



**AATL-TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE BODY (TAB)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**ASF-Belgium Office-Balide Dili East Timor**  
**August 28 August 2004**

**Participants:**

- **Dr. Benevides Correia Barros (Pres AATL)**
- **Dr. Sergio Hornay (Head of Public Defender).**
- **Dr. Jose Azelito Soares (LBHTL)**
- **Dr. Pedro Aparicio de Oliveira (Law Firms Consultant)**
- **Dr. Celito Cardoso (LIBERTA)**
- **Dr. Cancio Xavier (Public Defender)**
- **Lito Exposto (JSMP)**
- **Dr. Julio Pereira Cardoso (LIBERTA)**
- **Shelley R. Wieck (ASF- PO)**
- **Joao Travolta (ASF APO)**

**Agenda:**

**The agenda of this meeting was to discuss specifically about the Law Decree that was recently issued by the government, which is related to the legal professions in East Timor, such as Judge, Prosecutor and Public Defender.**

**Dr. Benevides Correia Barros (President - AATL):**

The discussion was kicked off with a short speech delivered by Benevides, as President of the AATL, in which he suggested to all his colleagues to discuss together to see about the impact of whole East Timorese Jurists. Benevides said that his perception was that the government has an interest to control all the legal institutions existing in East Timor. He said that the government issued this law with intention to control the all functions carried out in the legal area.

**Jose Azelito Soares:**

Jose suggested to the participants to better study this organic law carefully so that we can understand about its content, so we can take any further steps. Jose further stated that we should do nothing if we have not understood yet. Because we don't know if this law affects the private lawyers or not.

**Cancio Xavier:**

In his opinion, this will also affect the private lawyers because this law does not explain specifically for which institutions. It is indicated that the private lawyers are also part of it, therefore, he suggested to study it carefully before we take any steps.

Cancio also raised about the inconsistency of the government. For example, they have been working for four years, but they are required to attend the training. This means the government is inconsistent. The government does not consider for those who have been working a long time.

**Sergio Hornia:**

Sergio also commented on the organic law. In the reality, some of his colleagues wanted to resign from the Public Defender's Office, but they have withdrawn their resignation because of this law. If this law is applied, it is better for them to attend the training in order to get accreditation from the government.

**Pedro Aparicio:**

Pedro suggested to write a request letter to have a meeting with the Ministry of Justice to clarify how much this law will affect the private lawyers in the future.

**Lito Exposto:**

Lito suggested that we better study carefully about the content of the organic law before we do something. Because he believes that the AATL is an umbrella for all the lawyers, therefore, the AATL should take responsibility to talk on behalf of the lawyers with the government about everything.

Lito also suggested that it would be better to translate this document into Bahasa Indonesia, then distribute to all the lawyers to study before we take any further steps.

**Shelley (ASF-Timor - Program Officer):**

Shelley agreed to Lito's suggestion and ASF will try to translate the documents into Bahasa and distribute to all AATL members.

As such, the participants also agreed to have a meeting as planned by ASF during the regular meeting of the AATL-TAB that was scheduled for 3 September 04 in ASF's office.

Therefore, Shelley and Benevides suggested to have a second general meeting of all AATL members in order to discuss this organic law in detail. ASF will try hard to translate quickly and distribute to all members.

Benevides also suggested that all AATL members attend this general meeting because we will be discussing important matters.

These Minutes were written by ASF APO Joao Travolta during the meeting and translated into English by ASF Program Officer Shelley Wieck with the help of Casimiro dos Santos.