



Traffic Accident and Its Cause

Mahein's Voice No. 77, May 15th 2014



Photo: Communitarian Police

This Report of Fundasaun Mahein's Voice is supported by the People of America Through the United State Agency for the International Development (USAID) and Finland Embassy in Jakarta

The Views Expressed on this Publication Report do not Represent the View of the United State Agency for the International Development (USAID) and Findland Embassy.



Website: www.fundasaunmahein.org

Contents

Introduction	3
Methodology	3
Traffic Accident	3
Causes of the Traffic Accident	5
1. Lack of the Police Presence in the Street and Facilities	5
2. Sell Things on the Road Side	7
3. Functioning of the Traffic Light	8
Recommendations	10
Bibliography	11

Introduction

Dili will become a capital of city in Asia/ASEAN with its professional designer, nice looking, free access including an attractive panorama with conditioned infrastructure; the government needs to fortify law and rules in order to regulate behaves of the economy process in this country such as; sell things on the street side, build house or small houses (barakas) in the street side and controlling the containers in Dili city.¹ Based on the National Development Strategic Plan-NDSP of 2011-2030,² the government prioritized to implement the highway program in a long period on how to make maintenance and construct the infrastructure through the urban plan.

The reality shown that the protocols roads are still in bad condition that caused to the traffic movements, and the rehabilitation of drainages and the footpaths are becoming preoccupations by the people because the traffic jam took place everywhere and sometimes opposite of some shops including the traffic light system that did not work well so far. Based on statistic of the World Health Organization-WHO regarding the mortality numbers of the traffic accident is that Timor-Leste occupies the second place in Asia region after Thailand, it was happened because lots of people do not have acknowledgment over road's penal code of law.³

This (FM) report relates over the traffic accident and its causes that were happening in all territory including the recommendations. This report is to actualize the previous report that FM has been published in 2012 regarding the Traffic Police Department and the highway security.

Methodology

Method that used on this report is systematically through discussion by the FM's team called Security Sector Discussion-SSD and gathering secondary data through media chanel and some relevant references as similar as the previous reports by completing this report.

Traffic Accident

National Police of Timor-Leste-PNTL through the Traffic Department Police and the Highway Security have made various efforts to save people's life from the traffic accident. However, the community still lack of consciences and sometimes they contribute to traffic accident.⁴ According to data that the PNTL registered over the traffic accident took place in 2013 is totaling

¹ Da Silva. Joao Olivio. 26 April 2011. Concept of Dili City is "The Mountain Of Lives (Montanha de Vidas); http://partidocnrt.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92:konseitu-sidade-dili-hanesan-the-mountain-of-lives-montanha-de-vidas-&catid=42:opiniaun&Itemid=160

² Media MOP. 26 March 2014; Chat conversation end

³ Quintão, Paulina. (10 June 2013). The Dilli Weekly. Mortality Number of the Traffic Accidents, TL is second in Asia

⁴ Tempo Semanal. 04 April 2014. The Presidnet Taur offers house of job to PNTL; <http://www.temposemanal.com/nasional/prezidente-taur-fo-kaza-de-trabailu-ba-pntl>

1.530, from this number 73 people have died, 328 got serious injury and 1.228 were small injuries.

These traffic accidents are always taking place because majority drivers do not have self-control when driving and some of them are in over drunk or sleepy conditions, and other causes of traffic accident is because of bad roads. If compare the 2013 and 2012 traffic accidents, of course numbers of the 2012 is high because 75 people dead, 4.485 got serious injuries and 139 got small injuries, this data is composed of all districts.⁵

The Health Information System of Timor-Leste also clarifies the victims (dead) of the traffic accidents, where in 2010 around 1.272 people were died, in 2011 was around 1.000, and in 2012 at least 600 died.⁶

Based on the reality shown that number of the traffic accident is always increasing every year because the communities particularly majority of drivers do not understand well over the law of driving. Apart from this, another factor that sometimes affects to the traffic accident is bad of the traffic light system, where it causes as well to the transportation movements in Dili city, so finally occurring accidents and people become victims (injury and die).⁷

