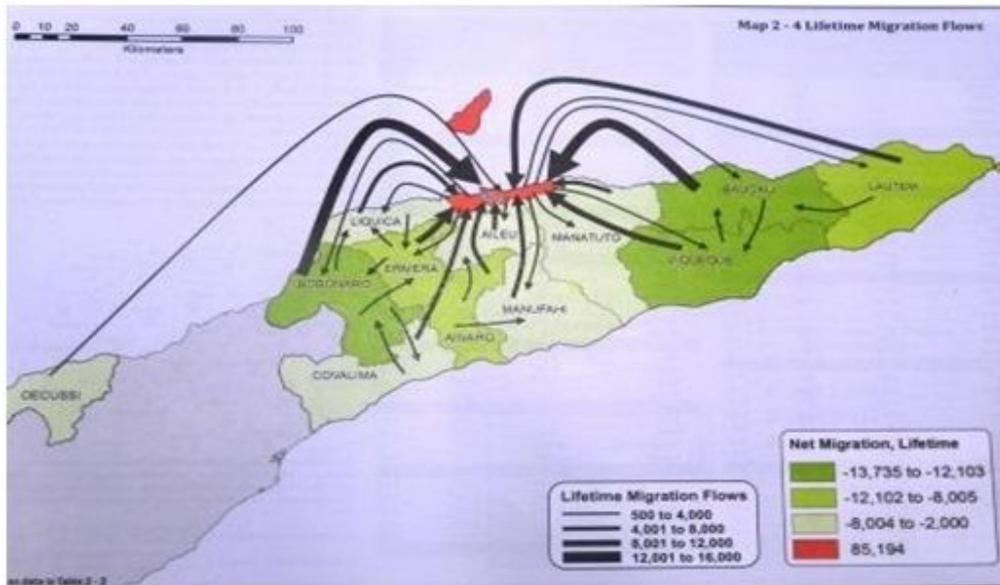




Urbanization and Security: “Dili Conflict Center”

Mahein's voice No. 64, 29 November 2013



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Contents

- I. Introduction.....2**
- II. Methodology.....2**
- III. Factors that Affect Urbanization.....3**
 - a. Formal and Non-Formal Education Concentrated in Dili Capital.....4**
 - b. Commerce Activity Centralized in Dili.....5**
 - c. Dili Becomes Center for Job Creation.....6**
- IV. Urbanization Cycle in Timor-Leste.....7**
 - a. Communities Move From Districts to Capital Dili.....8**
 - b. Pre-Secondary and Secondary School Graduates Migrate to Dili.....9**
- V. Impact and Threats.....10**
 - a. Urban Housing Conflict.....11**
 - b. Involvement in Gang Activities and Martial Arts Groups (MAG).....12**
 - c. Involvement in Organized Crime.....12**
- VI. What Should the Government Do?.....13**
- VII. Conclusion.....14**
- VIII. FM’s Recommendations.....14**
- IX. Bibliography.....16**

I. Introduction

Urbanization is a phenomenon that affects almost every nation, and Timor-Leste is no exception. The urbanization phenomenon is closely related to unorganized migration of workers from rural to urban areas. This is happening because there is no social, economic, or educational balance between rural and urban areas; people from rural areas dream of getting a job in the capital to gain success and change their life, which contributes strongly to urbanization.¹

In the context of Timor-Leste, urbanization has a strong relationship with economic development. The poor quality of education and lack of job opportunities in rural areas are cause for many locals to migrate from the districts to the capital of Dili.² The concentration of the formal and non-formal education system in Dili is also a factor that attracts many young people to the capital to continue their studies and attend professional courses.³ Urbanization is also the cause for many marriages, as husbands follow wives, and vice-versa.⁴

An appropriate response is sorely needed to respond to the phenomenon of local migration to ensure that over-immigration to the capital Dili does not occur, as this would threaten the stability of Timor-Leste in the future.⁵ The unorganized migration of people from the 13 districts into the capital of Dili has been occurring for half a decade now, threatening to turn Dili into a “conflict center” that will threaten the safety and livelihoods of local residents living in the area.⁶

II. Methodology

The methodology used in the research for this report was re-collection of all information about urbanization issues and local migration in Timor-Leste. FM researchers also collected information from discussions between FM’s team and the Security Sector Discussion Model (SSDM), re-collected all information from national media publications including the International Crisis Group, World Bank, Ministry of Finance, United Nations, ONG BELUN and publicized national statistics, including opinions and research results that had been published on official websites and blogs. Analytical points from FM’s research help inform an analysis of the urbanization phenomenon and local immigration that is considered to be the cause of Dili’s transformation into the “conflict center” of Timor-Leste.

¹ Bonaventura. (2012, Outobru 23). Trend Urbanisasi. http://master_bonbon.blogspot.com/2012/10/trend-urbanisasi.html

² TLVA. (April 2009). Those Groups, Geng’s and Army Violence in Timor Leste. <http://www.timor-leste-violence.org/pdfs/Timor-Leste-Violence-IB2-TETUN.pdf>

³ TS. (02 October 2013). Immigration From District to Dili made Dili Become Disturbing City. Media Tempo Semanal.

