The Future Installation of FALINTIL-F-FDTL Naval Base in Hera:

“An Analysis of Social, Economic, Environmental and Military Impacts”

(Mahein Nia Hanoin (Mahein’s Thoughts) No. 04, 27 June 2013)

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Executive Summary

1. The IV Constitutional Government generated the Force Development Plan (Planu Dezenvolvimentu Forsa – PDF), a series of policies to implement important determinations from the “2020 Study” (Estudu 2020). Based upon the Force Development Plan, The Government will construct the Central Navy Base in Hera and support bases in Atauro, Oe-cusse, Palaka, and Com.

2. This study will focus on the “Future Installation of FALINTIL-FFDTL Navy Base in Hera: An Analysis of Social, Economic, Environmental, and Military Impacts.” Specifically, this report will verify that there are still problems and challenges associated with the future installation and construction of the FALINTIL-FFDTL Navy Base.

3. Social problems associated with the planned development include the ongoing land disputes with local community members and questions about the Government’s policy to relocate the people who currently live in the Navy Base area. Yet the relocation issue raised some different perspectives even among the local community. Furthermore, Hera has also been designated as a future campus location of the UNTL (National University of Timor-Leste), which will be located close to FALINTIL-FFDTL Navy Base. This study indicates that the proposed development will have an impact on religious activities of the Nuns and Priests of the nearby Church and Convent, which worries religious authorities. Relatedly, the development’s impact on the local community’s cultural and ritual land will have some implication for community activities.

4. Based on Fundasaun Mahein’s study, there will also be economic problems from the planned development. The local fisherman community raised concerns about the development’s implications for local fishing activities, particularly with relocation, and they hope these plans will not negatively impact their fishing activities. The local community is also concerned that they will lose their agricultural land, which they have been using to grow crops, plant rice, and support their livelihoods. These concerns include losing the land that they currently use for animal husbandry.

5. The other issue with the Hera location of the Navy Base is the existence of a river that flows around the Navy Base. Every year, this river causes flooding around that area. The river and floods bring mud and soil to the bay of the Navy Base. The problem is made worse by the dredging activities in the nearby Hera hills by an industrial contractor.

6. The existence of a national road adjacent to the Navy Base, and the plans to further develop this road into a national highway, may have implications for the Navy Base. The movement of traffic could be crowded in this area, which connects Dili the eastern districts of Timor-Leste. FM also noted the installation of Hera Power Plant Center adjacent to the Navy Base. FM is concerned that the power plant is very risky for the Navy Base in case of an accident. For example, if a tank explosion occurred in the Central Power Plant, the fire could spread to the Navy Base which serves as a storage area for sensitive equipment.
7. Finally, other issues concern the Navy Base itself – specifically the infrastructure of the Navy Base and its inevitable military activities. There must be further questions asked and answered: How should the site and construction be designed? Would a feasibility study of the site be conducted? What is the ultimate purpose of Hera, and will Hera only serve as a base? Will Military Training be conducted in Hera or elsewhere (because it is also necessary to consider the impact on the community as a result of the military activities)? And ultimately, where should a permanent Naval Base be located?

8. Recommendations:

- Recommendation to the Government to revise the Force Development Plan that has decided to set up a permanent Navy Base at Hera. Additionally, FM requests that the Government conduct an in-depth study of the impact of such a base on aspects of local geology, society, economy, culture – among others – before beginning construction of the Navy Base, so it does not cause additional problems.

- Recommendation to the Government to conduct an in-depth study of the natural effects that cause deterioration to the Navy Base itself. FM asks the Government to publish the results of this study so the public can understand, and then give feedback to the Government.

- Recommendation to the Government to establish an inter-ministerial team consisting of Secretary of State for Land and Property, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Secretariat of State for Defense to conduct a dialogue with the public about the planned Navy Base development at Hera, with particular attention to the opinions of the landlords in the Navy Base area to resolve land conflicts.

- Recommendation to the Government to appreciate the cultural sites such as the four sacred springs in the Navy Base location so that such sites can be used as capital for the country in future conservation, tourism, and culture development.

- Recommendation to the National Defense Institute to conduct a study on the future instalation of Navy Base, dealing with issues of economic, social, cultural, and environmental significance, to determine precisely the role of the Military Base itself.
I. Introduction

The IV Constitutional Government has set a new policy called the Force Development Plan – FDP, as a policy to implement the important plans from the 2020 Study. The Government’s Force Development Plan will be to establish the Central Naval Base in Hera, with support bases to be set up in Atauro, Oe-cusse, Palaka, and Com.¹

The Government has recently placed a signboard in the area designated for the Naval Base, but communities are still living within the area. Meanwhile the Government continues to build in the area to improve the infrastructure for the FALINTIL-FDTL Naval Component. In April 2013, the Government inaugurated barracks in the Hera area for the Naval Component.² Such investments will continue in order to provide more adequate facilities to the armed forces as according to the Government’s plan for Hera as the future location of the FALINTIL-FDTL Naval Base.

The focus of this report is on the "Future Installation of the FALINTIL-F-FDTL Naval Base in Hera" which will have economic, social, cultural, environmental impacts as well as implications for military activity. At the end of this report, a set of policy recommendations will be presented as the result of this study.

II. Methodology

In this study, Fundasaun Mahein will analyze the social, economic, environmental, and other impacts – including the impact of the Naval Base on the Timorese military institution itself – all of which are important issues that require careful examination, and seem to indicate the need to conduct feasibility studies. This study is not intended to challenge the Government’s plans, but rather is trying to open a space for public debate in order to find adequate solutions to the problems associated with the "Future Installation of Naval Base in Hera".

The study began with Fundasaun Mahein initiation discussions on the Hera Port among the FM team, and then among a larger team comprised of NGO Luta Hamutuk, Fundasaun Haburas, JSMP, Hak Association, as well as Fundasaun Mahein. Consultations and discussions continued through the end of 2012. In all, the discussion and consultation process for this research took place from December 2012 through January 2013.

After concluding discussions on the NGO level, the discussion was extended to the community affected by the Naval Base – including landowners, fishermen, students, local authorities, lianain, and members of the Naval Component of the FALINTIL-FDTL. The discussion on the community level, particularly with the community in Suco Hera, was conducted in the form of question and answer sessions between the community and the Fundasaun Mahein team. The Fundasaun Mahein team also made observations of the places that have been designated for “The Future Installation of the Naval Base”.

