika akordu Fronteira Maritima	Mar 2	Timor Post			Cites LH on Maritime boundary
Overblown Expectations For East Timor's Greater Sunrise Oil And Gas	Mar 3	Forbes.com	Damon Evans	https://www.forbes.com/sites/damonevans/2018/03/02/overblown-expectations-for-east-timors-greater-sunrise-oil-gas/#4c54353f299a	Cites LH on economic future of TL
Falta de fronteira com a Austrália custou a Timor-Leste 5 mil milhões de dólares	Mar 3	Lusa	Antonio Sampaio	http://noticias.sapo.pt/portugues/lusa/artigo/23800189.html	Based on LH information
Timor-Leste and Australia to sign a historic treaty on maritime boundaries Tuesday	Mar 3	Lusa	Antonio Sampaio	http://noticias.sapo.pt/portugues/lusa/artigo/23800187.html	Cites LH on \$5bn of oil revenues taken by Australia
Agio Pereira no Julie Bishop representa estado TL-Australia asina akordu FM.	Mar 4	Timor Post			Cites Juvinal and LH on Maritime boundary
Overblown Expectations for East Timor's Greater Sunrise Oil and Gas	Mar 5	Forbes	Damon Evans	https://www.forbes.com/sites/damonevans/2018/03/02/overblown-expectations-for-east-timors-greater-sunrise-oil-gas/#7617212299a3	Quotes LH on greater sunrise potential
Julie Bishop: Tratado de fronteiras com Timor-Leste é novo capítulo na relação bilateral	Mar 5	Lusa	Antonio Sampaio	http://noticias.sapo.pt/portugues/info/artigo/1521722.html	Cites LH on money Australia has taken from the JPDA
Basics in East Timor allowed as Oil Wealth Poured Away	May 5	The Australian	Amanda Hodge	https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/basics-in-east-timor-allowed-slip-as-oil-wealth-poured-away/news-story/c0ca5ac41hcb49110f54fab88f03f952	Quotes LH concerns on Tasi Mane
Australia to use East Timor boundary treaty to bolster ASEAN ties	Mar 6	Nikkei Asian Review	Simon Roughneen	https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/International-Relations/Australia-to-use-East-Timor-boundary-treaty-to-bolster-ASEAN-ties	Cites LH on PF running dry
Australia and East Timor Sign Maritime Border Treaty	Mar 6	USNews / AP	Edith M. Lederer and Rod McGuirk	https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2018-03-06/australia-and-east-timor-sign-maritime-border-treaty	Cites LH on PF sustainability
Académica: Política interna ajudou a mudar postura australiana sobre fronteiras com Timor-Leste	Mar 6	Lusa	Antonio Sampaio	http://noticias.sapo.pt/portugues/info/artigo/1521727.html	Interviews Charles on Maritime Boundary Treaty

Title	Date	Medium	Authors	URL	Comment
Organização timorense celebra em Díli assinatura de tratado com Austrália	Mar 6	Lusa	Antonio Sampaio	http://noticias.sapo.pt/portugues/lusa/artigo/23824958.html	Discusses LH celebration of Maritime Boundary Treaty
Timor-Leste Hetan tan Direitu Soberania	Mar 6	Tatoli		http://www.tatoli.tl/2018/03/timor-leste-hetan-tan-direitu-soberania/	Quotes Juvinal on maritime boundaries
Ativistas timorenses celebram tratado com a Austrália e pedem ratificação imediata	Mar 7	Lusa (with video)	Antonio Sampaio		About LH celebration of Maritime Boundary Treaty
BBC World Update	Mar 7	BBC Radio	Don	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w172vsm28bz6f9	Interviews Charles on Maritime Boundary Treaty
Parabéns Xanana no Ekipa FM	Mar 7	STL			Quotes Juvinal
Treaty confirms Australia profited from Timor-Leste oil and gas, rights groups say	Mar 7	Guardian	Helen Davidson & Christopher Knaus	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/07/treaty-confirms-australia-profited-from-timor-leste-oil-and-gas-rights-groups-say	Cites LH on stolen oil revenues
MKOTT ejize Parlamentu TL no Austrália Ratifika Akordu Ketan Tasi	Mar 7	Tatoli		http://www.tatoli.tl/2018/03/mkott-ejize-parlamentu-tl-no-australia-ratifika-akordu-ketan-tasi/	La'o Hamutuk involvement with the Maritime Boundaries
Parlamentu TL-Australia tenke ratifika lalais akordu FM	Mar 8	Independente			Quotes Juvinal
Timor-Leste hetan tan direitu soberania	Mar 8	STL			Interviews Juvinal
Governu sei husu Ministru Agio kona ba Greater Sunrise	Mar 8	Independente			Quotes Juvinal
MKOTT Festeza Vitoria FM	Mar 8	Timor Post			Quotes Juvinal
Veteranus MUTL fo Parabéns ba Xanana no nia ekipa (LH)	Mar 8	Timoroman			Quotes Juvinal
NGO ezije kadoras mai TL.	Mar 9	STL			Interviews Juvinal
MKOT husu tenke separa FM ho dezentvolvimentu kampu mina rai	Mar 13	Independente			Quotes Juvinal
Ekipa Negosiador FM tenke apresenta relatóriu	Mar 21	Independente			Quotes Juvinal
Timor perde 5.500 USD por hora até ratificação de tratado de fronteiras com a Austrália	Mar 22	Lusa	Antonio Sampaio	http://noticias.sapo.pt/portugues/info/artigo/1522229.html	Based on LH analysis of boundary treaty

