# The 2014 State Budget and how it relates to Timor-Leste's economy

Presentation to The Asia Foundation by La'o Hamutuk

# 18 February 2014

### **Basic Statistics**

- More than half of Timor-Leste's people live in poverty, and the number is growing.
- 80% of the people live in rural areas, largely by subsistence farming.
- About 1,500 Timorese children under 5 years old die from preventable conditions every year ... about 20 times the number of people who die from physical violence.
- More children die from diarrhea than malaria, and our malaria rate is among the highest in the world.
   Sanitation and malnutrition are endemic.

# **Basic Statistics**

By 2022, 280,000 more babies will have been born, and the only producing oil and gas fields will be used up.

How will they survive?

# 1. State Budget

The state gets money from exporting oil and gas and spends it on various activities.

The budget plan and execution reflects the leaders' wishes and capacity.

## **Petroleum Dependency**

- Projected state revenues in 2014:.......... \$2,380 million
   \$2,213 million (93%) will be from oil (incl. \$770m investment return)
   \$ 166 million ( 7%) will be from non-petroleum sources
- 2014 State Budget: \$1,500 million
   \$903 million (60%) will be taken from the Petroleum Fund in 2014.
   \$430 million (29%) more is from the Petrol. Fund in the past and future.
- Non-oil GDP in 2011:....

  Petroleum GDP in 2011:.....
- \$1,046 million \$3,463 million (81%)
- State activities, paid for with oil money, are about half of our "non-oil" economy, because some of this money circulates in the local economy.
- Non-oil balance of trade (2013): \$843m imports, \$16m exports (98% coffee).
- Petroleum "income" goes to the State, not the people.

South Sudan (and Equatorial Guinea?) are the only countries which depend more on oil and gas exports than Timor-Leste.

# **Legal Basis of the State Budget**

- 1. RDTL Constitution
- 2. Budget and Financial Management Law
- 3. Petroleum Fund Law
- 4. Annual Budget law
- 5. Infrastructure Fund Decree-Law
- National Development Agency (ADN) Decree-Law
- 7. Human Capital Development Fund Decree-Law

### Section 145 (State Budget)

- The State Budget shall be prepared by the Government and approved by the National Parliament.
- The Budget law shall provide, based on efficiency and effectiveness, a breakdown of the revenues and expenditures of the State, as well as preclude the existence of secret appropriations and funds.
- The execution of the Budget shall be monitored by the High Administrative, Tax and Audit Court and by the National Parliament.

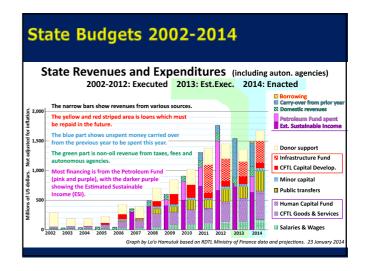
## Signs of the "resource curse" (1)

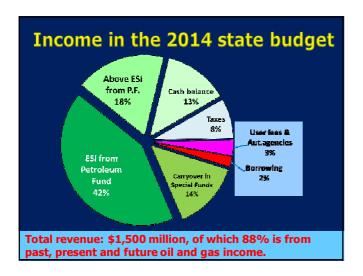
- Acting as if the oil money will last forever Bayu-Undan and Kitan will be dry by 2020.
- Borrowing today, to repay tomorrow
   TL will borrow \$491 million in the next six years, often for projects with little chance of return.
- Lack of realistic long-term planning
   The Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 is but a dream.
- Seeing money as the solution to every problem It's easier to buy a scholarship than to build a university.
- Spending without thinking
   Recurrent expenditures go up more than 20% each year;
   projects often produce little result or return.

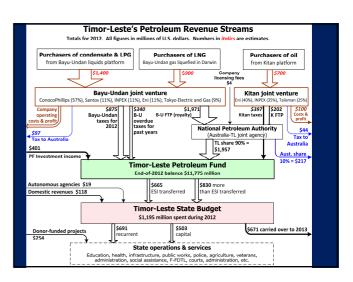
## Signs of the "resource curse" (2)

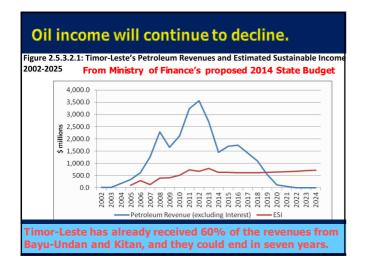
- Import dependency
   In 2011, TL's non-oil balance of payments deficit was \$1.5 billion.
- Inflation from little local productive capacity
   Our productive economy cannot absorb the cash in circulation
- Ignoring non-oil development and revenues
- Benefits go mostly to the urban elite.
   Most people won't use highways, airports and oil facilities ... but will share the costs of paying for them.
- Petroleum "captures" decision-making.
   Agriculture, tourism, small industries, etc. don't get a "fair go."