An example, the car of the assistant general command of PNTL, with police number CG 02 crashed a motorbike (Revo) next to the Hotel Timor. This accident caused the rider got serious injury and immediately should carried the victim to the National Hospital Guido Valadares.⁸ Other case of the traffic accident which is considered as a big accident is that a car crashed five cars in once that caused a victim died and the two others got serious injured; this accident took place on September 2nd 2013 at 12:30 opposite to Leader and Timor-Plaza shops, and it caused to the traffic movements that should take at least one hour.⁹

Another case that considered caused to the traffic jam and traffic accidents are containers vehicles that carry materials circulating in Dili city; a concrete case is that a container vehicle fell down opposite to the Central Bank. Regarding this accident impeded to the transportation

⁵ Oliveira, Venidora. 06 February 2014. The Dilli Weekly. Traffic Accident Case in 2013, 73 people died. <http://www.thediliweekly.com/tl/news/capital/12023-1530-traffic-accidents-73-deaths-in-2013>

⁶ Media MOP. 26 March 2014; Chat conversation end

⁶ Quintão, Paulina. (10 June 2013). The Dilli Weekly. Mortality Number of the Traffic Accidents, TL is second in Asia

⁸ Sel. 26 March 2014. Jornal diariu Nasional. Assistant of the PNTL General Command chrsaed the motorbike: Domingos Buck teeth.

<http://www.jndiario.com/2014/03/26/adjunto-komandante-jeral-pntl-soke-motor-domingos-neh-an-tohik/>

⁹ Domingus. (3 September 2013). Media Timoroman. Big Accident taking place firstly in Dili. <http://timoroman.com/asidente-boot-primeira-vez-akontese-iha-dili/>

movement and has occurred the traffic jam that took long hours near to the ex-Hotel of Resende. Even on a circular stated that those containers only operate at night, but sometimes the containers' movements are much more than public transports.¹⁰

Even though the government should not stop the containers' movement because there is not yet a legal base to regulate their movement's timeline, actually the Directorate of the National Land Transportation-DNLT with the Police Traffic Department have made the timeline over those containers' movement except that from some ministries did not allow yet, therefore it makes those containers' move at random.¹¹ On the fourth (IV) constitutional government, the Prime Minister had made a dispatch letter in order to regulate containers to operate only at night in fact that those vehicles (containers) still operating every day and already impede for the daily traffic movements.¹²

Causes of the Traffic Accident

1. Lack of the Police Presence in the Street and Facilities

The Police Traffic department role is to make monitoring and management to reinforce the traffic's law to well-function for the traffic services, in order to save public roads. However, if the traffic police assume their better roles it needs a sufficient human resource including supporting facilities and equipments for their mission in order to perform better job and well-services for the community.¹³

Even the traffic police have performed their responsibility better in the field but they still face some problems as well such as; human resource and lack acknowledgment over the traffic's

¹⁰ Tempo semanal, 14 April 2014. <https://www.facebook.com/TempoSemanal?filter=1>

¹¹ The Dilli Weekly. 08 November 2012. Containers (vehicles) operate do not be based on the timeline, because there is no legal base;

08-11-; <http://initialcloudflare.thediliweekly.com/notisias/notisias/1853-kontainer-halai-la-tuir-orariu-tanba-la-iha-baze-legal->

¹² The Dilli Weekly. 08 November 2012. Containers (vehicles) operate do not be based on the timeline, because there is no legal base;

08-11-; <http://initialcloudflare.thediliweekly.com/notisias/notisias/1853-kontainer-halai-la-tuir-orariu-tanba-la-iha-baze-legal->

¹³ Fundasaun Mahein. 27 April 2012. No 33. The Traffic Department Services.

