

United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor Leste

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**UNMIT supporting the growth of Timor-Leste's private sector**

The United Nations Integrated Mission is looking to increase its local financial expenditure in the coming years in an effort to support the Buy Local: Build Timor-Leste campaign.

The campaign is an initiative of the Peace Dividend Trust following a study by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in 2005 that found that increasing peacekeeping and partners' expenditure in post conflict states has a positive effect on local economies by creating employment and building the private sector capacity.

The Peace Dividend Trust is now working in two countries where peacekeeping missions operate – Timor-Leste and Afghanistan. It will also look to increase its presence in other countries where there are UN peacekeeping operations.

UNMIT supports the Buy Local: Build Timor-Leste campaign in two ways.



BUY LOCAL.  
BUILD TIMOR-LESTE.  
SOSA IHA RAI LARAN  
NO HAR'I TIMOR-LESTE.  
[www.buildingmarkets.org](http://www.buildingmarkets.org)

First, it supports a "bottom up" approach whereby all staff members are encouraged to spend their money locally and support local businesses.

Secondly, UNMIT supports the programme through a "top down" approach of institutional spending. It purchases locally where possible and is also working to assist local businesses meet the standards and procedures so they can bid for UNMIT contracts.

Most recently, UNMIT is also assessing if it can nominate an officer to work with the Peace Dividend Trust to increase training for local vendors as a way of increasing local expenditure.

**The Special Representative for the Secretary-General in Timor-Leste, Atul Khare said:**

"The stimulation of the private sector is essential for the socio-economic growth of Timor-Leste and we support the initiatives of the Peace Dividend Trust.

I urge all at UNMIT to buy locally and increase support to local businesses."

**Facts for editors and journalists**

During the 2006/2007 budget year UNMIT spent:

- US\$ 8,021,986 on local procurement contracts
- Paid US\$ 2,190,00 on salaries to national staff members
- Paid US\$ 16,631,000 on local salaries for international staff members
- Spent an additional \$6,000,000 on other local expenditures though support to the electoral process, and other indirect financial support

During the 2006/2007 budget year the UN Country Team (agencies, funds and programmes) spent:

- US\$72, 696,821 through local procurement, salaries, staff expenditure, support to the electoral process, donations and programme support to the Timorese government.

The United Nations and its agencies in Timor-Leste work in the areas of policing, rule of law, governance, human rights, gender and HIV/AIDS, social and economic development, humanitarian assistance, agriculture, health and education.

Nasoinis Unidas no nia ajensia sira iha Timor-Leste, servisu iha area manutensaun lei no ordem, governasaun, direitus umanu, jeneru no VIH/SIDA, dezenvolvimentu sosial-ekonomiku, assistensia umanitaria, agrikultrura, saude no edukasaun nian.