Title	Date	Medium	Authors	URL	Comment
Tenke halo estudu klean molok lori kadores greater sunrise mai TL	Mar 26	Business Timor			Quotes Juvinal on Greater Sunrise pipeline
KKFP Desimina informasaun ba MT no estudante Akadémiku	Mar 27	Timor Post			Quotes Juvinal on economic diversification
KKFP husu dezenvolve setór turizmu	Mar 27	Independente			Quotes Juvinal
Maritime Boundary Office briefs La'o Hamutuk	Apr 4	Maritime Boundary Office Newsletter		http://www.gfm.tl/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/MBO-April-2018-NEWSLETTER.pdf	Photo of meeting
KAK informa lei anti korrupsaun ba estudante UNTL	May 3	Timor Post	Iza		Quotes Juvinal
Basics in East Timor allowed slip as oil wealth poured away	May 5	The Australian	Amanda Hodge	https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/basics-in-east-timor-allowed-slip-as-oil-wealth-poured-away/news-story/c0ca5ac41bcb49110f54fab88f03f952	Cites LH warnings about Tasi Mane and needs for diversification
Tenke ratifika lalais Fronteira Maritima	Mar 8	Timoroman			Quotes Juvinal
2018 orsamentu fundu mina-rai biliaun \$16.85 TL lakon valor tokon \$91.50	May 9	Independente	Media Independente teams		Quotes Juvinal
Can elections put East Timor on a more stable path?	May 9	Sydney Morning Herald	Avery Poole	https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/can-elections-put-east-timor-on-a-more-stable-path-20180509-p4zea1.html	Cites LH on election issues
Sixteen years on from independence, Timorese go to polls after bitter campaign	May 12	Irish Times	Mary Boland	https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/asia-pacific/sixteen-years-on-from-independence-timorese-go-to-polls-after-bitter-campaign-1.3492240	Cites Pelagio and LH on need for diversification and oil money running out.
La'o Hamutuk Sujere Opozisaun Forte iha PN	May 30	Tatoli		http://www.tatoli.tl/2018/05/lao-hamutuk-sujere-opozisaun-forte-ih-pn/	Quotes La'o Hamutuk data on elections
Karta Aberta La'o Hamutuk ba Deputadu/a Legislatura 2018-2023	Jun 26	Tatoli		http://www.tatoli.tl/2018/06/karta-aberta-lao-hamutuk-ba-deputadua-lejislatura-2018-2023/	La'o Hamutuk's letter to new members of parliament

Appendix 3. Presentations and Programs by La'o Hamutuk

During the first half of 2018, La'o Hamutuk held many events, trainings and briefings. Many of our presentations can be found on our website.⁴⁹

Topic	Date	Speaker(s) from LH	Event
Perspectives and Challenges of a Local Currency for Timor-Leste's Economy	29 January	Juvinal Dias	Institute of Business Seminar
Rights and Sustainability in Timor-Leste	7 February	Charles Scheiner	Briefing for new U.S. Ambassador and her staff
Signing of the Maritime Boundary Treaty with Australia	6 March	Several	Reception and briefing to celebrate the treaty signing in NY
La'o Hamutuk's Perspective on the Maritime Boundary Treaty with Australia	28 March	Juvinal Dias	Joao Saldanha University
How Timor-Leste can Reduce Imports	11 April	Juvinal Dias	Televised debate series during Parliamentary campaign, in collaboration with CGT and TVE
How to Ensure Inclusive Education	16 April	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Management and Investment of the Petroleum Fund	18 April	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Sustainable, Inclusive, Participatory and Democratic Development	20 April	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Transparency and Accountability of the State Budget	23 April	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Development of Tasi Mane	25 April	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Improving the Health System	27 April	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Public Administration	30 April	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Justice and Human Rights	2 May	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Anti-Corruption	4 May	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
ZEESM	7 May	Juvinal Dias	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Gender	9 May	Berta Antonieta	Parliamentary debate on TVE
Economic Development in the next five years	29 May	Adilsonio da Costa Junior	Televised debate organized by RTTL
Economic Challenges in Timor-Leste	12 June	Adilsonio da Costa Junior	Televised debate organized by Timor-Leste Press Council and RTTL
The New Land Laws and Their Likely Impact in Rural Areas	22 June	Mariano Ferreira	Timor-Leste Update conference at Australian National University
Sustainability of Timor-Leste's State Finances	22 June	Charles Scheiner	Timor-Leste Update conference at Australian National University

⁴⁹ <http://laohamutuk.org/pres.htm>