<http://www.fundasaunmahein.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/MNL-no-33-27042012-ServisuPolisiaTranzitu.pdf>

law particularly when a traffic incident taking place than cause people die, they do not know well how is their services process to the court.¹⁴

Lack of human resources have implicated the Traffic Police Services because posts of the traffic polices that established in Dili by the government with lots of funds did not utilize them better; those posts are still empty and did not utilize well by members of the traffic polices to serve and regulate the public and private transports in the street. Sometimes those posts used by the communities as a rest place from the sunshine, even worse is sometimes some youths use the referred posts by selling their motorbikes.¹⁵ According to the commander of the National Department Traffic that some police station did not function because lack of human resources to fill those posts around Dili. Based on the data that total members of the traffic police in Dili is only 28 members, therefore to place those members is only based on the existing post such as Aitarak-Laran, Bairro-Pite, Kolmera and some important areas.¹⁶

Meanwhile, members of the traffic police department also lack of facilities to facilitate their services. The National Traffic Police until now still lack of some equipments to facilitate their permormance in the field particularly equipments that related with the traffic accident that taking place in the street such as; Alco test, limited Alco, camera, vehicle, meters and hand phone to facilitate their services in base.¹⁷

Even worse is those motorbikes that used by the traffic polices thus far for duties are old which have been used since 2002 and until now there have no maintenance for repairing; those traffic police department are really concerns because they have spent their private money for repairing the motorbike thus far.¹⁸

Members of the National Parliament also concern over services of the traffic police members because if there is an accident taking place, the traffic police member sometimes use the carpenters' meters to measure the scene of the accident because they do not have more facilities; A concrete example of the traffic accident that took place in Ermera district, members

¹⁴ Venidora Oliveira, 17 July 2013.TDW. POLTRANS needs more training over Traffic's laws. <http://www.gopeerless.com/tl/notisias/seguransadefeza/2334-poltrans-presiza-tan-treinamentu-kona-ba-lei-tranzitu-nian>

¹⁵ Tom. 2012. 18 Outubru; Post of the Traffic police did not function; <http://www.diariutimorpost.tl/berita-245-postu-polisia-tranzitu-la-funsiona.html>

¹⁶ Claudio. 12 April 2013. Lack of human Resource, Some Traffic Posts did not Function. <http://timoroman.com/falta-rekurso-humanus-postu-tranzito-balun-la-funsiona/>

¹⁷ Soares Belo. Quitéria 05-07-2013. TDW POLTRANS will lack of equipments; <http://www.gopeerless.com/tl/notisias/seguransadefeza/2277-poltrans-sei-falta-ekipamentus>

¹⁸ Soares Belo. Quitéria 05-07-2013. TDW POLTRANS will lack of equipments; <http://www.gopeerless.com/tl/notisias/seguransadefeza/2277-poltrans-sei-falta-ekipamentus>

of the traffic police did not have meter so they have to get tailor's meters to measure the accident scene, so it is quite hard for them to work betterly, and they need complete facilities.¹⁹

2. Sell Things in the Street Side

The government recognizes that the traffic congestion in Dili is increasingly every day; so the government will develop and implement the highway plan with the purpose to meliorate the traffic light and the highway security.²⁰

And the government's policy is to orient the concentration of the small vendors who sell their things or goods such as; vegetables, rooster, fish and clothing (*obralan*) in Dili that have not got yet place so far. Even this concentration policy for the small vendors has planned since the fourth (IV) government constitutional at present, but the government unable to convince the community's consciences who live in city. The fact shows that the street side from Becora to Tasi-Tolu areas are full of traders and some place that they occupied are illegal. It means that the government unseriously to regulate and control those small vendor's activities, as such vendors who are selling clothings (*obralan*) everywhere around city and another example is that the sea side considered as a place or residence for some diplomatic corps from overseas to stay become places of selling fishes.²¹

Even worse is there is not yet law to regulate those cars placement in the street side as well as opposite to the shops, so it will give chance to vendors to sell things in the street side such as; in front of Timor-Plaza, Beto Elementary School No.7 Kampung Baru, near to the Maloa bridge and in front of Elemloi shop, vendors sell their clothings (*obralan*) that had affected to the traffic jam of public transport.