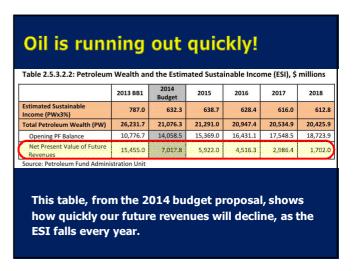
### Spending in the 2014 budget: \$1,500 million **Salaries** 177m **Goods and services** (including HCDF) 480m **Minor Capital** 52m **Public Transfers** (to people or organizations) 336m **Development Capital** (including Infra. Fund) 455m **Donors** (not in state budget) 178m Consolidated Fund (CFTL) \$1,091m **Infrastructure Fund** (including carry-over & bans) \$ 369m **Human Capital Development Fund** 40m **Total** \$1,500m

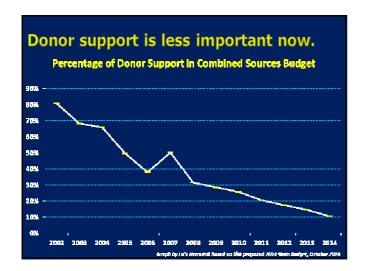


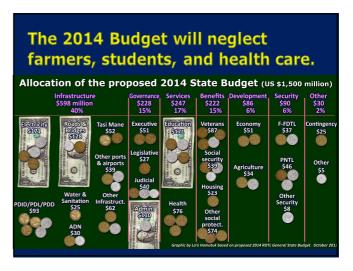


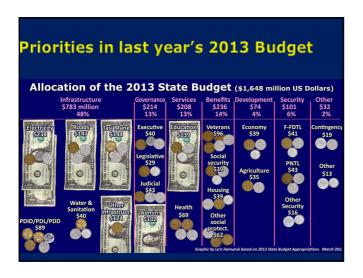


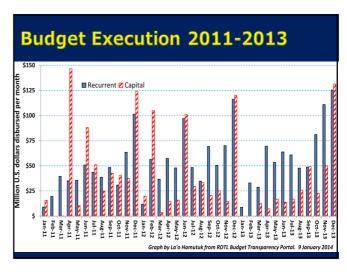


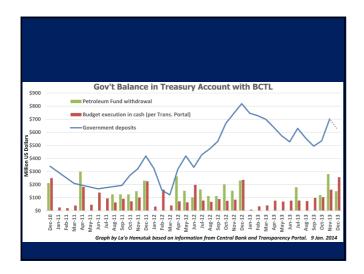


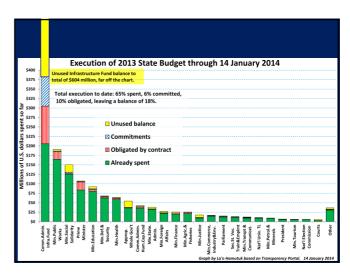


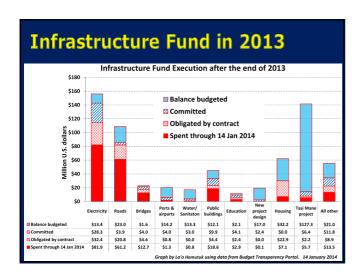


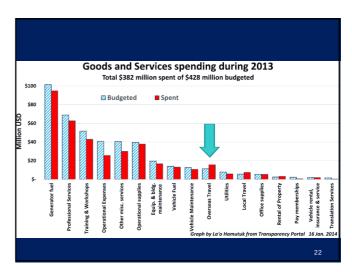


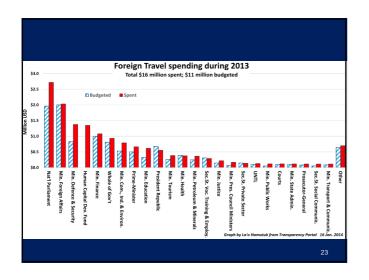


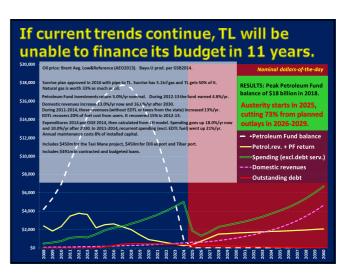






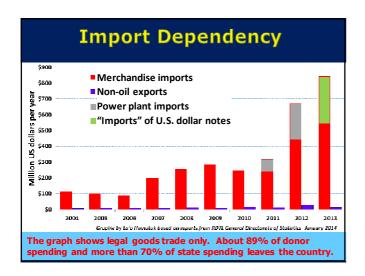


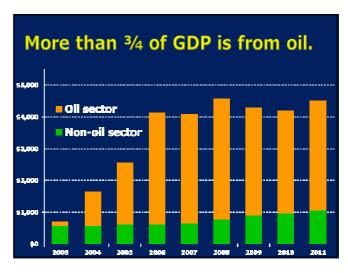


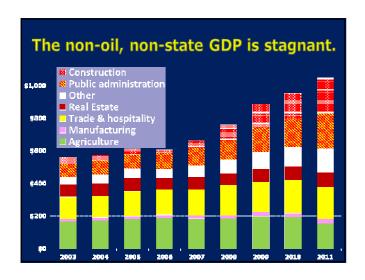


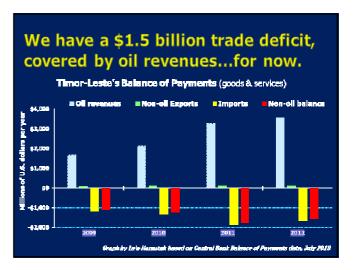