⁴ RDTL. (2010). Analytical Report on Migration and Urbanization. Sensus 2010. Volume 7.p24.

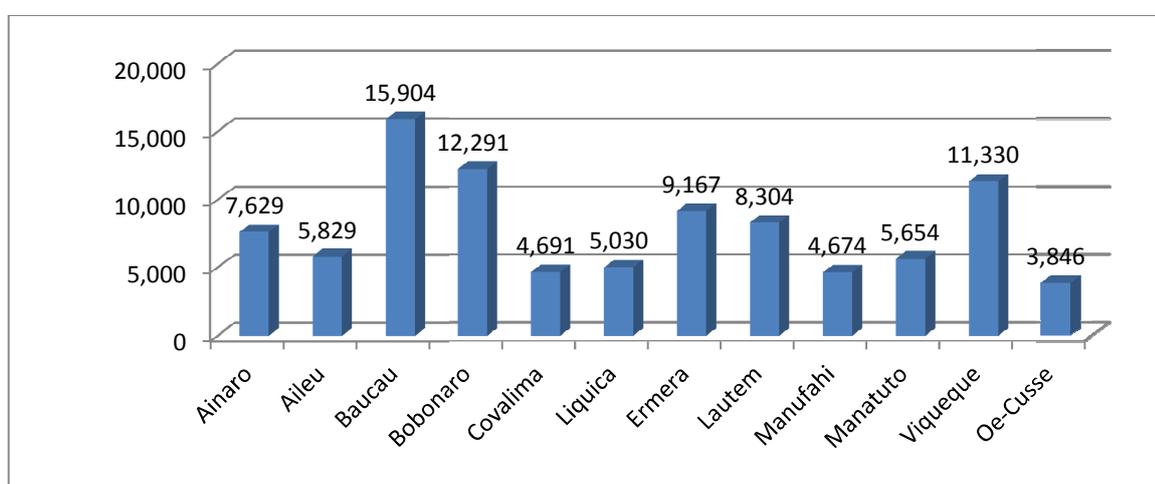
⁵ Sunarya, Ipan. (10 November 2012). Urbanization. <http://iephant46.wordpress.com/2012/11/10/urbanisasi/>

⁶ TLVA. (April 2009). Those Groups, Geng’s and Army Violence in Timor Leste. <http://www.timor-leste-violence.org/pdfs/Timor-Leste-Violence-IB2-TETUN.pdf>

III. Factors that Affect Urbanization

Normally urbanization occurs because of some factors that cause this phenomenon. According to the 2010 Census, urbanization is caused by migrants who come down from the districts to Dili city because of social, economic, educational and other factors.⁷ Many of these local migrants are composed of young people that get into social conflicts such as seizing land from each other, involvement in gangs, systematic unemployment, and other problems that raise concerns for national stability.⁸

Number of Local Migrants from Districts to Dili



Source: 2010 Census.

The above graphic shows that the volume of urbanization or local migration from the districts to Dili city is heavily increasing. As a result of this, the population in Dili grew from 173,541 in 2004 to 228,564 in 2010.⁹ At least 6 districts contributed heavily to the number of migrants coming to Dili: Baucau 17.5%, Bobonaro 13.5%, Viqueque 12.30%, Ainaro 8.4%, Lautem 9.1% and Ermera 10.1%.¹⁰

FM's monitoring has revealed that there are at least several factors to consider when analyzing urbanization or internal migration movements, as we will now discuss.

⁷ RDTL. (2010). Analytical Report on Migration and Urbanization. Sensus 2010. Volume 7.p14.

⁸ Carapic, Jovana. (2012). Need To Know Catalytic of Urban Conflict Point.

http://www.urbantippingpoint.org/documents/Policy%20Briefs/PolicyBrief_Dili_Tetum.pdf

⁹ RDTL. (2010). Analytical Report on Migration and Urbanization. Sensus 2010. Volume 7.p16.

¹⁰ RDTL. (2010). Analytical Report on Migration and Urbanization. Sensus 2010. Volume 7.p16.

a. Formal and Non-Formal Education Concentrated in Dili Capital

Since Timor-Leste gained independence in 2002, Dili has become the capital of the nation and also a center for formal and non-formal education. A large number of youth in the rural areas often decide to continue their education in Dili after graduating junior high school or senior high school.¹¹ This is primarily caused by the lack of educational quality students are offered in the districts in comparison to Dili.¹²

Every year around five thousand students complete high school and continue their studies at various universities in Dili. This number does not count students who continue their studies at pre-secondary schools.¹³ Students also travel for non-formal schooling such as facilitating or training and courses from government or non-government national or international organizations (NGOs), which are mostly concentrated in Dili city.¹⁴

Various opportunities presented to young men and women from the districts to come to Dili threaten to have a negative impact on security for urban areas. History shows that Dili has become a conflict center in the last decade and a half, spurred by the attainment of independence.¹⁵ One example of this is the conflict between students and the government related to the forced eviction of students from the former Hotel Rezende.¹⁶

The number of local migrants coming from the districts to Dili increases year after year, and if there is no control system implemented by the government then there will be an overpopulation of youth in urban areas. According to the 2010 census, 29.6% of Timor's population lives in an urban area. The census also shows that teenagers make up 18% of the population in Dili. Both of these statistics are an increase compared with the numbers from 2004, when only 25.9% of Timor's population lived in Dili, and 11% of that number were teenagers.¹⁷

¹¹ TS. (02 October 2013). Immigration From District to Dili made Dili Become Disturbing City. Media Tempo Semanal.

