

CIVIL REGISTRATION AWARENESS APPEAL FOR EAST TIMORESE MEDIA

THERE ARE FOUR PERMANENT REGISTRATION SITES IN DILI DISTRICT:

- **Becora CivPol Station**
- **Comoro CivPol Station**
- **Dili District CivPol Station**
- **Solo Suco Chief Office – Audian**
- **Atauro sub-district (center of Villa)**
- **Metinaro sub-district**

THE CIVIL REGISTRATION PROCESS EXPLAINED

On 16 March the East Timor Transitional Administration's (ETTA) Central Civil Registry began the registration of all residents of East Timor to record and verify identities and residences, as well as to issue identification cards.

The process will simultaneously gather information needed to determine the roll of eligible voters for the 30 August elections for the Constituent Assembly.

The East Timor Transitional Administration, and eventually the independent East Timorese Government, will use the information for many purposes, such as providing data for the electoral list, planning health and education policies and monitoring general socio-economic trends.

WHAT IS CIVIL REGISTRATION?

Civil registration is the process whereby data is collected from every person living in East Timor for the purpose of establishing a government register of all the territory's residents. The register is a database kept by the Central Civil Registry in Dili and will be permanently updated with vital events such as births, marriages and deaths.

WHO SHOULD REGISTER?

Registration is mandatory for every resident of East Timor.

During the registration process, the entire population of East Timor (babies, children and elderly persons included) will be registered. Every resident of East Timor who is at least 16 years-old or whose 16th birthday occurs in 2001 must appear in person to register. Parents or family members must register children under 16 and persons with mental or legal incapacities.

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF RESIDENTS:

1. Habitual residents
2. Long-term residents

1. A habitual resident is a person

- born in East Timor
or
- born outside of East Timor, but with at least one parent who was born in East Timor
or
- whose spouse falls under either of the two categories above.

2. A long-term resident is a person who has resided in East Timor for more than 182 cumulative days within any 12-month consecutive period.

Representatives of foreign missions/governments and officials of United Nations organizations or other governmental organizations are excluded from registration.

HOW DO I REGISTER AND WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME?

Bring to the registration office documents that will prove your identity, as you did in 1999 to register to vote in the popular consultation. The Registration Officer will ask you additional information, such as marital status and your parents' name, to be included in the Civil Registry. One or several registration teams will be working at each registration site; each team consists of one international Civil Registration Officer and two Timorese Officers.

There are a variety of suitable documents to prove your identity. The best is to bring an official document issued by any government that contains a photograph and your signature or fingerprint. Some of these documents might include an ID card, passport, or official travel document.

Registration Officers may accept other official documents issued by other state agencies, church or religious organizations or by an agency or organ of the United Nations, if they are satisfied that they are legitimate. To be safe, try to bring two or more of the required documents.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT HAVE THE PROPER DOCUMENTS?

If you do not have any documents that can prove your identity, an affidavit is required. Otherwise you will need to bring two witnesses who have already successfully registered

(i.e. proven their own identities with official documents) before they can testify to your identity.

WHY DO I HAVE TO REGISTER?

The registration of the population is a solid foundation for a systematic and efficient organization of all central functions of a modern society. It is very important that this register is accurate because many government programmes and decisions depend on having the correct information about the country's population. Health care planning, providing teachers and ensuring adequate police protection are examples of programmes that require accurate information on the local population.

WHAT IF I STILL HAVE AN OLD REGISTRATION DOCUMENT?

The new register will be the first for an independent East Timor and will override any previous registry. Therefore, you must still register but you should bring any old registration document with you to help prove your identity and status.

WHERE DO I REGISTER?

Each of East Timor's 65 sub-district capitals will have one fixed registration site, which opened on the first day of the registration and will stay open until 20 June 2001.

In order to make it easier for people in remote areas to register, mobile registration teams will go there to register people. Sites to be served by the mobile teams will be set up and open only until the population of that particular area is registered. Most sites will open in areas where the polling stations for the 1999 popular consultation were located. In Dili there are four sites.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

You will not need to register again to vote. The voter lists will be established from the data collected during the civil registration process. Therefore, if you want to exercise your right to vote in the 30 August elections for the Constituent Assembly, then you must register during this registration period. Registration will end on 20 June 2001.

IS EVERYONE WHO REGISTERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

No. Only habitual residents aged 17 or above by the end of the registration period shall be eligible to vote.

WHAT DATA WILL BE COLLECTED WHEN I REGISTER?

By law, only very standard personal data will be collected: first name(s); family name; gender; date and place of birth; residential address; marital status and the names of your parents (and their dates and places of birth). If you will turn 16 or older in 2001, a

photograph and either your signature or thumbprint will be taken, your height measured and the color of your eyes will be noted.

WHAT WILL ETTA DO WITH MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?

All the data you provide will be collected in a database which will be able to sort information. The Central Civil Registry will provide such aggregate data to government agencies as defined by law. No data will be sold, used in a malicious way or revealed to anyone for non-official use. The fundamental right of the individual will always be respected.