# 2. Unsustainable economy Timor-Leste has almost no industry and a tiny private sector.

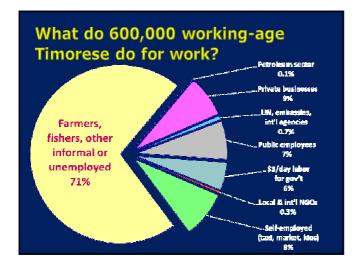
# Real Threats to Real Security Human security is health care, food, education, employment, housing, etc. 20 times as many Timorese children under five die from avoidable conditions as people are killed by violence. These children will not be helped by police, soldiers or judges, but many donors prioritize the "security sector," seeing everything through a conflict lens. We must diversify our economy and strengthen our people and workers to prepare for the day our oil runs out and we can no longer pay for imports.

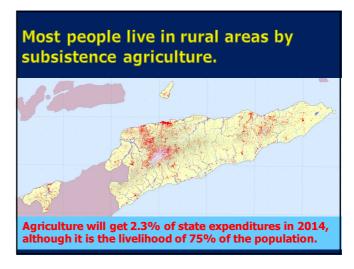


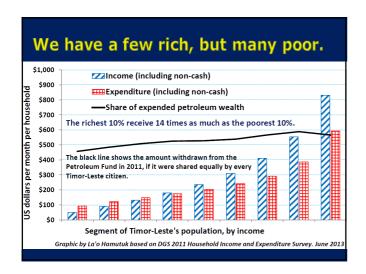


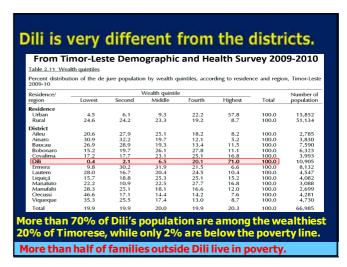












Population

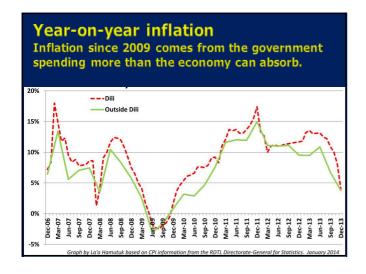
 is increasing 2.4% per year, doubling in less than 29 years (the post-war "baby boom" will become parents).

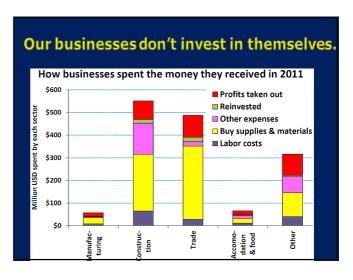
 Inflation

 Consumer prices increased more than 11% during 2012, but inflation slowed to 4% in 2013.

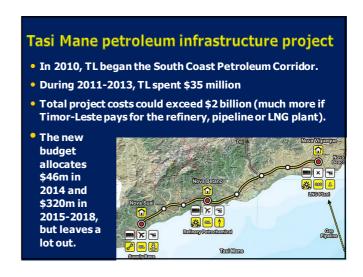
 People's needs and desires will increase as the nation develops.