¹² TS. (02 October 2013). Immigration From District to Dili made Dili Become Disturbing City. Media Tempo Semanal.

¹³ R.3. (20 August 2012). FM Will Launch Report The Number of Unemployment in 2012. Media Business Timor. <http://www.jornalbisnistimor.com/id/berita/486-mf-sei-lansa-relatoriu-numeru-dezempregu-tinan-2012>

¹⁴ Celina, Marlia. (October 2006). Transform Education Syatem Outmoded. Media Lian Foin Sa'e. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTTIMORLESTE/Resources/October-Master_edisi-Final.pdf

¹⁵ Carapic, Jovana. (2012). Need To Know Catalytic of Urban Conflict Point. http://www.urbantippingpoint.org/documents/Policy%20Briefs/PolicyBrief_Dili_Tetum.pdf

¹⁶ Freitas Ezequel. ((01 September 2013). TLCE Sad with Students Condition of the Former Hotel Rezende. <http://www.thediliweekly.com/news/education/11506-tlce-upset-with-eviction-of-students-from-hotel-rezende>

¹⁷ RDTL. (2010). Resume of the Main Result Sensus 2010 in Timor Leste. <http://www.dne.mof.gov.tl/published/2010%20and%202011%20Publications/Census%20Summary%20Tetun/Tetun%20Census%20Summary%202011.pdf>.

The concentration of formal and non-formal education in Dili city has become the cause for the increasing number of young local migrants every year. This concentration has led to the formation of new groups of gangs in every suburb of Dili, which has provoked conflict when these groups compete over limited opportunities and available resources.¹⁸ It is important to keep in mind that the two biggest security threats to Dili in the future are social inequality and high unemployment.¹⁹

The government needs to take steps to improve infrastructure and the quality of education in rural areas in order to reduce the number of students moving to Dili.²⁰ The poor quality of education in rural areas is the main cause of families pushing their children to study in Dili.²¹ If the government does not respond to this problem, over population of urban areas will occur in the future and a lack of job opportunities will create frustration and social tension. This may have a particular effect of causing the youth to lose confidence in the economy and their chances for success in legitimate avenues, therefore risking an increase in illegal activity, which will hurt stability and security.²²

b. Commerce Activity Centralized in Dili

Other causes of urbanization in Timor-Leste are commerce and business activities that are centralized in Dili. The ministry of Finance's report through the Commercial Research Activity (CRA) shows that Dili is the center for commerce and business activities in Timor-Leste. Of the population in Dili, 80% of the people own their own private business, while 46,700 people work for other companies.²³ FM's monitoring shows that local markets in the capital of Dili are full of businesses coming from the districts to sell goods such as clothes, vegetables, fish, and meat.²⁴

¹⁸ TLVA. (April 2009). Those Groups, Geng's and Army Violence in Timor Leste. <http://www.timor-leste-violence.org/pdfs/Timor-Leste-Violence-IB2-TETUN.pdf>.

¹⁹ Neves, Guteriano. (22 May 2013). Unemployment in Timor and Challenge in the Future.

<http://aitaraklaranlive.wordpress.com/2013/05/22/dezempregu-ih-timor-no-dezafiu-ba-futuru/>

²⁰ TS. (02 October 2013). Immigration From District to Dili made Dili Become Disturbing City. Media Tempo Semanal.

²¹ Saldanha S, Estanislau. (01 October 2012). A Short Idea over Improving The Education Quality in Timor Leste.

<http://forum-haksesuk.blogspot.com/2012/10/hano-in-badak-ida-konaba-hadia-kualidade.html>

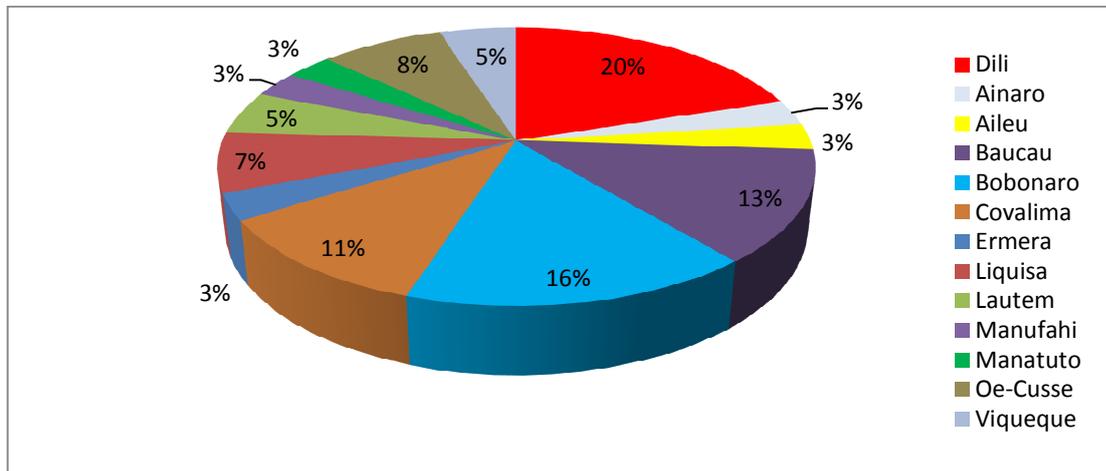
²² Mahein Foundation. (20 December 2012). Security Analysis After UNMIT mandate ended in 2012. Mahein's Voice. No. 43. Pdf.

