

## **Government to settle dispute between Timor-Gap and Timor Resource**



the Minister of Petroleum, Francisco da Costa Monteiro (photo/Tatoli)

**DILI, 18 september 2023 (TATOLI)** – Minister of Petroleum pledged to settle the dispute between Timor Resource and Timor Gap in the near future in order to accelerate onshore oil and gas exploration in Covalima.

“We will find a solution to end the dispute between Timor Resource and Timor Gap in the very near future so that the company can continue its oil and gas exploration activities in Covalima,” the Minister of Petroleum, Francisco da Costa Monteiro, told reporters, on Friday.

Minister Monteiro said he would collaborate with the relevant partners, including Timor Resource and Timor Gap, to settle the dispute.

Timor Resources is a private Australian oil and gas company that has been drilling three onshore wells in Covalima municipality, namely Fetokmaus, Liurai, and Lafaek.

Prior to exploration, Timor-Resource and Timor Gap agreed on a 50-50 joint venture in the onshore exploration oil and in the Southern Municipalities.

However, Timor Resource has recently announced that its 50% Joint Venture partner, Timor Gap, hasn't so far contributed to the drilling of the three wells.

In May, Timor Resource called on Timor Gap, to contribute funds to participate in the appraisal drilling of the three wells in the municipality.

Timor Resources Country Manager, Filomeno Andrade said that his company has invested so far US\$68 million into the exploration of oil and gas of the three wells in Covalima.

“We call on our 50% Joint Venture partners Timor Gap who have not contributed funds to date, to now contribute funds to participate in the Joint Ventures to progress the appraisal drilling,” Andrade said.

Timor Resources had earlier announced that it would sue Timor GAP for failing to pay its financial contribution, which Timor Gap considered to be a false claim.

In March, Timor Gap released a statement that said that it always meets its contractual obligation and completely rejects any false claims by Timor Resource.

“Timor Gap operates with the highest standards of integrity and transparency and remains committed to the rule of law and fulfilling all of its contractual obligations,” the statement said.

The disagreement between the two companies led the National Parliament to carry out a visit to the exploration site last month, which produced several recommendations, urging the government to find a solution to the dispute in order to accelerate the oil and gas exploration in Covalima.

In response to Parliament’s appeal, Minister Monteiro said that the disagreement would be resolved in the near future in order to resume exploration activities.

After completing the drilling of the third well (Lafaek), Timor Resource announced that hydrocarbon pressure was above 8000 psi, revealing the potential for a significant recoverable reserve.

In July, Timor Resources’ Board Director, Charles Brown said the company would announce the result of onshore exploration of oil and gas in the country’s southern by the end of 2023.

**Journalist: Filomeno Martins      Editor: Nelia Borges**

# Governu sei hatuur mekanizmu foun hodi Timor Resources kontinua atividade explorasaun mina



Ministru Petróleu, Francisco da Costa Monteiro. Imajen Tatoli/Francisco Sony

**DILI, 16 setembru 2023 (TATOLI)**—Ministru Petróleu, Francisco da Costa Monteiro, komprometidu rezolve dezentendimentu entre empresa petrolífera, Timor Resources no Timor Gás no Petróleu, Empresa Pública (Timor GAP, E.P), nune'e bele kontinua explorasaun/perfurasau iha posu rai-maran.

“Ami sei hatuur filafali mekanizmu foun hodi kria kontaktu ho empresa Timor Resources atu ita bele buka solusaun, nune'e permite empresa kontinua atividade exporasaun iha parte Ainaro no Same nian iha tempu badak, ne'ebé ha'u bele dehan iha kompromisu ida hosi Ministériu atubele buka solusaun,” Ministru hateten liuhosi programa Meet the Press iha Palásiu Governu, sesta (15/09).

Nu'udar ema tékniku iha área petrolífera, Governante ne'e akompaña Timor Resources halo ona serbisu ho di'ak ba atividade perfurasau mina iha Suai no hetan rezultadu di'ak.

“Bazeia ba diskusaun ne'ebé mak ha'u ho empresa Timor Resources halo ona, iha indikasaun pozitivu hosi perfurasau iha posu rua hanesan Feto Kmaus no Lafaek iha Covalima, ne'ebé perfurasau ikus ne'e hatudu katak iha poténsia boot, ita bele halo deskobrimentu mina ho gás ne'ebé ninia tamañu ne'e bele signifkante. Ha'u labele hateten hira loos, antes ne'e Governu halo ona verifikasaun ba perfurasau ninia tamañu,” nia akresenta.

Ministru rekoñese, bainhira Timor Resources halo atividade perfurasau mina iha posu Feto Kmaus no Lafaek iha Suai, Covalima, mosu disputa entre empresa no Timor GAP, E.P.

“Durante tinan-rua ho balun sira tenke buka solusaun, maibé la hetan solusaun to’o agora hodi nune’e Timor Resources loloos tenke avansa tan perfurasaun, maibé tenke para lai hodi rezolve tiha lai problema ne’e to’o hetan solusaun mak bele kontinua fali. Ami halo ona aprosimasaun ho Timor Resources, ha’u rasik hetan ona esplikasaun no ha’u bele dehan katak agora iha hela disputa, la’ós dehan katak ita labele rezolve, maibé ita sei buka solusaun iha tempu badak. Ministeriu foun agora akontese restrutursaun iha semana ida-ne’e no semana oin kona-ba entidade hotu-hotu iha setór petróleu ninian inklui iha Timor GAP,” nia adianta.

Governante ne’e relata, Timor Resources gasta ona millaun \$70 ba atividade perfurasaun tanba hanesan kompromisu ida ho Governu.

“Bainhira ita iha situasaun COVID-19 to’o tinan 2022, sira kontinua esforsu kontinua halo peskiza, ita bele dehan sira mak sai hanesan empreza pioneiru ba explorasaun. Kona-ba pagamentu ami sei buka solusaun di’ak ne’ebé permite kontinuasaun ba explorasaun ida-ne’e iha futuru,” Governante ne’e tenik.

Antes ne’e, Governu lansa konkursu públiku mina no gás hamutuk bloku 18, kompostu hosi tasi-laran 11 no rai-maran hitu, iha 03 outubru 2019. Timor Resources hanesan empreza manán-na’in ida ba explorasaun mina-matan iha rai-maran.

Governu liuhosi Timor GAP, E.P halo kontratu ho Timor Resources hanesan empreza operadór, ne’ebé hatuur katak iha faze explorasaun ne’e finansia totalmente hosi empreza operadór maibé bainhira tama ona iha faze produsaun maka Governu bele investe ka tau osan liuhosi Timor GAP, E.P.

Bazeia ba kontratu komersiál, bainhira Timor Resources halo explorasaun ho despeza liu millaun \$55, Timor GAP, E.P tenke tama ona ho partisipasaun, maibé tanba la akontese no mosu dezentendimentu entre parte rua maka Timor Resources decide hapara atividade perfurasaun no sobu ekipamentu iha área perfurasaun posu Lafaek suku Labarai, postu administrativu Suai, munisípiu Covalima, nune’e bele rezolve problema.

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