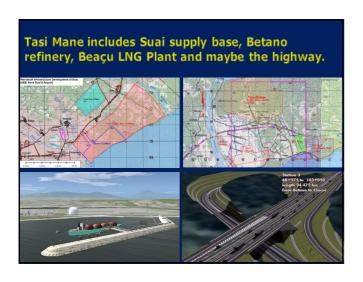


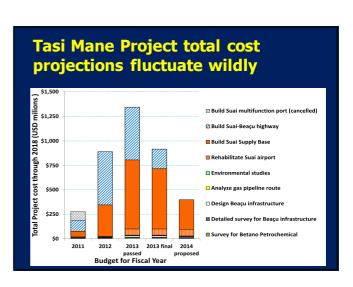


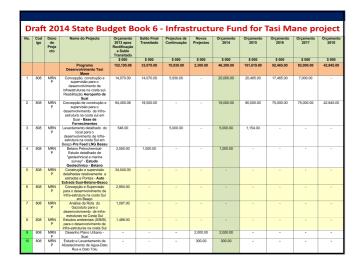


# 3. Unrealistic dreams Current plans for development will not sustainably improve people's lives.





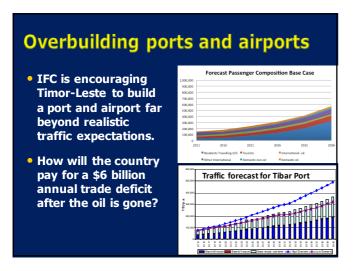




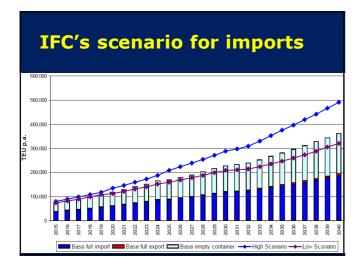
# Problems with the Tasi Mane project

- It makes TL more dependent on the oil and gas sector.
- Dubious concepts and planning; it is unlikely to provide a reasonable return on investment.
- It neglects sustainable development (agriculture, tourism, small industries etc.), exemplifying the obsession with oil.
- Nearly all the money spent will go to foreign companies, providing hardly any local jobs or subcontracts.
- It will create social conflict, take up land, displace people, worsen health and degrade and endanger the environment.
- Cost projections leave out most expenditures, including nearly all of the highway, LNG plant and refinery.
- What if Sunrise gas doesn't come to Timor-Leste?

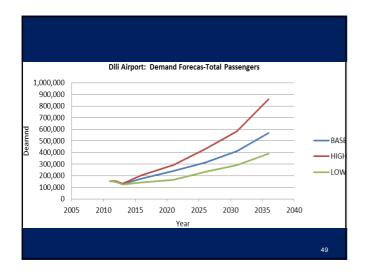
The Government has made many unrealistic promises to local communities about profit-sharing, jobs and other benefits.









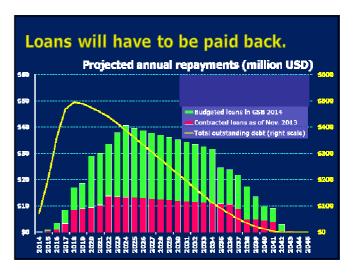


From the Infrastructure Fund in 2013								
	Spent in 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	After 2017	
Dili Airport	0	3	15	20	20	20	liu	
From the Infrastructure Fund in 2014								
Dili Airport (RDTL)	0	1	5.6	53.6	68.9	30.6	100	
Dili Airport (borrowed)			2	15.5	25	40	14+	
\$2.5 million more is allocated in 2014 for runway rehabilitation.								
							50	

### TL is going deeper into debt. • Laws since 2009 paved the way for foreign loans. • In 2012, Timor-Leste signed contracts to borrow \$107 million from Japan and the ADB. • In November 2013, it signed for \$90 million more from the ADB and World Bank. • During 2014-2018, it hopes to borrow half a billion dollars. See the proposed infrastructure budget: 2016 2014 2015 2017 2018 \$117m \$158m \$140m \$31m







# Important to consider Implementing the SDP will require billions of dollars in loans, probably at commercial rates. Even at concessional rates, repaying a loan will permanently reduce money in the Petroleum Fund. The yen loan makes us hostage to a strong dollar. TL's oil and gas are small and non-renewable, and future oil prices are unpredictable. TL will have to make loan repayments before spending money on people's needs or developing other sectors. Our children and grandchildren will inherit

the debt after the oil wells have run dry.



# Thank you.

You will find more and updated information at

- La'o Hamutuk's website http://www.laohamutuk.org
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- Reference 16GB USB available from our office.
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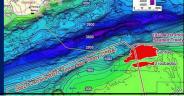
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## The Greater Sunrise stalemate

- The project is stalled because Timor-Leste and the companies do not agree on how it should be developed.
- Woodside and its partners Shell, ConocoPhillips and Osaka Gas believe a floating LNG plant in the sea is the most profitable.
- Timor-Leste wants a pipeline from Sunrise to Beagu, to get more tax revenues and anchor the Tasi Mane project.
- Under contracts and treaties, the companies can choose the path, but both governments need to approve it.
- TL can withdraw from most of CMATS any time before a development plan is approved.
- Because of Australian spying, TL is trying to invalidate CMATS.





# Australia is more "oil-rich" than Timor-Leste

	Timor-Leste	Australia
Known oil and gas reserves per citizen	797 barrels	1,178 barrels
How long they will last at 2012 production rates	14 years	58 years