²³ RDTL. (2010). RESEARCH OVER ENTERPRESIZE ACTIVITY IN TIMOR LESTE 2010.

<http://dne.mof.gov.tl/TLSLS/BUSINESS%20ACTIVITY%20SURVEY/Business%20Activity%20urvey%20BAS/BAS%202010%20TETUN.pdf>

²⁴ MJ4. (09 October 2013). Situation made sold Clothes in Dili. <http://jornal.suara-timor-lorosae.com/situasaun-obriga-faan-ropa-ih-timor-dili/>

Graphic of Business Industry in the 13 districts



Source: MCIA - 201

As shown in the graphic above, more companies operate in Dili than in any of the other districts. The concentration of businesses in Dili is the primary reason why young people have flocked to the capital city looking for employment. Much of the agricultural production taking place in the districts is done at a subsistence level or for a very small amount of profit; there is almost a complete lack of a private sector in the districts, which is fueling urbanization in Dili.²⁵ This increases the risk for conflict in urban areas because Timor-Leste's future will face two big challenges that are the "base and root" for conflict: social inequality and systematic unemployment.²⁶

The government needs to implement development policies in the districts and rural areas, such as support for small industry in every village and providing machines to support young people working in rural areas.²⁷ FM believes that doing so will help reduce the urbanization phenomenon in the near future.

²⁵ Neves, Guteriano. (22 May 2013). Unemployment in Timor and Challenge in the Future. <http://aitaraklaranlive.wordpress.com/2013/05/22/dezempregu-ih-timor-no-dezafiu-ba-futuru/>

²⁶ Neves, Guteriano. (22 May 2013). Unemployment in Timor and Challenge in the Future. <http://aitaraklaranlive.wordpress.com/2013/05/22/dezempregu-ih-timor-no-dezafiu-ba-futuru/>

²⁷ TS. (02 October 2013). Immigration From District to Dili made Dili Become Disturbing City. Media Tempo Semanal.

c. Dili Becomes Center for Job Creation

After Timor-Leste gained its independence, the capital of Dili became the major center of employment for many Timorese to find work. National Statistic Data (NSD) shows that more than 50% of the working-age population in Timor-Leste (age 15 and older) are looking for a job in Dili.²⁸ The 2010 Census related that the total population comprises more than a million people, many of whom are young people (15 years old and up) coming from the 13 districts to Dili. Many of these youth are currently looking for work in Dili because they know that Dili is the state's capital and the most likely place they can find employment.²⁹

Contrary to their expectations, however, many migrants coming to Dili have difficulty gaining employment as they lack the skills necessary to compete for jobs in the government, Non-Government Organization, and private corporation sectors.³⁰ As more people come to Dili in search of jobs they are not able to obtain, tensions may rise and the potential for conflict grows with the unemployment number. The social frustration caused by the high cost of living in Dili and the relative difficulty of enrolling in high-level university studies may push some young people towards violence which will hurt national stability.³¹

Many reports have been published by NGO's such as FM, Lao Hamutuk , International Crisis Group and others, expressing concern that unemployment is a big threat for the stability of the nation in the near future.³² The problem the State General Budget fails every year to adequately address the unemployment problem in Timor. This has created an opportunity for organized criminal groups to recruit unemployed Timorese, which creates further instability.³³

FM's believes that the government should create and implement a broad plan to develop the economic, education and health sectors in rural areas in order to reduce immigration from the districts to Dili in the future. There is an urgent need for the implementation of such a plan because poor economic opportunities and an absence of social justice means there is a high probability for growing conflict in urban areas.

²⁸ Viana, Rui. (17 September 2012). SEPFOPPE and Strategy Reducing Unemployment in Timor Leste. <http://forum-haksesuk.blogspot.com/2012/09/sepfope-no-stratejia-hamenu-desempregu.html>

²⁹ Mahein Foundation. (12 April 2011). Unemployment: an opportunity to create instability in TL. <http://cjitl.org/cjitltimor-today/cjitl-opinion/297-dezempregu-biban-ida-kria-instabilidade-ih-tl>

³⁰ TL Tatoli Lian.(28 April 2011). Unemployment: A Change Creating Instability In Timor Leste. <http://networkedblogs.com/hbQC2>

³¹ Viana, Rui. (17 September 2012). SEPFOPPE and Strategy Reducing Unemployment in Timor Leste. <http://forum-haksesuk.blogspot.com/2012/09/sepfope-no-stratejia-hamenu-desempregu.html>