The National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) through the traffic police department itself confusing to regulate those vehicles and bikes that were parked in the street side and opposite to the shops. Therefore, PNTL urges the state to establish a strong law to regulate public transportations especially how to utilize better the streets because many times those transport just parked in the street side that impeds for the transport's movement in Dili city.²²

Therefore, the state should produce law to regulate vehicles that parked a long day in the street particularly opposite or in front of the shops and supermarkets in Dili such as; in Audian,

¹⁹ Soares Belo. Quitéria 05-07-2013. TDW POLTRANS will lack of equipments;

<http://www.gopeerless.com/tl/noticias/seguransadefeza/2277-poltrans-sei-falta-ekipamentus>

²⁰ Road according to the Government (<http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?cat=39&lang=tp#toc334202765>); The Fifth (V) Constitutional Government's Program; Legislature 2012-2017; 17 Marsu 2014.

²¹ Nicho. 05 August 2011. Image of Dili City is bad because of local traders.

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

²² AMM. (15 April 2013). Media online Timoroman. PNTL urges the government to draft law for public transport; <http://timoroman.com/pntl-husu-estado-kria-lei-ba-transporte-publiku/>

Kolmera and Lay shop, and this will impede for the community's activities movement to purchase things at some shops and it is hard for the communities to pass the street. The Operation Group of Dili District Market (OGDM) has identified the public way that always occurring traffic jam that are from Kolmera, Audian, Maloa Bridge, Bebora in front of the Infantil School, Mandiri and BNU Banks including others.²³

According to FM observation that the government only concerns if there is going to have a national day or any important meeting between Timor-Leste with other neighbour countries, then insists the companies to rehabilitate streets as soon as possible and urges small vendors to sell their things oor goods in certain places. However, after the meeting Dili becomes disorganized place. Apart from that, the communities who sell their things in Hali-Laran, Comoro, Pantai-Kelapa and Becora still become big concerns because up to date majority vendors are still selling in the sidewalk and street that has impeded for the transportation movements

On the other side, impacts of the street and drain constructions also affect to the traffic jam as well as the transport's movements; these situations made the Prime Minister should go immediately to monitor the transport movement then orients the company to rehabilitate the streets.²⁴ Apart from that majority drivers and students are really concerns of bad roads that hve affected to the transportation movement and because of bad roads sometimes occurring the traffic accidents.

It means that the government does not have integrate urban plan for the reconstruction process of roads in Dili, sometimes rehabilitate those roads called *uncover and cover the holes (loke kuak taka kuak)*; actually the government should have an integrate plan and to rehabilitate drains should hands over together with other programs such as drainages for water and hiding the electricity cables, so the referred construction should be responsible by a company and not always chance to one another.

3. *Functioning of the Traffic Light*

Based on the penal code of road defined that some places that may impede for the traffic's movement or any restriction places should set up the traffic light as an indication,²⁵ FM's observation that the traffic lights that set up in Aitarak-Laran, Kolmera and Bidau are in bad condition; therefore, it has impeded the traffic jam and occurred traffic accidents every day. .

²³ Ade. 18 October 2012. Diariu Timor Post. GOMD Prepares Law for Transport. <http://www.diariutimorpost.tl/berita-248-gomd-prepara-lei-ba-transportes.html>

²⁴ Vas; (17 February 2014). Xanana Observes the protocol Streets; Diariu Timor Post. <http://www.diariutimorpost.tl/berita-1072-xanana-observa-estrada-protokolu.html>

²⁵ Decree Law No. 06/2003, 3rd April, Road Penal Code. Article 5, Number 1

Regarding the traffic light system that always off, the communities particularly those who just walk by foot are really concerns of the traffic light because it is hard for them to pass the street from left to the right side.²⁶ To prevent the traffic accident and traffic jam the government needs to set up the traffic light in order to help people who just walking by foot.

And the electricities that always on and off will give the negative impact to occur traffic accident; actually the electricity should be on during 24 hours so the traffic lights will function normally and would not affect to the traffic accident. According to the traffic department's statistic number that four people got accident in a day, and this accident happened because of the traffic light that always off and this is the government's fault.