² Televizaun Timor-Leste (TVTL) Tetum Newscast. Friday, 26 April 2013
III. The Profile of Suco Hera

Geographically, Suco Hera is part of the Sub-District of Kristu Rei, in the District of Dili. Suco Hera borders Metinaro to the East, Sabuli to the South, Atauro to the North, and the capital Dili to the West. It is comprised of 6 Aldeias: Halidolar, Akanuno, Ailok-Laran, Mota Ki’ik, Moris Foun and Sukaer-Laran. The total number of households in Suco Hera is 1,076. The Mother tongues used by the Suco Hera community in their daily social interactions (communication) were comprised of: Mambae 15%, Makasae 5%, Lolein 3%, Tetun Terik 2% and Tetun Prasa 75%.

The total population in Suco Hera is 5,690 people. This consists of 2,884 males and 2,806 females. The community members in Hera rely primarily upon farming and fishing for their livelihood. According to statistical data, 95% of the Hera community relies on agricultural and fisheries activities, and the remaining 5% are civil servants.

IV. The Impact of the Naval Base to the Community

1. Social Issue

In this section, Fundasaun Mahein (FM) will analyze the social impact of the Future Installation of the Naval Base for the community in Suco Hera, in particular the community currently occupying the land. FM research identified major social issues of essential importance for the Government to consider prior to executing the development plan or the installation of the F-

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3 Updated Demographic Data of Suco Hera.
5 Updated Demographic Data of Population of Suco Hera
6 Interview with the Suco Chief of Hera, Simão Pedro Ribeiro, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
FDTL Naval Base in Hera. Such issues included land rights, community resettlement, community movement, cultural/customary land use and other issues.

a. **Land issue**

In Timor-Leste, issues relating to land are very complex as there is not yet a concrete definition of land ownership. During Timor-Leste’s 11 years of independence, land issues have continued to arise and result in violent conflict. Thus the Government needs to set a clear policy on land or else more conflicts will emerge than solutions in the future.\(^7\) Relatedly, there is an ongoing land issue in Suco Hera concerning the land identified by the Government as the future Naval Base site for the Naval Component of the FALINTIL-Timor-Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL).\(^8\)

FM’s monitoring identified that the land currently determined for the Naval Base is still under dispute. Historically (from the Portuguese colonization period), the area for the Naval Base, has belonged to three Sucos, namely Suco Tasi, Suco Manroni, and Suco Montarlindo.\(^9\) The landowners (descendants) have not wanted to obey the demarcations of the new Naval Base area, and have blocked the new road constructed by the Government to access the Naval Base.\(^10\) With respect to these roadblocks to the Naval Base in 2010, the current President of the Republic, Taur Matan Ruak – who at the time served as the General Commander of F-FDTL – promised to find a solution, but until now this has not been realized.\(^11\)

In the Naval Base land dispute in question, it does not mean that the landowners does not want to contribute to the Government’s policy, instead there is a need for a dialogue between the Government and the landowners for the sake of finding a better solution and people should not be victimized for the purpose of development. Dialogue is necessary because the land in Hera, currently inhabited by the community, is not the same “type” as the land in Aitarak-Laran, former-Brimob compound or land in the capital of Dili.\(^12\) Information from FM’s monitoring indicates that the land around the proposed Naval Base is disputed land because it is private land belonging to the descendants of “Manroni and Montarlindo”.

Article 54 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste stated “Private property should not be used to the detriment of its social purpose”.\(^13\) This law means that the Government or the State, prior to using the citizens’ properties for public purposes, must consider the social impacts to their life. It is estimated that 95% of livelihoods of the community come from agriculture and fishing, while the remaining 5% come from income as civil servants.\(^14\)

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\(^8\) The information about the land issue (Naval Base) is obtained by the FM team during the three-day monitoring and discussions with the community, landowners, lla nain, local authorities.


\(^10\) Interview with landowner (descendant) “Manroni”: Jaime Soares: Tuesday, 15 January 2013.


\(^12\) Interview with the Suco Chief of Hera, Simão Pedro Ribeiro, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.

\(^13\) Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste: Article 54 Subsection 2.

\(^14\) Interview with the Suco Chief of Hera, Simão Pedro Ribeiro, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
The Government needs to address the livelihood issue with the affected community and the landowners to find solutions. This law also means that due compensation should be paid to property owners whenever using private properties for public purposes. Marcos da Costa Araujo, the descendant of a landowner said, “If the Government did not want to consider sitting with us to find a solution, it could lead to conflict between the Government and the community (including the landowners)”.

Another issue raised by a landowner addressed the sacred sites, the native plants, and the local public cemetery – comprised of more than hundred burial sites – in the area. Dom Manuel Soares and his wife are among the notable people buried in this cemetery. A descendant of Dom Manuel Soares stated, “We surely disagree if the Government decided to displace the graveyard. If the Government is doing so, we will die for it because our ancestors have entrusted us to look after the sacred sites and their graves.”

The Graveyard that Falls into the Naval Base area – Hera

![Image of the Graveyard](image)

Source: Photo by FM – Hera, 2013.

Based on the social, cultural, and economic issues raised by the landowners, community, and local authorities, FM has asked the Government to create an inter-ministerial working group composed of the Secretary of State for Defense, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Justice, and the Secretary of State for Culture to make a discussion and workshop for the Hera community that falls into the area of the Naval Base. Thus, they will be informed about the fate of their life. The Constitution guarantees the rights of every citizen to obtain the right information about their life so they can decide accordingly.

b. How to relocate the community to another place?

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15 In the discussion Fundasaun Mahein conducted by with the landowners( Manroni and Montarlino), including local authorities, they questioned that the Government shall pay compensations to their land, however, before paying the compensation, the Government needs to decide with the landowners.
Another important social issue regards the relocation of the community currently living in the future Naval Base area. In the absence of the urbanization law, the Government has faced a great challenge in taking the necessary measures to relocate the community living in the Naval Base area.\(^\text{18}\)

There are different opinions and ideas for community relocation. Some people want the Government to find a new location, while others want the Government to pay compensation only and trust that the residents will find new land by themselves.\(^\text{19}\)

The other issue, based on the statistical data of Suco Hera comprised of the 6 Aldeias of Ailok-Laran, Akanuno, Halidolar, Mota Ki’ik, Moris Foun and Sukaer-Laran is that 95% the livelihood of the community is agriculture-based.\(^\text{20}\) Therefore, the farmers, fishermen, livestock farmers, and landowners have declared that the community relocation process should be done through an ongoing dialogue between the Government and the community to allow for constructive discussions of solutions for the process of relocating the community’s livelihoods. Each member of the community also seems to have different opinions about their problems.