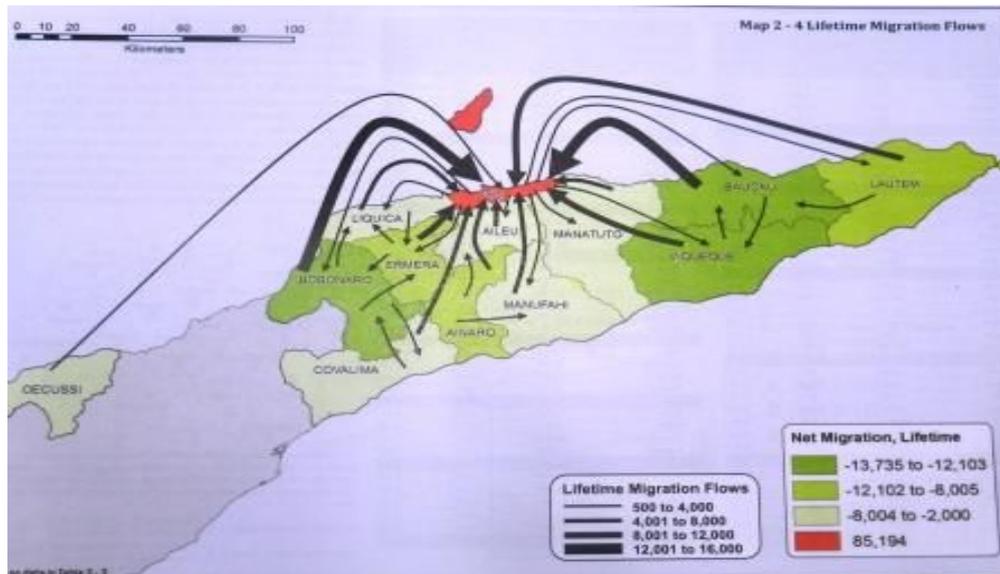
³² Neves, Guteriano. (22 May 2013). Unemployment in Timor and Challenge in the Future. <http://aitaraklaranlive.wordpress.com/2013/05/22/dezempregu-ih-timor-no-dezafiu-ba-futuru/>

³³ Mahein Foundation. (03 October 2013). New Form of the Operation Organize Crime in Timor Leste. <http://www.fundasaunmahein.org/2013/10/03/forma-foun-operasaun-krime-organizadu-ih-timor-leste/>

IV. Urbanization Cycle in Timor-Leste

Data from the 2010 Census reveals that the urbanization cycle in Timor-Leste revolves mainly around Timorese traveling to Dili city from all the districts of Timor-Leste. Migrants travel in search of jobs, business opportunities, education, or for family reasons, turning Dili into a public administration center and import and export hub.³⁴

Local Migrant Cycle From Districts to Capital Dili



Source: 2010 ATLAS Census

The picture above shows that Dili has become the center of local migration in Timor-Leste. The 2010 Census shows that at least 43% of the population living in Dili came from the districts.³⁵ They all came for their own reasons, whether they be social, economic, educational or political.³⁶

a. Communities Move From Districts to Capital Dili

As mentioned above, the urbanization cycle is normally related with the movement of communities from rural areas to urban areas in search of work business opportunities to improve their lives.³⁷ The phenomenon of internal migration and urbanization in Timor-Leste

³⁴ RDTL. (2010). Population Sensus and Parents 2010. <http://www.dne.mof.gov.tl/published/Census%20Preliminary%20Results%202010/Tetum%20English%20Preliminary%20Results%202010.pdf>

³⁵ RDTL. (2010) Sensus ATLAS. Volume 15.p18.

³⁶ Yunindyawati. (02 February 2012). Spreading Population: Migrant, Transmigration, Urbanization. <http://sosiokita-sosio.blogspot.com/2012/02/penyebaran-penduduk-migrasi.html>

³⁷ Bonaventura. (23 October 2012). Trend Urbanisasi. <http://masterbonbon.blogspot.com/2012/10/trend-urbanisasi.html>

cannot be separated from these factors, especially as people in rural areas still do not feel as they are feeling the benefits of economic progress.³⁸ The average income in Timor-Leste has increased 10% and 12%,³⁹ which has become a major incentive for people from the rural areas to travel to Dili in search of work.⁴⁰

Of all local migrants moving to Dil, and at least 50% are between the ages of 20-24 looking for jobs and business. It is clear that the increasing number of migrants coming to Dili is largely comprised of Timorese youth, not elders. In addition, at least 40% of Dili's population is composed of internal migrants.⁴¹ These factors are a threat to internal security, as Timorese youth will be tempted to join organized crime or other gang groups when they realize that job opportunities in Dili are scarce.⁴²

b. Pre-Secondary and Secondary School Graduates Migrate to Dili

Every year students who graduate in the districts come to Dili to continue their studies, contributing to Dili rise in immigration. Every year around half of all high school graduates from rural areas go to Dili to continue their studies at the university level.⁴³

This has occurred because the basic infrastructure and educational development level in the districts and rural areas are still poor, making it more necessary for parents to send their children to study in the capital.⁴⁴ The 2010 census shows that the of all students in Timor, 80.2% of Primary School students, 38.8% of Pre-Secondary students and 29.9% of Secondary students are concentrated in Dili. These numbers do not include universities.⁴⁵ From these numbers, it can be estimated that at least 30% of students migrating from the districts to Dili do so because of education.⁴⁶

³⁸ Neves, Guteriano. (22 May 2013). Unemployment in Timor and Challenge in the Future.

