

Joint Press Release

The 2nd Meeting Senior Officials Consultation on the Unresolved Segments of the Land Boundary between Timor-Leste and Indonesia

Dili, 08 April 2017 - The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Republic of Indonesia convened the 2nd Senior Officials Consultation meeting for the Unresolved Segments of the Land Boundary between the two countries, namely the segments of Bijael Sunan/Oben and the Noel Besi/Citrana. The First Consultation meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia from 10 to 11 of March 2017.

In this meeting, the delegation of Timor-Leste is chaired by H.E. Roberto Sarmiento de Oliveira Soares, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the delegation of Indonesia is chaired by H.E. Ambassador Desra Percaya, Director General of Asia Pacific and African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic Indonesia.

During discussions the two delegations shared the opinion that in addition to delineating the remaining segments of the border, both sides should take into account the socio-cultural ties and wellbeing of the two people living along the segments resorting to special arrangements.

At the end of the meeting both Timor-Leste and Indonesia agreed to conduct a joint field survey to better study the issue in order to come up with possible solutions for political consideration.

During the meeting both Heads of the Delegations expressed their optimism on the settlement of the issue in the near future. Mr. Roberto and Mr. Desra also reiterated their commitments to implement the orientation given by the higher authorities of the two countries.

As part of the event, a reflective dialogue was also held one day prior to the actual consultation meeting with two distinguished speakers on the panel, H.E. Mari Alkatiri, Former Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and H.E. Hassan Wirajuda, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia on the topic of *“Promoting Peace and Stability in the Region and Beyond by Sharing Our Unique Experience of Reconciliation and Friendship”*. The two speakers shared also some practical ideas with the audience on how to resolve the segments to further consolidate the relation between the two countries.

Mr. Alkatiri during his reflection reminded the audience that *“There is no problem between our two countries, only pending issues”*. The same message of encouragement was given by Mr. Hasan Wirajuda during a similar reflection in the first consultation in Bali that *“solve it now, do not pass it for the future generation to inherit”*. As one of the speakers in Bali, Mr. Xanana also encouraged members of the two delegations to be more optimistic, saying that *“we can and we will resolve our differences”*.

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