c. **Tentative Student Area (UNTL Campus)**\(^\text{21}\)

According to the plan of the V Constitutional Government, it will prioritize the educational infrastructure to guarantee quality education in Timor-Leste.\(^\text{22}\) The national University of Timor Lorosa’e (UNTL) has declared that it will decentralized to all districts within the national territory. This includes the initiation of the *master plan* with the construction of the UNTL building in Hera, specially intended for the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.\(^\text{23}\)

The Ministry of Education, through UNTL, has established a technical study team for the construction of these UNTL buildings. The study indicates that the entire UNTL complex will be moved to Hera. Currently it is still in the process of negotiating with the people who live in the area in order to begin contracting the UNTL buildings. The design shows that the UNTL building will be directly adjacent to the Naval Base area. UNTL in the future, especially the Faculty of Agriculture will require large tracts of land. Yet this particular area in Hera is productive land that is not suitable to be used as a military base or just an educational complex.\(^\text{24}\)

\(\text{18}\) Media Online CNRT Party: Tuesday, 11 December 2012; [www.partidocnrt.com](http://www.partidocnrt.com)
\(\text{19}\) The discussion between FM with affected community during two days (15-16/01): noted that many community members wanted the Government to make “transmigration” settlements for them. However, it requires agricultural land for them to proceed with their activities as farmers.
\(\text{20}\) Interview with the Suco Chief of Hera, Simão Pedro Ribeiro, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
\(\text{21}\) The information about the future installation of UNTL in Hera has been targetted for FM’s analysis in relation to the social impact of the Naval Base, on (14/01) sent a letter requesting interview with the Minister of Education but until the deadline for the publication of the report there has not been any confirmation from the concerned party.
\(\text{22}\) Newspaper Bussiness Timor: Monday, 13 August 2012.
\(\text{23}\) Newspaper Tempo Semanal: Sunday, 30 December 2012.
\(\text{24}\) Informal conversation with a member of the UNTL installation study team: Tuesday, 05 February 2013. *(NB: FM could not provide detailed information about the study due to difficulties to make appointment for interviews. On Friday (15/02) contacted the Head of the team directly through phone number 77327596 and it is confirmed for an interview on Monday (11/02) however, after being called two times, the phone*
The Design of the Future Installation of UNTL Campus in Hera

Source: UNTL, January 2013

Yet specifically with the Faculty of Agriculture, this department will require large tracts of land in the future to support students of agriculture in conducting their research. Hera is a productive area, and thus, it is suitable for use to refine agricultural and livestock practices, and develop agricultural products. This use could support Timor-Leste’s economic growth in the future. Currently, the practice and research area for the students of the Faculty of Agriculture of UNTL is very inadequate because they ideally require spacious land to conduct research. The expect such spacious land for the future.

d. Church, Convent and Rectory

Another implication for the area is the Naval Base’s impact on the Church, Convent, and Rectory Dormitory located at Hera.

The Nuns from the Carmel Congregation expressed concerned to FM about the Government's plans to build a Naval Base in Hera, which will cause significant impact on their vocational activities. For example, if the military base were to conduct military training, or combat and warships operation, this would surely create noise that would disrupt their vocation – because the Nuns require a quiet environment inside the convent.

was not answered. Until the publication of this report, FM has not heard any confirmation from the competent party).

25 Conversation with UNTL student, Faculty of Agriculture, Dep. of Agronomy who does not want FM to publish the identity, Wednesday, 23 January 2013.

26 Interview with UNTL Student, Wednesday, 23 January 2013.

27 Interview with Nuns from Carmel Congregation, OCD. Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
According to the Carmel Nuns, their vocation is not only to serve themselves and their families, but also to help the State and the Government through serving the nation and the people of Timor-Leste. So far, the Nuns have done moral (faith) counseling for young people who have lost faith and morale, and consequently turned away from living according to the religious norms.\(^{28}\)

The noise of the military activities of the Naval Base will not only have an impact on the Nuns, Priests, and other religious activities, but also will impact the community, including teaching and learning activities for the students of primary, junior high, and senior high school – as well as the university to be located in Hera.\(^{29}\)

\textit{e. Cultural and Ritual Sites}

The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste guarantees that everyone has the right to cultural enjoyment and creativity, as well as the duty to preserve, protect and value cultural heritage.\(^{30}\) This means that the State has an obligation to preserve and cherish the objects classified as cultural symbols such as land and ritual sites. The government has recently made many efforts to preserve culture because culture is the identity of Timor-Leste.\(^{31}\) The cultural sites were also serves as focal point for the development of the nation.\(^{32}\)

FM's monitorization identified that there are two cultural or heritage sites, a chapel and cemetery, that fall in the Naval Base area. In the Naval Base area itself, there is sacred land belonging to three Sucos namely Suco Tasi, Manroni, and Mantarlindo, all of which consider the land as cultural and heritage land.\(^{33}\)

The landowners stated that the Naval Base area is currently heritage or cultural land and tracts are still worshiped during the pre-harvest sacrifice, the rice harvest, and in asking for rainwater. Within the sacred land of Montarlindo, there are three sacred ponds namely Bere Matan Ruak, Bee-Bui, and Manana. The ponds have been worshipped since ancestral times. If they were damaged, it would not only the affect the descendants of the sacred ponds but also would impact all communities in Hera, including the Naval Component.\(^{34}\)

These sacred (holy) sites should be taken seroiously because they are surrounded by feared stories since the ancestor’s time, wherein people disappeared in the Lekilok spring and appeared in the sea.\(^{35}\) More recently, between 2009 - 2010 a crocodile (Avo Lafaek) from Bee-Bui entered the Naval barrack. This incident has been connected to the building the new Naval port, which was occurring at the time. In terms of the Government demonstrating respect to

these sacred sites, the Government did not engage with landowners to invoke the ancestral spirits (i.e. to ask for permission from the natural landowner) before beginning construction for the F-FDTL Naval Component.\textsuperscript{36}

The implementation of development projects in the Naval Base area will thus cause problems for the cultural environment of the Naval Base area. It also will endanger the purity of the traditional cultures of Manroni and Montarlindo. The majority of Timorese people have traditional beliefs (culture) which continue to guide their everyday lives. Traditional beliefs also serve as a reference for Timorese people for resolving conflicts within the family and disputes or tensions in the community.\textsuperscript{37} This reality in Hera showed to all of us in Timor-Leste that culturally special land serves an essential role for the community; it forms and develops Timoese lives in some economic and social aspects.\textsuperscript{38} Thus, there should be a thorough study on the anthropological, sociological, and cultural importance of sacred land to serve as a resource for the national development.\textsuperscript{39}

