



**REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR LESTE
MINISTÉRIO DA ADMINISTRAÇÃO ESTATAL E ORD. DO TERRITÓRIO
SECRETARIADO TÉCNICO DE ADMINISTRAÇÃO ELEITORAL**

Overview of Electoral System in Timor-Leste

1. Electoral Management Model

Timor-Leste has mixed model (Government and Independent) of Electoral Management:

- The Secretariat Technical for Electoral Administration (STAE) – responsible for planning and implement electoral process, referendum and voter registration. According to the Law 5/2006.
- The National Electoral Commission (CNE) – responsible for monitoring and supervisory the electoral process. According to the number 5, Article 65 of RDTL Constitution.
- Court of Appeals – to validate electoral process results and solve

2. STAE experience

With the handover of Timor-Leste administration to the new elected Timorese Government in 2002, the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) was created, as the Electoral Management Body (EMB). The Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (Portuguese acronym of STAE) it is an executive body of electoral administration under the supervision of the competent ministry (Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management).

The Electoral Database was established in 2004 and stored in the main server at STAE HQ. STAE conducted voter registration for an enrollment of 457,306,000 electors in three months.

From December 2004 until September 2005 STAE organized and conducted suco (hamlet) elections (in 442 Sucos to elect Chief of Sucos and Members of Sucos Councils). The elections were implemented in five (5) phases. In 2006 were conducted pilot project for the electronic registration and issue of voter card later

introduced nationally to all voters. Every voter enrolled in the electoral data base was issued with a voter card containing his name, finger print, date and place of birth, signature and place of enrolment.

After the approval of legislations for Presidential and Parliamentary Elections STAE planned and conducted the first general elections in 2007 (1st and 2nd round for Presidential and Parliamentary Elections), with funds of Timor-Leste Budget and technical support of UNDP and United Nations Mission for Timor-Leste (UNMIT) with a voter's turnout of 81%.

The Security Council, through the Resolution Number 1704 (2006), identified another way to assist electoral management bodies in Timor-Leste in the form of creation of UN Certification Team. This team was responsible to certified that all phases of electoral process had a satisfactory achieved according to international standards of free, fair and transparency elections. The evaluation reports from Certification Team showed that Electoral Management Bodies in Timor-Leste followed satisfactory international standards.

In January 2008 a Technical Commission for Revision Law was created to revise the 2002 Suco's Law, coordinated by STAE. After a lengthy period of consultation, in June 2009, the Community Leadership and their Elections law was approved and promulgated.

Late 2009 subsidiary legislations (rules and regulations) proposed by STAE was approved by CNE .October 2009 elections for the second term of 442 Community Leader took place simultaneously with a voter's turnout of 67%.

STAE is part of the Technical Forum for Electoral Administration Bodies from CPLP (Portuguese acronym for Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries). Also Non-Governmental Organization Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) and Member-observer for PIANZEA (Pacific Island, Australia and New Zealand Electoral Administrator).

3. Recommendations

STAE recommend for 5o. Meeting of ARF EEPs that ASEAN should have a Forum for Electoral Administrator to organize meetings to discuss the strengthening of electoral institutions through trainings, capacity building and exchange of experience in electoral issues. Also, programs for electoral observations for ASEAN countries members.

In 2010, UNDP Regional Office in Thailand organized a workshop regarding Electoral Justice and conflict resolution. The result of this workshop was a document evaluating Asian electoral administration bodies and their performance. This document could be use as a model for the strengthening of Asian electoral administration bodie and ARF could be the one to recommend this to the high level of ASEAN.

Dili, 27 January, 2011

Tomas do Rosário Cabral
Director