<http://aitaraklaranlive.wordpress.com/2013/05/22/dezempregu-ih-timor-no-dezafiu-ba-futuru/>

³⁹ BT. (01 July 2013) Economy Incomes of Timor Leste has strong increase.

<http://www.jornalbisnistimor.com/id/berita/ekonomi/1320-kresimentu-ekonomia-timor-leste-haksoit-makaas>

⁴⁰ Nicho. (05 August 2013). Face of Dili Capital Dirty with local Busniss.

<http://www.jornalbisnistimor.com/id/berita/1437-kapital-dili-oin-foer-ho-negosiante-lokal>

⁴¹ TLVA. (April 2009). Those Groups, Gang's and Army Violence in Timor Leste. <http://www.timor-leste-violence.org/pdfs/Timor-Leste-Violence-IB2-TETUN.pdf>

⁴² Mahein Foundation. (20 December 2012). Security Analysis After UNMIT mandate ended in 2012. Mahein's Voice. No. 43. Pdf.

⁴³ R.3. (20 August 2012). FM Will Launch Report The Number of Unemployment in 2012. Media Business Timor.

<http://www.jornalbisnistimor.com/id/berita/486-mf-sei-lansa-relatoriu-numeru-dezempregu-tinan-2012>

⁴⁴ Horta, Madalena. (21 June 2013). Rural Area Does Not Yet Feel Enjoy Independence. <http://jornal.suara-timor-lorosae.com/area-rural-seidauk-sente-sentemento-ukun-an/>

⁴⁵ RDTL. (2010) Sensus ATLAS. Volume 15.p18.

⁴⁶ RDTL. (2010). Analytical Report on Migration and Urbanization.

Sensus 2010. Volume 7

In order to reduce the number of student migrants, the government must create a plan focused on improving the national education system. The government must take steps to implement a rural educational development plan in both formal and non-formal education to decrease migration to the capital.⁴⁷

The reality shows that local migrant (students) moving from rural areas to Dili city, the majority of them board in state residences illegally. Conflict occurs when the government moves to forcefully evict them.⁴⁸ An example of this was the verbal and non-verbal conflict that occurred between students and police when the government evicted students who stayed at the former Hotel Rezende.⁴⁹

FM believes that increased migration to Dili will threaten safety and security in the area, caused by overpopulation leading to a shortage of residences, jobs, and general opportunity.⁵⁰ The problem is that the transportation service in Dili is over saturated. The number of taxi and mini-bus drivers is even greater in Dili than it is in the districts because economic activity is concentrated in Dili.⁵¹

V. Impact and Threats

The phenomenon of urbanization normally produces both positive and negative results. In the case of Timor-Leste, FM has tried to observe the social, political, economic and other factors contributing to Dili's transformation into a conflict center over the course of the last decade. These factors include community conflicts over housing and land, conflicts between gangs in the suburbs sparked by social frustrations and unemployment, and the unhampered recruitment of young people by organized crime in Dili.

After Independence the capital Dili became "PEACE" city in Timor-Leste. It gained this title because Dili became the center for Timorese to find jobs, schools, business, public administration and other benefits. After a period, however, it became apparent that the result of all this concentrated activity in Dili had negative repercussions for national stability and security, as can be seen in the diagram below.⁵²

⁴⁷ TS. (02 October 2013). Immigration From District to Dili made Dili Become Disturbing City. Media Tempo Semanal.

⁴⁸ Pinto, Acacio. (16 July 2013). [Polisia duni sai okupantes iha eis otel Resende.](http://radioliberalidadedili.com/lei-a-orden/1081-polisia-duni-sai-okupantes-ih-a-eis-otel-resende) <http://radioliberalidadedili.com/lei-a-orden/1081-polisia-duni-sai-okupantes-ih-a-eis-otel-resende>

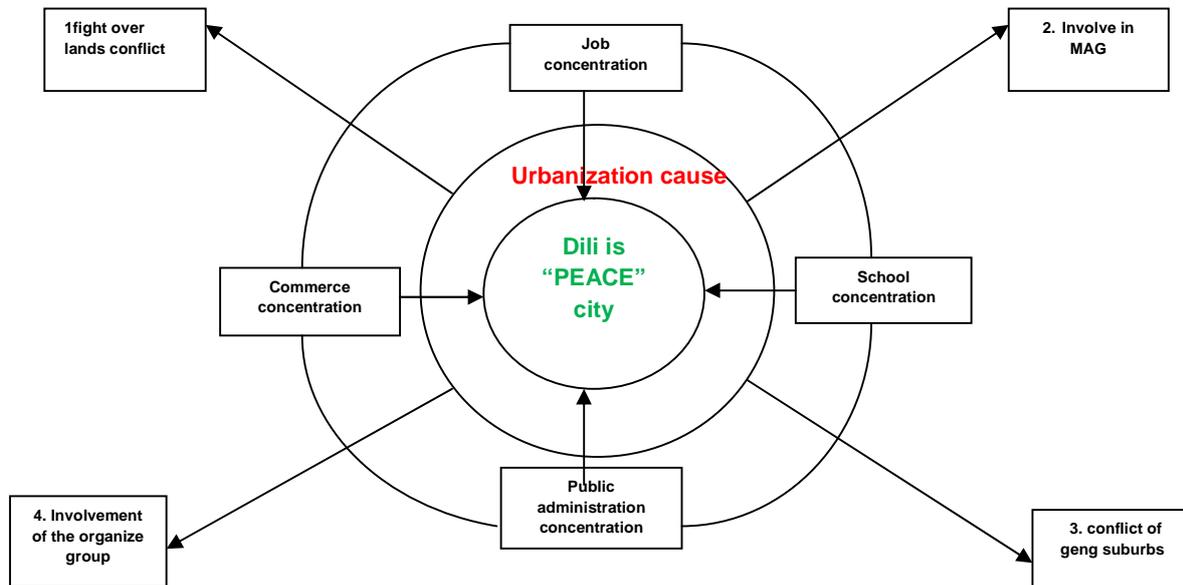
⁴⁹ Freitas Ezequel. ((01 September 2013). TLCE Sad with Students Condition of the Former Hotel Rezende. <http://www.thediliweekly.com/news/education/11506-tlce-upset-with-eviction-of-students-from-hotel-rezende>