\textit{f. The movement of the community is hindered}

The location of Hera Naval Base can also cause social problems when it hinders the movement of people trying to go about their daily activities. Community leaders presented such issues after it emerged that traffic movements posed a threat to the community, children, and also public transportation because military vehicles (Hino) from the naval barrack, passing by the streets of Hera, do not obey the traffic signs and regulations.\textsuperscript{40}

The movement of fishermen is also restricted because the sea at Hera is still occupied by the Naval ship, which is sometimes exacerbated by the presence of ships from other countries when the Navy conducts joint training sessions.\textsuperscript{41}

When community members feel restricted while conducting livelihood activities such as farming and animal husbandry, it hampers the ability of community members to find money to provide for their lives.\textsuperscript{42} In Dili, people assume that Hera is a productive area. It is considered as an important green area in Timor-Leste. Therefore, government members in Dili need to conduct a thorough study on an integrated development so as not to cause negative social impacts.\textsuperscript{43}

Another concern for local authorities in Suco Hera the impact of the Naval Base for the female community, because they have recently experienced sexual abuse from members of the military.

\textsuperscript{36} The event happened during the leadership of Commander Pedro Klamar Fuik, the crocodile “avo lafaek” returned to the pond after the Lia Nain was asked to pray, said the descendant of the sacred land “Montarlindo” to the FM team; Saturday, 19 January 2013.
\textsuperscript{37} http://www.urbantippingpoint.org/documents/Policy%20Briefs/PolicyBrief_Dili_Tetum.pdf
\textsuperscript{38} Community Policy and Peace-building in Timor-Leste, p22.pdf.
\textsuperscript{39} Interview with the Director of Fundasaun Haburas: Deometro do Amaral, Friday, 25 January 2013.
\textsuperscript{40} Interview with Suco Chief of Hera, Simão Pedro Ribeiro, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
\textsuperscript{41} Interview with Head of Firshermen Suco Hera, Vicente de Jesus, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
\textsuperscript{42} Informal conversation with affected community who does not want FM to publish the identity, Tuesday, 15 January 2013.
\textsuperscript{43} Interview with the Director of Fundasaun Haburas: Deometro do Amaral, Friday, 25 January 2013.
in the area. On this issue, the Suco Chief of Hera, Simão Pedro Ribeiro said that, “Three women have been victims (made pregnant) by members of the Navy. It happened in 2011 and 2012, but those people were not taking the responsibility over the case.”

FM confirmed these pregnancies with the Commander of the Naval Component, but he said that so far there had not been any formal complaints launched by the victim but he would seek to engage with local authorities to find a solution to the problem in question. The Naval Component is planning to strengthen its internal discipline in order to avoid such immoral behavior by military members towards the local community in the future.

This situation is particularly noteworthy. Despite its impact on the people affected, they still remained silent. No attempts were made to approach either traditional justice or formal justice systems, and this could provide opportunities and even motivation for the same type of incident to happen again in the future. The risks will be greater, indeed, if the development of the Naval Base as a full, concentrated military headquarters is actually realized.

Finally, other freedoms that may be inhibited include that of the schoolchildren in pursuing their study when there are military training activities such as joint trainings, aircrafts, and warships. Moreover, the presence of the Naval Base area, which is very close to the public, will have an impact on the psychological development of children with the military training.

2. Economic Issue

The statistical data of Suco Hera showed that 95% of the people were fishermen and farmers. These people fulfilled their needs through these activities.

a. Where the fishermen will be placed?

Based on the data of Suco Hera, most of the people are farmers and fishermen. Thus, the construction of the Naval Base will lead to a large impact on the economy. In this scope, Fundasaun Mahein is questioning the specifics of the relocation of Hera community, especially with respect to the relocation of fishermen and plans for how they would continue their fishing activities.

According to the 2012 strategic planning of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, there are five priorities for fishermen. One is the continuing of the intensification plans for fishing communities to become more professional to provide for their daily needs. Based on the data of Suco Hera

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44 Information from the Suco Chief of Hera to the FM team (16/01) and will be contacting the three victims (women) to meet with FM to advocate their issue.
45 Interview via telephone with the Commander of Navy, Higino das Neves, Tuesday, 05 February 2013.
46 Ibid
47 Interview with a youth of Hera, Leoandro Ruas, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
48 Interview with the Advisor of Casa Militar: Frei Guterres, Friday, 25 January 2013.
49 Newspaper Business Timor: Monday, 11 June 2012.
comprised of six aldeias, there are 70 groups of fishermen with more than 100 members. The majority of the fishermen are from Aldeia Sukaer-Laran, not including the fishermen who were not involved in any of those groups.

In a meeting between FM and representatives of the fishermen, the fishermen expressed their concerns over the relocation issue. Although there are still no concrete plans from the Government regarding the relocation of the fishermen community, they insisted that they were to be transferred to the "white sand (pasir-putih) Hera" bordering Metinaro.

A fisherman said that the relocation policy should be organized based on geography (near the beach) so that the fishermen could continue to sail with ease. If the relocation site is far from the beach (on the hill), it will have a huge impact on people's lives. Still, in the military zone, in the future, the community in Hera will not be able to continue their agricultural and fishery activities freely because of its proximity to the Naval Base area.

The majority of the fishermen have been fishing since the Indonesian occupation. It is with this activity that they can feed their families and pay their children’s school fees. Thus, the Government must undertake sustainable planning to meet the demands of the fishermen. The community members should be the actors of development, and they should not simultaneously become victims of the development. Should people became victims, it would be best if the Government build the Naval Base on the southern coast as it is less efficient and sustainable.

b. **Community loses rice fields, farms and plants**

The Naval Base area, of nearly 100 hectares, has been mostly used by the community in Hera as rice fields and farms since the period of Indonesian occupation, and continues to the present day. A member of the community, who has lived there for 29 years (since the Indonesian occupation period) has 10 hectares of rice fields and an annual production of five tons per hectare, is now distraught because he will lose his income source for supporting his family and fulfilling other needs.