However, based on notices that the traffic light that is always on and off in Dili city were not the mistakes of the police and DNTT (Direcção Nacional Transporte Terrestre) sides, but because of the community them self do not keep attention and made broken for these traffic lights.²⁷

FM's monitoring that thus far the police and DNTT department still lack control to the traffic lights, and the police did not pay attention to those drivers and riders by parking their cars and motorbikes randomly so than affected to the traffic jam and accidents such as opposite to the Eskola Portuguese, there is no traffic department police to pay attention in this area to give any penalty.

Apart from that, according to FM views that law that applying for drivers who are against the traffic lights is not stronger, therefore those drivers just parking their cars and motorbikes at random. if this traffic light will not fix as soon as possible it will occur traffic accident more in the future, and this will really implicate to those drivers and people's life who just walk by foot.

²⁶ Freitas. Ezequiel, 10 January 2012; Media Dili Weekly; Traffic Lights does not work, it is hard for people who walk by foot to pass the street; <http://www.thediliweekly.com/en/news/news/683-lampu-tranzitu-mate-defisil-ba-ema-lao-ain-atu-hakat-ba-estrada-sorin10>

²⁷ The Dili Weekly. 30 April 2014. The traffic lights not well-function because of uncontrol by the communities, <http://www.thediliweekly.com/tl/34-jornal-en/kapital/1265-lampu-sinai-tranzitu-la-funsi-na-tanba-komunidade-la-kontrola>

Recommendations

1. Recommends to the SecretaryState of Urbanization to start urbanization for the Dili city with infrastructure and the government should fortify the law in order to regulate communities not to sell their things at random in the street sides.
2. Recommends to the National Directorate of Land and Transport (DNTT) to pay attention for those traffic lights, because the traffic accidents is increases every year and it occurs because disfunction of the traffic lights.
3. Recommends to the Ministry of Public Consruction to make an integrate plan between ministries before implementing the development program of roads around Dili city; in order to prevent those companies not to chance one to another by rehabilitating roads that would impede to public transport.

Bibliography

- AMM. (15 April 2013). Media online Timoroman. PNTL urges the government to draft law for public transport; <http://timoroman.com/pntl-husu-estado-kria-lei-ba-transporte-publiku/>
- Ade. 18 October 2012. Diariu Timor Post. GOMD Prepares Law for Transport. <http://www.diariutimorpost.tl/berita-248-gomd-prepara-lei-ba-transportes.html>
- Claudio. 12 April 2013. Lack of human Resource, Some Traffic Posts did not Function. <http://timoroman.com/falta-rekurso-humanus-postu-tranzito-balun-la-funsiona/>
- Decree Law No. 06/2003, 3rd April, Road Penal Code. Article 5, Number 1
- Da Silva. Joao Olivio. 26 April 2011. Concept of Dili City is "The Mountain of Lives (Montanha de Vidas);
- Domingus. (3 September 2013). Media Timoroman. Big Accident taking place firstly in Dili. <http://timoroman.com/asidente-boot-primeira-vez-akontese-iha-dili/>
http://partidocrnt.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92:konseitu-sidade-dili-hanesan-the-mountain-of-lives-montanha-de-vidas-&catid=42:opiniaun&Itemid=160
- Road according to the Government (<http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?cat=39&lang=tp#toc334202765> ; The Fifth (V) Constitutional Government's Program; Legislature 2012-2017; 17 Marsu 2014.
- Freitas. Ezequiel, (1 November 2011). The Dilli Weekly; SE Pereira: Urbanizasaun do not start yet, wait for the 2012 State General Budget; <http://173.254.22.239/tl/news/development/460-seau-dili-urban-planning-in-the-back-burner-until-2012>
- Freitas. Ezequiel, 10 January 2012; Media Dili Weekly; Traffic Lights does not work, it is hard for people who walk by foot to pass the street; <http://www.thediliweekly.com/en/news/news/683-lampu-tranzitu-mate-defisil-ba-ema-lao-ain-atu-hakat-ba-estrada-sorin10>
- Fundasaun Mahein. 27 April 2012. No 33. The Traffic Department Services. <http://www.fundasaunmahein.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/MNL-no-33-27042012-ServisuPolisiaTranzitu.pdf>
- Jornal Timor Post. 07 June 2013. To Urbanize Dili City needs Master Plan <http://networkedblogs.com/LXiy2>
- Jornal Nacional Diario. (09 October 2012). FRETILIN demands implementing the Urbanization Plan; <http://www.timorhauniandoben.com/2013/03/fretilin-ejizi-implemanta-planu.html>
- Media MOP. 26 March 2014; Chat conversation end
- Mj4. (15 January 2014). Roads in Dili City holes at random; .Suara Timor Lorosae. <http://jornal.suara-timor-lorosae.com/estrada-iha-kapital-dili-kuak-arbiru/>
- Nicho. 05 August 2011. Image of Dili City is bad because of local traders. <http://www.jornalbisnistimor.com/notisia/politika/1437-kapital-dili-oin-foer-ho-negosiante-lokal>
- Buck teeth. Domingos. <http://www.jndiario.com/2014/03/26/adjunto-komandante-jeral-pntl-soke-motor-domingos-neh-an-tohik/>
- Oliveira. Venidora, 17 July 2013. The Dili Weekly. POLTRANS needs more Training over Law.