⁵⁰ Information Note. (April 2009). Those Groups, Geng's and Army Violence in Timor Leste. TLVA Report. Pdf.

⁵¹ Neves, Guteriano. (22 May 2013). Unemployment in Timor and Challenge in the Future. <http://aitaraklaranlive.wordpress.com/2013/05/22/dezempregu-ih-a-timor-no-dezafiu-ba-futuru/>

⁵² Analyze Diagram of FM based on the monitoring result and research in Dili.

Violence Cycle of The Urbanization Causes



Source: FM Research Result - 2013

a.) Urban Housing Conflict

The diagram pictured above shows us that the conflict cycle over land and residence is not a new issue in Dili caused by urbanization. The reality is that fighting over land and residence has been occurring in Dili for over a decade, and continues to increase as more immigrants arrive each year. The urban housing conflict occurred alongside various other issues such as politics, the economy, and socio-cultural issues.⁵³

The scarcity of available housing in the capital of Dili can be compared with the districts. In the capital Dili, the majority of residents do not own their own house. Although there is housing, many units are occupied by families with two or three sets of parents living together with their children. This situation has the potential to increase tensions and create conflict within households or between neighbors.⁵⁴

FM's Ita Nia Rai reports discussed how land (housing) disputes in Dili city will be more contentious than disputes in the districts; of the 2,904 reported land dispute cases in Dili, only 9.53% have been resolved while the other cases are still being disputed.⁵⁵ If tension over

⁵³ Mahein Foundation. (17 April 2013). Dispute of land compassion: from Security Prespective. Mahein's Voice No. 48.pdf.

⁵⁴ BELUN. (April, 2009). REDUCE TENTION IN COMMUNITY WITH HOUSE ISSUE. <http://www.cicr-columbia.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Relatoriu-Politika-1-Uma.pdf>

⁵⁵ Mahein Foundation. (17 April 2013). Dispute of land compassion: from Security Prespective. Mahein's Voice No. 48.pdf

housing and land increases to the point of conflict between communities in the capital of Dili, it could represent a serious threat to national stability and security.⁵⁶

b.) Involvement in Gang Activity and Martial Arts Groups (MAG)

A consequence of immigration to the capital of Dili may be the increased involvement of young people in Martial Arts Groups (MAG). Gang activity in Dili is not a new issue. The origins of gang activity evolved from the Resistance and Clandestine groups during Indonesian occupation, and transformed into numerous groups with various methods and motives in Dili in the wake of Independence.⁵⁷ Almost every year martial arts groups recruit around 1,000 young people for involvement in MAG activity, and the majority of these recruits operate in the Dili area.⁵⁸

Gang groups operating in the suburbs of Dili are organized according to sponsor networks and relationships with a common figure. Loyalty is maintained through the supply of small-scale services, which also gives them a chance to recruit migrants from the districts into involvement with crime.⁵⁹ The existence of these gangs is closely related with social problems such as a lack of available jobs and an inability to continue on with education due to a lack of money.⁶⁰

FM asserts that if the majority of young people concentrated in Dili are involved in MAG, the chance for conflict that will destroy the calm and peace of Dili is much more likely. FM's monitoring has identified that the majority of conflict occurring in the capital of Dili is closely related with urbanization in Dili.

c.) Involvement in Organized Crime

Another consequence of urbanization is the increased recruitment of young men by organized crime groups. This problem is related to the lack of job availability and increasing unemployment, as well as law enforcements failure to crack down on organized crime in Dili, giving them free range to operate and recruit new members.⁶¹

⁵⁶ Information Note. (April 2009). Those Groups, Gang's and Army Violence in Timor Leste. TLVA Report. Pdf.