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50 Interview with Head of Fishermen Suco Hera, Domingos Vicente de Jesus, Tuesday, 15 January 2013
51 Interview with Fisherman Hera, Silvestre Pereira, Tuesday, 15 January 2013.
52 Interview with Head of Fishermen Suco Hera, Domingos Vicente de Jesus, Tuesday, 15 January 2013.
53 Interview with the Advisor of Casa Militar: Frei Guterres, Friday, 25 January 2013.
54 Interview with Suco Chief of Hera, Simão Pedro Ribeiro, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
55 Interview with the Suco Chief of Hera, Simão Pedro Ribeiro, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
FM observations indicate that the majority of the crops grown by the people of Hera include bananas, coconuts, chestnuts, kale, cassava, peppers, mango, and palm trees—all grown on local farms. Landowners have requested that the Government provide compensation for the fields and crops to be lost.\(^5^6\) However, the local people are willing to cooperate with the Government to find the best solution because they understand that the development of Timor-Leste is essentially important for the people and the state.\(^5^7\)

**Corn and Banana grown in the area of the Naval Base – Hera**

Over 40 households will lose rice fields, crops, farms, and their dwellings.\(^5^8\) Again, the land included in the area of the Naval Base is fertile agricultural land, and if indeed the Naval Base is to be established in there, economically it will have a negative impact on the community. The Government can create development but it must also consider the economic consequences of its actions for its people.

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\(^5^6\) Interview with affected community from Aldeia Halidolar, Marito Rosa, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.  
\(^5^7\) Interview with affected community from Aldeia Halidolar, Dumingos Mu, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.  
\(^5^8\) Interview with Aldeia Chief of Halidolar-Suco Hera, Simão Pengue Soares, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
The Farming Household

The diagram above shows that the majority of people in Hera rely upon the agricultural sector, most specifically rice fields and farms, to provide for their lives. FM identified that the people who will be most affected by the Naval Base are in Aldeia Halidolar and Sukaer-Laran. The data obtained by FM shows that the total number of families from the two Aldeias is 398 households with 1,497 people.

An affected community member, Domingos Mú, believes that the Naval Base development is a positive step for the strengthening of the defense sector, but that it has substantial implications for the local community, particularly the rice fields, crop fields, plant life, and animal breeding spaces in use for approximately 29 years.

\[c. \text{ Losing the sites for breeding livestock}\]

The nearly 100 hectares of proposed Naval Base land has also been used by the majority of the Hera community, since period of Indonesian occupation, to raise livestock. The people are currently concerned that they would lose these lands and their economies would be significantly affected because their lives are also dependent on the livestock that they breed.

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59 Recapitulation of Population Data of Suco Hera
60 Conversation with Fundasaun Mahein’s team Fundasaun Mahein, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
The statistical data below confirms the 2010 Census data that livestock provides significant economic value for the local economy of the area in question. Half of the population will lose these resources as a consequence of the construction of the Naval Base in the near future.

**Families who raise livestock**

The above graph shows that the majority of population in Hera raises livestock such as: chickens, pigs, sheep, goats, horses, cows and buffalos. The affected communities living in the Naval Base area said that through the combination of activities such as livestock breeding and farming, they can sell the products to provide for the needs of their families and to pay for their children’s school fees.⁶¹

**Number of livestock**

The affected communities living in the Naval Base area said that through the combination of activities such as livestock breeding and farming, they can sell the products to provide for the needs of their families and to pay for their children’s school fees.⁶¹

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⁶¹ Interview with Domingos Mú: Wednesday, 16 January 2013
As we can tell from the chart above, the majority of residents in the Naval Base area are raising livestock of economic value, thus, these activities need to be protected by the Government in support of the community’s economic growth.

The community has requested that the Government consider the matter and make a decision that actually will respond to community concerns regarding the relocation of the people, especially the farmers. Before launching the relocation, technical studies should be conducted to identify areas suitable for raising livestock. If they are to be relocated to an area on the hill, the new location will cause a significant impact on animal production due to inadequate stock of water and grass.62

3. Environmental Aspects

FM believes that environmental issues will also negatively impact the future construction of the Naval Base. In this scope, the impact of frequent flooding each is among the environmental issues that need to be considered, as it will hugely impact the Naval Base in the future.

a. The Naval Base surrounded by the river

Since the establishment of the initial Naval Component F-FDTL in 2001 at the port of Hera, the location has repeatedly drawn the public’s concern because the naval port is threatened by major flooding every rainy season.63 As a result of the river overflow, in 2012, the Government through the Secretary of States for Defense (SoSD) allocated more than four (4) million dollars to contract the Karya Bakti Timor Company (BTK) to dredge the sand, create a dam, and hold back the river water that floods the naval port area annually.64

Based on the monitorisation conducted by FM, there are two rivers that surround the Naval Base – the rivers of Ailok-Laran and Ki‘ik. Every rainy season, both rivers have flooded the naval area and caused negative impact to the naval infrastructure and equipment. The rivers often carry large volumes of sludge into the ocean and also damage the marine environment in the Naval Base area, as the sea water becomes polluted and damages the keels and hulls of the ships.65 Fundasaun Haburas also questioned the implications from segmenting of the river around the Naval Base. The Fundasaun stated a dire need for a technical environmental study to determine the river capacity and water flow current. The rivers also carry sludge that will result in the segmentation of the Naval Base area.66

62 Ibid
63 Media Independente: Tuesday, 03 April 2012.
64 Media Independente: Thursday, 27 September 2012.
65 Interview with the Suco Chief of Hera, Simão Pedro Ribeiro, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
66 Interview with the Director of Fundasaun Haburas: Deometro do Amaral, Friday, 25 January 2013.
The regular segmentation of the river to the Naval Base area has been a concern raised by the former President of the Republic, Jose Ramos Horta, for its severity and its potential to damage the Naval port (Naval Base) in the future. In fact, the segmentation of the river each year has made the sea area more shallow, brought in a high volume of sludge, and resulted in the breeding of marine animals (crabs) on the ship keel that may result in damage to the ship.

