



FRENTE REVOLUCIONÁRIA DO TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE FRETILIN

Media release
30 July 2007

Arsénio Bano elected Vice President of FRETILIN

FRETILIN, the major party in Timor-Leste (East Timor) following the 30 June parliamentary elections, has elected 33-year-old Arsénio Bano to the position of Vice-President of the party.

Bano, a former student activist from the district of Oecussi, an enclave located in West Timor, was elected to the post by FRETILIN's Central Committee.

Bano was the number three candidate on FRETILIN's parliamentary list for the recent elections and is a member of the party's Central Committee and National Political Commission. He currently serves as Minister for Labour and Community Reinsertion in the Third Constitutional Government.

Bano said: "I am honoured and proud to have been elected Vice President of FRETILIN and look forward to the challenges, responsibilities and opportunities that the new position brings."

FRETILIN General Secretary Dr Mari Alkatiri said Bano's election showed that FRETILIN is preparing a younger generation of leaders to take control of the party.

"Arsenio Bano will bring a fresh and dynamic perspective to the party leadership," Dr Alkatiri said.

He said that during the resistance to Indonesia's occupation of Timor-Leste, Bano was a student activist in Indonesia and undertook resistance activities at great risk to his own personal safety.

"Bano was active in RENETIL, a Timor-Leste student group based in Indonesia which advocated self determination and human rights for Timor-Leste," Dr Alkatiri said.

"After Timor-Leste became independent, Bano was a founder of the National NGO Forum (FONGTIL) in 2000. FONGTIL was an umbrella organization which gave civil society a key role in the reconstruction of the nation in the early years of the UNTAET administration.

"As an executive director of FONGTIL, Bano was instrumental in giving FONGTIL much greater prominence at a time when the UNTAET administration could have easily bypassed civil society."

For more information, please contact:

Arsénio Bano (+670) 733 9416, Jose Teixeira (+670) 728 7080 or send an email to fretilin.media@gmail.com