⁵⁷ TLVA. (April 2009). Those Groups, Gang's and Army Violence in Timor Leste. <http://www.timor-leste-violence.org/pdfs/Timor-Leste-Violence-IB2-TETUN.pdf>

⁵⁸ UNMIT. (10 August 2010). Tackling Gang Violence in Timor-Leste. <http://unmit.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?ctl=Details&tabid=12196&mid=15662&ItemID=19509>

⁵⁹ TLVA. (April 2009). Those Groups, Gang's and Army Violence in Timor Leste. <http://www.timor-leste-violence.org/pdfs/Timor-Leste-Violence-IB2-TETUN.pdf>

⁶⁰ Tempo Semanal. (20 September 2012). Unemployment Become Big Threats of TL's Instability. <http://temposemanaltimor.blogspot.com/2012/09/dezempregu-sai-ameasa-boot-ba.html>

⁶¹ Mahein Foundation. (03 October 2013). New Form of the Operation Organize Crime in Timor Leste. <http://www.fundasaunmahein.org/2013/10/03/forma-foun-operasaun-krime-organizadu-iha-timor-leste/>

At the same time, there exists no system to control increasing immigrant movement from the districts to Dili. It is easy for young people concentrated in Dili to allow themselves to be involved with organized crime due to a lack of options.⁶²

FM's previously published report about new forms of organized crime in Timor-Leste discusses how systematic unemployment and social inequality have made it easier for organized crime to operate and recruit new members.⁶³ FM also points to the experiences of some neighboring countries, such as Papua New Guinea, where the urbanization movement led to heightened unemployment, which provoked frustration and social tension. Young people lost confidence in the economy and the job market and increasingly involved themselves in crime as a result.⁶⁴

In light of these problems, FM urges the government to implement progressive political, economic, and educational policies in the districts and rural areas to reduce immigration to Dili. Policy formation should especially be aimed at fostering job creation to reduce unemployment and the appeal of organized crime to the youth.

VI. What Should the Government Do?

The growing problem of internal immigration from rural areas to the city has become a threat to national security and is an important issue for the government to be aware of and respond to. One necessary response is increased resources for formal and non-formal education in the districts, with a particular emphasis on providing sufficient facilities and hiring good staff and teachers.⁶⁵ The government is moving in the right direction in the National Development Strategic Plan-PEDN, which states the government's intention to improve facilities of Ensino Pre-Escolar, Ensino Basiku and Ensino Sekundaria in rural areas, as well as fortifying hiring and training of teachers in order to bolster education quality in rural areas.⁶⁶

The government needs to make strong investments in the small industry sector in rural areas in order to support community economies as well as create new jobs for young people in the districts. The government should also establish commerce networks in the districts to facilitate

⁶² Fim, (05 October 2013). Unemployment is criminal base in Timor Leste-Xanana Gusmão.
<http://noticias.sapo.tl/tetum/info/artigo/1341296.html>

⁶³ Mahein Foundation. (03 October 2013). New Form of the Operation Organize Crime in Timor Leste.
<http://www.fundasaunmahein.org/2013/10/03/forma-foun-operasaun-krime-organizadu-iha-timor-leste/>

⁶⁴ Information Note. (April 2009). Those Groups, Geng's and Army Violence in Timor Leste. TLVA Report. Pdf.

⁶⁵ TS. (02 October 2013). Immigration From District to Dili made Dili Become Disturbing City. Media Tempo Semanal.

⁶⁶ Presidential of the Council Minister. (26 August 2012). Program of the V Constitutional Government, 2012-2017. P13-15. Pdf.

the export and import of local product, to benefit the communities in the rural areas.⁶⁷ Developing infrastructure, such as roads that link rural areas to the capital, is also necessary to support the sale of local products and advancement of local industry. More must also be done to supply electricity and clean water for rural communities.

VII. Conclusion

The term “urbanization” generally signifies movement from rural areas to an urban area. This phenomenon normally caused by a socio-economic and educational imbalance between rural and urban areas. The perception of great job opportunities in the capital is the leading cause of urbanization.

When linking this general understanding of urbanization with the situation in Timor-Leste, it is clear that migration from the districts to the capital Dili is largely caused by a social, economic, and educational imbalance. For example, commerce activity in terms of exports and imports is centralized mainly in Dili. In addition, the concentration of formal and non-formal education opportunities as well as public administration in Dili is a major cause of urbanization.

In response to urbanization, the government needs to develop and implement policies aimed at promoting education and the economy in the districts. Doing so will help reduce the increasing migration to Dili, which represents one of the greatest security threats to the nation amidst high unemployment and little opportunity for economic advancement.

VIII. FM’s recommendations

1. FM recommends the government provide more resources for formal and non-formal schools in rural areas, which includes hiring qualified staff and teachers so that students do not need to move to Dili for studies.
2. FM recommends the government fortify small industry in the districts in order to create more jobs for communities in rural areas. Focus should also be placed on increasing production in rural areas through agricultural investment to avoid migration to Dili for work.
3. FM recommends the government improve infrastructure in rural areas. In particular, developing roads between districts and sub districts will make it easier for people to access markets and sell local products.
4. FM recommends the Ministry of Economy, Commerce and Tourism to set up commerce networks in the districts in order to facilitate the export and import of local products to the

⁶⁷ Len & Jef. (21 June 2013). Parents do not have spirit, many young people become unemployment. <http://jornal.suara-timor-lorosae.com/inan-aman-laiha-kbiit-joven-barak-sai-dezempregu/>

national market. This will help to spread the concentration of business from Dili city out to the districts as well.

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