In order to effectively and efficiently control Timor-Leste’s marine resources, including addressing illegal fishing, the most strategic place to build the Naval Base is on the South Coast. Doing so will reduce operating budgets and will also aid the sustainability of the naval ship operation systems and the military aircrafts that control Timor-Leste’s maritime area. Thus, Fundasau Mahein requests that the Government to conduct a more in-depth study on all aspects of this alternative, thus it will not only to waste money. The experience in Timor-Leste is that the temporary port itself has cost nearly ten millions of dollars, and it will cost more if, indeed, the Government builds a permanent port for the F-FDTL Naval Base in Hera.

b. The sea is getting shallower

Another significant threat to the Naval Base at Hera is a surrounding seabed environment that has gradually became more and more shallow as the river water carries mud and dirt to the Naval Base area. If the nearby seabed is shallow, it is difficult for large ships to moor and this will have implications for the Naval Base. The shallow seabed has already led to negative

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68 Conversation with a Navy member F-FDTL whom does not want FM to publish the name, Wednesday, 16 January 2013
69 Interview with the Advisor of Casa Militar: Frei Guterres, Friday, 25 January 2013.
consequences in 2012, when the shallowness allowed waves to cause damage to the Naval Port.\footnote{Newspaper Diariu Nasional: Friday, 27 Jululu 2012.}

According to the local fishermen, during the Indonesian period the Naval port was only used for fishing boats, not used for large ships such as the military vessels because the seabed conditions have never allowed for large ships to moor. The fishermen requested the Government, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, discuss this issue with the Secretary of State for Defense – specifically, that Hera Naval port only be used as a fishing harbor and that the port of Hera also contribute to the state through the payment of a tax levy by the fishermen that can be allocated for national development.\footnote{Interview with former Indonesian Port Retribution Officer, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.}

Just by considering the ongoing consequences of the temporary port, it is clear that a technical team must be established to conduct a profound analysis and study on the negative effects of the future construction of the Naval Base at Hera. The facts show that the Naval Base area is always under threat from the river during the rainy season. In October 2012, the Major General Lere Anan Timor also raised questions about the sand buildup in the Naval port area, and asked the government to hand over a quality infrastructure to the F-FDTL Navy.\footnote{Media Timor Post: Friday, 12 October 2012; \url{http://www.timorhauniandoben.com/2012/10/lere-anan-timor-governu-tenki-simu.html}}

\hspace{1cm} \textit{c. Flood happens every year}

FM monitorization indicates that the flood issue affects the Naval Base every year. The Government has regularly allocated considerable amounts from the budget for maintaining the dam and dredging the sand and debris carried by the river (which causes the segmentation at Hera port). The Government has admitted that this maintenance budget is very expensive.\footnote{Media Independente: Thursday, 27 September 2012.} FM monitorization also indicates that the BTK Company continues to conduct the dredging of sand and debris around the Naval Base.\footnote{Fundasaun Mahein team want to take photos of the process of sand and sludge dredging but is not allowed by the Naval members.}

An analysis of the impact of the flooding, according to Fundasaun Mahein, showed that, if possible, the Naval Base should not be established in the area of Hera. The Suco Chief of Hera also questioned the Government’s decision to proceed with the establishment of the Naval Base in the Hera area. The project will cost millions of dollars in the future just to to dredge sand and sludge resulting from natural events.\footnote{It will be best if the Government establish the Naval Base in the Southern Coast to control illegal fishing by foreign national fishermen, rather than establishing it in Hera with more implication, budget-wise, non-efficient operation-wise.} Thorough feasibility studies must be conducted, and the Government should not be spending money in this way as the construction of the Naval port is problematic. Moreover, the land status is still under dispute and further construction will surely bring huge impact to the community at Hera.\footnote{Interview with the Advisor of Casa Militar: Frei Guterres, Friday, 25 January 2013.}

\footnote{\textsuperscript{71} Newspaper Diariu Nasional: Friday, 27 Jululu 2012.}
\footnote{\textsuperscript{72} Interview with former Indonesian Port Retribution Officer, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.}
\footnote{\textsuperscript{73} Media Timor Post: Friday, 12 October 2012; \url{http://www.timorhauniandoben.com/2012/10/lere-anan-timor-governu-tenki-simu.html}}
\footnote{\textsuperscript{74} Media Independente: Thursday, 27 September 2012.}
\footnote{\textsuperscript{75} Fundasaun Mahein team want to take photos of the process of sand and sludge dredging but is not allowed by the Naval members.}
\footnote{\textsuperscript{76} It will be best if the Government establish the Naval Base in the Southern Coast to control illegal fishing by foreign national fishermen, rather than establishing it in Hera with more implication, budget-wise, non-efficient operation-wise.}
\footnote{\textsuperscript{77} Interview with the Advisor of Casa Militar: Frei Guterres, Friday, 25 January 2013.}
The Naval Base is segmented by sludge during the rainy season

![Image of segmented area](image)

**Source:** Hera – Photo by FM 201

d. **The hills being excavated**

Another issue of concern for FM is that the hilly area of Hera has been excavated by the "Montana Diak Company". FM’s monitorization found that the hill being excavated by the Company is located very close to the Akanunu River. Thus, in the future, this excavation will also damage the environment and subsequently result in exacerbated coastal flooding.

The Akanuno River is located very close to the two rivers that have been causing issues for the Naval Base. According to Fundasaun Haburas, the Montana Diak Company has obtained the authorization from the Government to explore the hill for more than four years. More segmentation will occur in the naval port if the excavation continues because it will damage the grass and the soil, thus eliminating natural "run-off" protection, which will ultimately increase the volume of water during rainy season and cause segmentation to the naval area.

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78 Fundasaun Mahein’s team conducted monitorization on Wednesday, 16 January 2013: FM identified that the process of extracting the hill by removing the stones and trees will have implications for the degradation that would lead to landslides during the rainy season and will add to the volume of Acanunu river, thus, will ultimately damage the marine environment in the Naval Base area.

79 Interview with the Director of Fundasaun Haburas: Deometro do Amaral, Friday, 25 January 2013.
The community leader of Aldeia Akanuno is deeply concerned about the excavation activities undertaken by the company and said that the event will have a great impact on the community in Hera, particularly the population in Akanuno. In addition, during the rainy season, the water will carry the soil into the river, causing flood in the coastal areas of the Naval Base.\textsuperscript{80}

UNESCO report estimated that more than 70% of land in Timor-Leste experienced severe degradation due to hill excavation practices, logging, excessive herding and farming practices.\textsuperscript{81}

Thus, FM requests that the Government set up a technical team to conduct a feasibility study before the construction of a permanent, expanded Naval Base at Hera. The past 10 years of experience at the Naval Port area in Hera has demonstrated severe problems with the location.

