



**REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE  
GABINETE DO PRIMEIRO-MINISTRO**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Evaluation Report released to the public**

The Prime Minister and Minister for Natural Resources, Minerals and Energy Policy, Mari Alkatiri, today released to the public the Evaluation Report delivered to him by the Technical Evaluation Commission established under the Petroleum Laws to evaluate and make recommendations with respect to the bids received for Timor-Leste's inaugural petroleum exploration bid round which closed on 19 April 2006.

The Evaluation Commission was comprised of senior Timor-Leste Public Administration officials and international experts from a range of countries with extensive experience in the petroleum sector.

“I am extremely pleased to make this evaluation report available for public scrutiny. The commitment of my government has always been to be ground breaking in promoting transparency and adopt the utmost in good governance in the management of the petroleum sector. I am happy we have led the way on good governance and transparency in this area. This is another progressive step for my government and for Timor-Leste by ensuring the fullest possible public scrutiny of this inaugural and vitally important bid round for the future of our nation”, the Prime Minister said. “To my knowledge, few nations with an established petroleum industry have taken such a bold step in transparency as to make public the full evaluation report for public scrutiny”, added the Prime Minister.

“We are grateful for the funding assistance received from the Norwegian Government, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United States Trade Development Agency, which enabled sufficient technical capacity building over recent years to enable our national senior civil servants to be able to effectively evaluate and make recommendations on this bid round” said the Prime Minister.

The full Report has already been posted and is accessible to the national and international public on the Timor-Leste Oil and Gas Directorate website: [www.timor-leste.gov.tl/EMRD](http://www.timor-leste.gov.tl/EMRD)

The successful bidders, Italy's ENI Spa and Reliance Industries Limited of India will be arriving in Timor-Leste in the next weeks to finalize the terms of the Production Sharing Contracts to be signed within the next month.

Dili, June 16, 2006

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