

Timor-Leste stays firm on pipeline for Sunrise

Russell Searancke 10 August 2012 03:25 GMT

Xanana Gusmao, the newly re-elected Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, has reiterated his commitment to a subsea pipeline that will bring Greater Sunrise gas to his country's south coast.

The development of the Sunrise project is in deadlock due to a disagreement between the Woodside-led joint venture and the Timor-Leste government.

Woodside and partners want to develop the field using a floating liquefied natural gas vessel; Timor-Leste wants the subsea pipeline and an onshore LNG plant along its south coast.

Timor-Leste must give its nod of approval for the Sunrise project to proceed.

Xanana Gusmao outlined in his swearing-in speech yesterday there are three key areas for his government - social capital, infrastructure and economic development.

The development of the south coast and of the oil and gas sector "will remain a priority. The establishment of a supply base, a refinery and a pipeline are necessary investments to establish our own petroleum industry and to generate employment for the Timorese", said Gusmao.

"The government is committed to bringing the pipeline from the Greater Sunrise field to the south coast of Timor-Leste. Let's prove to the world that a pipeline to Timor-Leste is a safe and economically viable solution and that our horizon is the development of a petroleum industry able to provide direct economic dividends for our population."

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