\textsuperscript{80} Interview with The Aldeia Chief of Acanuno, Valente Cardozo, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
\textsuperscript{81} Timorese Local Knowledge: Delivered in (LINKS) workshop “Traditional Knowledge is the Capital/Resource for Development” Dili, 7-8 June 2011; http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002145/214540tet.pdf
The Committee B of the National Parliament is also concerned with the situation because the future naval base seems to always be troubled by natural disasters.\textsuperscript{82}

4. The National Infrastructure\textsuperscript{83}

a. The national highway and potentially high traffic movement

The national infrastructure policy was instituted during the IV Constitutional Government and continues with V Constitutional Government. In the Government’s political intervention, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão declared that the fifth (V) Government’s programs for the five years period will be prioritize national infrastructure – repairing / building national highways to the districts and remote areas. Specific new building projects include a highway linking Dili-Manatuto-Baucau, Manatuto-Natarbora, Dili-Likisa-Bobonaro, Dili-Aileu, and Maubise-Aituto-Ainaro-Kasa.\textsuperscript{84} To make this dream come true, the Government has borrowed seventy (70) million dollars from the Japanese government to implement the highway projects.\textsuperscript{85}

When we link the government infrastructure development plans for the institution of FALINTIL-Defense Force of Timor-Leste (F-FDTL), particularly in view of the proximity of the Hera Naval Base site to the national highway from Dili-Manatuto-Baucau, Fundasaun Mahein believes that Government must consider this essential, important highway issue in conducting a study before implementing or enforcing the policy in the future. Given the fact that either construction project can inhibit the movement of the general public as well as of the people who want to sell their agricultural produce in the capital Dili.

As the location of the Naval Base is very close to the national highway, it will impact traffic when the military is doing checkpoints or roadblocks during military activities. This will restrict the movement of the public transport the capital to the four eastern districts.\textsuperscript{86} Studies must be done to determine the ultimate purpose of the Naval Base, on whether Hera will only be used as a headquarters or it will also include dormitory space for the members of the Navy.\textsuperscript{87} Fundasaun Mahein believes that the study is important in order to properly identify the type and location of the Naval Base, so it does not impede the public movement.

The Government’s plans to build a highway to connect the national capital with the capitals of the eastern districts will also increase the volume of vehicular movement. Taking into account the Naval Base location, very close to the national highway, inevitably the roadblocks (check

\textsuperscript{82} Media Timor-Post: Wednesday, 03 October 2012.
\textsuperscript{83} In order to complete the information about the national infrastructure policy and the highway construction plan, Fundasaun Mahein has sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Public Work on (14/01 but there has not been any confirmation until the publication of this report.
\textsuperscript{85} http://suara-timor-lorosae.com/berita-11115-tempu-badak-xanana-sei-vizita-japaun.html
\textsuperscript{86} Interview with Community in Hera: Domingos Vicente de Jesus, Tuesday, 15 January 2013.
\textsuperscript{87} Interview with the Director of Fundasaun Haburas: Deometro do Amaral, Friday, 25 January 2013.
point) will impede the traffic during routine military activities.88 This can be seen from the traffic caused by public transport, such as buses, coming from the districts of Baucau, Vikeke, Lautém that make the trip daily, more than once, as well as the commuter-minibuses carrying passengers and students to and from Dili-Hera and Manatuto.

In terms of impact on trade, many community members engage in trading activities such as selling goods in a shop, selling their local products, and selling their fishing catch. Almost 98% of the population of the eastern part were farmers, thus, they often trade their local products in the capital of Dili.89

b. The central power plant in Hera

The location of the central power plant, very close to the Naval Base area, has also became a serious issue of concern as this can impact the activities of the Naval Base. Timorese Civil Society has questioned the implications of the power plants for the surrounding environment and the health of people living in the area – including members of the military living on the Naval Base.90 Additionally the Naval Base will serve in the future as a central zone for storing military equipment such as grenades, ammunition, bombs and so forth. If something happens and if the tanks explode, this will of course cause a huge impact on the Naval Base.91

Fundasaun Mahein believes that the central power plant area is a very sensitive, based upon experiences from the Indonesian period when an asphalt processing center exploded in Dili. The explosion range of the drums containing asphalt was nearly one kilometer.92 From this comparison, Fundasaun Mahein’s analysis indicates that the Naval Base should not be built in Hera because if there is a circuit issue and the central power plant explodes, the fire would spread quickly to the Naval Base. This scenario has huge consequences for the Naval Base, the central zone for the storage of military equipment. People living near the area will also be affected.

Another effect for the area near the power plant is that there will be pollution (smoke mixed with air and toxic chemicals) caused by the generator producing electricity. This will damage the health of the community and navy members, as well as the Navy Base environment.93

V. The Infrastructure for the Naval Base and Military Activities94

88 This information is based on the findings of the Security Development Discussion – SSD from Fundasaun Mahein team in Dili.
91 Interview with the Director of Haburas: Deometro do Amaral, Friday, 25 January 2013.
92 ibid
94 In order to complete information on the issue, Fundasaun Mahein (FM) has sent a letter to the Chief of Staff of the F-FDTL, Major General, Lere Anan Timor on (08/01/2012) and in turn it was confirmed that he is not available for interviews. Considering that the information is essentially importan for FM, on (16/01/2013) FM sent another letter to the Commander of the Navy in Hera, Mr. Higino Das Neves,
1. **How would joint trainings be conducted?**

The Secretary of State for Defense, Julio Tomas Pinto, said that the department plans to increase the volume of joint military training sessions with other countries in its efforts to professionalize the F-FDTL. The Naval Base will be established in Hera and the Support Bases will be established in Atauro, Oecussu, Palaka, and Com. All of these places will be used for joint exercises.  

Fundasaun Mahein has conducted an environmental analysis of the future construction area of the Hera Base and found that floods annually besiege the installation of the F-FDTL Naval Component. Construction here is risky because port standardization requires accommodation of military ships, often of 100 or 200 meters in length and 25 meters height, require approximately 15-16 meters of depth for landing while the seabed of Hera Port only reaches 11 meters of depth due to segmentation caused by river flooding. Given these facts, how can the joint trainings be conducted if the port is already experiencing natural segmentation that prohibits the mooring of large military ships?

With the marine environment of the future installation site of the Naval Base already at risk, it will surely hinder future military activities. It will particularly affect the military training and joint training conducted by the Naval Component with other countries invited by the Government.

2. **Is Hera simply as a base? And where will the Naval port be located?**

It has been stated by the Government's Force Development Plan (FDP) that its current policy is to establish the Naval Base in Hera. But the urgent questions from Fundasaun Mahein are: Will Hera only be used as a base? Where would the Naval port be established? These are the questions that must be considered when making an infrastructure development plan for the F-FDTL, particularly the Naval Component. The evidence suggests that because the Naval port is threatened by river flooding, it is necessary to conduct proper studies before construction. This is because when the rain comes, the river will cause segmentation, and the seabed will get shallower.

