



MONITORIZASAUN HO ADVOKASIA BA SEITOR SIGURANSA
MONITORIZAÇÃO E ADVOCACIA DO SECTOR DE SEGURANÇA
MONITORING AND ADVOCACY OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

Fundasaun Mehin (FM), 3 February 2022

Press Release

Impacts of State Projects for Development and Economic Security in Cova Lima Municipality

Since the implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 (SDP),¹ the Tasi Mane Project has been prioritized by the Timor-Leste State. Proponents of the project argue that it can stimulate industrial development and benefit the people of Timor-Leste. However, for local communities in the project areas on the south coast, the Government has given inadequate attention to their needs and concerns, particularly related to environmental risks and impacts to communities' daily movement from the major projects.

This report analyses the impacts of several components of the Tasi Mane Project, including the South Coast Highway, Suai Airport and the onshore oil drilling in Matai Suku, Cova Lima Municipality for local community members. Risks and negative impacts include environmental damage, reduced ability to move and carry out daily activities, including economic activities and access to essential services, health and safety impacts, lost land and livelihoods and discrimination and threats from the state.

The report concludes that the Tasi Mane Project has created many negative impacts for local communities, which highlights the urgent need for the Government and oil companies working in the project area to take action to address these harms. Fundasaun Mahein offers the following recommendations to these institutions.

Recommendations

1. The Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals should consider civil society reports and information on the real conditions of affected communities. Civil society reports are an important barometer of community realities which are useful for minimising risks from petroleum activities.

¹ http://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Strategic-Development-Plan_EN.pdf

2. Timor GAP should approach its partner Timor Resources to include women landowners in the contract discussions so that their voices and concerns are heard.
3. The Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals should notify Timor Resources to authorise civil society, media, activists and researchers to access accurate information on the Feto Kmaus oil well, which can then enable communities and the general public to access relevant information.
4. The Ministry of Public Works must respond immediately to the problem of alternative access around the south coast highway, particularly in Matai Suku, to facilitate communities' movement, economic activities and access to education and health.
5. To respond to all situations which bring risks to communities, such as that which occurred last year, ANPM must coordinate with Timor Resources and their sub-contractors to ensure proper control and management related to geological pressure, geological integrity and waste products from oil activities.

For more detailed information, please see the full report, or contact Fundasaun Mahein with the below details:

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