Oliveira, Venidora. 06 February 2014. The Dilli Weekly. Traffic Accident Case in 2013, 73 people died. <http://www.thediliweekly.com/tl/news/capital/12023-1530-traffic-accidents-73-deaths-in-2013>

Quintão, Paulina. (10 June 2013). The Dilli Weekly. Mortality Number of the Traffic Accidents, TL is second in Asia.

R-4. Busniss Timor, 14 June 2011;

<http://busnesstimor.blogspot.com/2011/06/foer-nabutuk-halakon-dili-nia-furak.html>

Rony. (03 December 2013).

<http://www.jornalbisenstimor.com/notisia/politika/1494-hamamuk-dili-kria-sidade-satelit>

Republic Democrativ of Timor-Leste. (18 November 2010). Council of Minister. Decree Law No. 1/2011

Soares Belo. Quitéria 05-07-2013. TDW POLTRANS will lack of equipments;

<http://www.gopeerless.com/tl/notisias/seguransadefeza/2277-poltrans-sei-falta-ekipamentus>

Sel. 26 March 2014. Jornal diariu Nasional. Assistant of the PNTL General Command chrsed the motorbike:

Tempo Semanal. 04 April 2014. The Presidnet Taur offers house for job to PNTL;

<http://www.temposemanal.com/nasional/prezidente-taur-fo-kaza-de-trabailu-ba-pntl>

The Dili Weekly/ 30 November 2012. The traffic light not well-funtion, MP laments;

<http://www.thediliweekly.com/tl/35-jornal-en/dezenvolvimentu/1874-sinais-tranzitu-la-funsiona-mp-lamenta>

Tempo seminal, 14 April 2014. <https://www.facebook.com/TempoSemanal?filter=1>

The Dilli Weekly. 08 November 2012. Containers (vehicles) operate do not be based on the timeline, because there is no legal base;

08-11-; <http://initialcloudflare.thediliweekly.com/notisias/notisias/1853-kontainer-halai-la-tuir-orariu-tanba-la-iha-baze-legal->

Tempo Semanal. 06 May 2013. Drivers concern over condition of drainagens particularly to East side. <http://temposemanal.com/latest-news/item/297-kondotor-sira-halerik-kona-ba-kondisaun-liuron-ba-parte-leste>

Traffic's

<http://www.gopeerless.com/tl/notisias/seguransadefeza/2334-poltrans-presiza-tan-treinamentu-kona-ba-lei-tranzitu-nian>

The Dili Weekly. 30 April 2014. The traffic lights not well-function because of uncontrol by the communities,<http://www.thediliweekly.com/tl/34-jornal-en/kapital/1265-lampu-sinais-tranzitu-la-funsiona-tanba-komunidade-la-kontrola>

Venidora Oliveira, 17 July 2013.TDW. POLTRANS needs more training over laws.

Vas; (17 February 2014). Xanana Observes protocol Streets; Diariu Timor Post.

<http://www.diariutimorpost.tl/berita-1072-xanana-observa-estrada-protokolu.html>