Technical studies need to be conducted to analyze the impact of environmental tendencies on a potential base, especially that of natural segmentation – questions that must be investigated include: How many rivers surround the Naval area? What is the volume of river water and the strength of the river current during the rainy season? How many water-borne materials are carried to the Hera port area during one rainy season? (Because if the water is carrying "solid" materials, then it will potentially head into the naval area and will eventually cause segmentation. However, the response received by FM said that he has no authority to provide information on the issue. Until the publication of this report, FM has not received any information from the competent institution.

96 Interview with the Director of Fundasaun Haburas: Deometro do Amaral, Friday, 25 January 2013.
97 Fundasaun Mahein sent a letter to the Commander of the Naval Component, Higino das Neves, on Wednesday, (16/01) to request for an interview but it was replied via email that he has no authority to provide information on the issue.
and a shallower seabed. A reliable source known to Fundasaun Mahein is also concerned about the environmental conditions of the seabed in the Naval port as it is full of sludge, will damage ship hulls, and many marine animals such as crabs will attach to the keel and damage the ships if no proper and regular maintenance is carried out (which has yet to occur).

The Government needs to identify other places that could be used as the Naval Base. Integrated development studies need to be done in order to analyze the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the current Force Development Plan (FDP). Thus, Fundasaun Mahein requests that the Government revise the Force Development Plan (FDP) regarding the establishment of the Naval Base in Hera. The research conducted by Fundasaun Mahein indicates that the Hera area is highly at risk for natural segmentation that is likely to impact the naval infrastructure and facilities.

3. Modern Infrastructure and Facilities

A modern military institution requires modern infrastructure and supporting facilities. Based on the 2020 Force Plan, the military requires modern equipment like aircraft, sniper weapons, armored vehicles, and other equipment. However, FM is concerned about why a small country like Timor-Leste might require such sophisticated military equipment? On one hand, Fundasaun Mahein might agree that Timor-Leste, as an independent state, must have modern military facilities and equipment aid the F-FDTL’s tranformation into a professionalized, modern military.

However, there should be an integrated development plan, with provisions to conduct the appropriate studies, in providing the modern infrastructure and facilities to support military operations. This is because the Hera location has a great potential for problems with segmentation on the Naval Base during the rainy season.

Any development plan requires an in-depth study in accordance with the other dimensions. The infrastructure and facilities of the Naval Component face great threats. In the future, the facilities and infrastructure of the port will be damaged by the overflow of the river, and the ships will be attacked by sludge and crabs in the absence of proper maintenance. So far, the five vessels owned by the Naval Component, including the two vessels purchased from the Chinese Government, have not undergone maintenance for over three years – partly because the condition of the docks and naval ports do not allow the ships to moor.

4. What about the design and feasibility studies of the location?

Regarding the feasibility study of the Naval Base, according to Brigadier General Filomeno Paixao, such a feasibility study exists but detailed explanations on this matter have not been

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99 Ibid
98 Conversation with a Navy member, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
101 Interview with the Advisor of Casa Militar: Frei Guterres, Friday, 25 January 2013.
102 Conversation with a member of the Naval Component, Wednesday, 16 January 2013.
publicly released or circulated. Thus, the naval port does have a problem and the naval port needs to be built somewhere else.\textsuperscript{103} This also indicates that the leadership of the F-FDTL is challenging the Government's plan to build the Naval Base in Hera.

Some experience has shown that, the Government had spent nearly ten million dollars for the installation of the temporary port in Hera, which has still not yet been fully completed. Fundasaun Mahein wants to clarify that there is a need to do a thorough study on the location, and also the design of the building should be based on the study.

Thus, undertaking the infrastructure development of the Naval Component requires technical studies. This means there should be certain procedures taken into account, namely the type of naval port, the types of ships to be purchased, the length and width of ships to be purchased, and the weight of the ships that the seabed and the naval port can accommodate, the condition of the waves, the strength of the winds, the volume of the nearby river, and the weight required for armored vehicles to access the Naval port.\textsuperscript{104}

5. \textit{By 2020 how many ships will be bought?}

According to the Force Development Plan (FDP), the government will purchase warships and armored vehicles for the Naval Component. However, the government requires a strategic military development plan, mission plan, disposition system, and functioning programming law in order to conduct a study to determine the necessary military equipment. This is because the military equipment is highly expensive if it is to be purchased for controlling Timor-Leste's maritime resources.\textsuperscript{105}

Currently the Naval Component has five ships – Jaco (1) and Betanu (1), two ships received from Portugal (2), and another one received from South Korea (1). Two of those five ships have been handed over to the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) to support the work of the Maritime Police in patrolling the waters of Timor-Leste.\textsuperscript{106} However, these ships also face a very complicated issue as they cannot be used off of the southern coast.\textsuperscript{107}

Fundasaun Mahein recommends that purchasing ships for the Naval Component is an issue that requires a study on the condition of the waters of Timor-Leste. There must also be an integrated plan regarding the ships’ maintenance. Purchasing many ships will require a large amount of money, and the maintenance costs will also be higher because they will cover all facilities that support the functioning of the ships’ operating systems.

\textsuperscript{103} Brigadier General Filomeno Paixão: TVTL Debate, Thursday, 23 August 2012.
\textsuperscript{104} Interview with the Director of Fundasaun Haburas: Deometro do Amaral, Friday, 25 January 2013
\textsuperscript{105} Brigadier General Filomeno Paixão: TVTL Debate, Thursday, 23 August 2012.
\textsuperscript{106} Mahein Nia Hanoin No. 02, 06 August 2012.
\textsuperscript{107} Executive Director Nelson Belo: TVTL Debate, Thursday, 23 August 2012

VI. Summary of Recommendations

Fundasaun Mahein’s recommendations:

- Recommend to the Government to revise the Force Development Plan (FDP) that decided to establish the Naval Base in Hera. Request to the Government to undertake a study on the aspects of social, economic, cultural, geological and other aspects before establishing the Naval Base in Hera in order not to cause other problems.

- Recommend to the Government to undertake a profound technical environmental study on the impact of natural events that often causes segmentation in the Naval Base area. FM requests the publication of the findings of the study for the public to be informed and the public can also contribute their thoughts.

- Recommend to the Government to create an inter-ministerial team including the Secretary of State for Land and Property, MAP, and the Secretary of State for Defense to hold a dialogue with the community of the Naval Base area, particularly the landowners, to resolve the disputes over the land.

- Recommend to the Government to value cultural sites such as the four sacred fountains in the Naval Base area so it may be conserved as capital for future national development and tourism.

- Recommend to the National Institute for Defense (IDN) to research the future construction of the Naval Base in Hera which faces economic, social, cultural, and environmental issues.
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