



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY
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ON THE SITUATION IN TIMOR-LESTE
AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2006**

Madam President,

At the outset, I offer my sincere congratulations to you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for this month and to the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo for his stewardship of the Council last month.

2. I wish to thank you for convening this public meeting on the Situation in Timor Leste. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste for his briefing and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ian Martin for his report on his recent trip to Timor-Leste.

Madam President,

3. It was not long ago that Timor-Leste gained its independence with the assistance of the United Nations. With the continuing active involvement of the United Nations and the determination of their leaders and people, this young nation was acclaimed as a success story for the UN peace building and nation building efforts. However the recent eruption of violence and civil unrest has threatened to unfold the painstaking efforts and sacrifices to bring progress and development to the people of this sovereign nation. We firmly believe that the international community through' this august body has an obligation to ensure that peace and stability continue to prevail in Timor-Leste. Only then this young nation will be able to proceed with the implementation of its national development programs to attain its development goals.

4. It was also with the similar sense of obligation that Malaysia with its limited capacity has responded positively and promptly to the emergency request by the government of Timor-Leste to assist in restoring law and order in that country. Currently there are 333 Malaysian military personnel and a compliment of police force being deployed, operating closely with the defence and security forces from Australia, New Zealand and Portugal.

5. It is quite heartening to hear from Mr. Martin and the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste that situation has improved and signs of returning to normalcy beginning to emerge. But let us not forget that the unexpected disturbances and civil disorder was actually a wake-up call that Timor-Leste is still in its fragile stages of nation building and the UN should stand ready to come to its assistance when needed.

Madam President,

6. Malaysia welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General in sending Mr. Martin as a special envoy to Timor-Leste to assess the current situation and facilitate political dialogue. We call on the -Security Council in close consultation with Timor-Leste to continue to conduct a thorough assessment of the underlying problems faced by TimorLeste, including social and economic factors, in order to find long lasting solutions. Let us not overlook factors such as poverty, unemployment and lack or slow pace of economic development, among others. In essence, we feel that the Council, working closely with Timor-Leste, should examine all possible elements that could serve as impediments to peace and development and to address them with the emplacement of a broad-based UN presence and engagement in sectors requiring UN assistance, including the security sector.

7. Given the fragility of the security situation in Timor-Leste and the need to rebuild the confidence of the people especially in this period leading to their presidential and parliamentary election, we strongly feel it will be necessary for the Security Council to consider the placement of full-fledged UNPKO as appropriate. Deployment of UNPKO besides the immediate need of police force under the UN umbrella to sustain law and order would be essential until the UN is confident that a cohesive national police and defence forces have been fully reestablished.

8. On the proposal for the rollover of the mandate of UNOTIL to allow for sufficient time to carefully and comprehensively assess the situation in Timor-Leste, my delegation agrees that a serious evaluation would be necessary on any proposal for extension. In this connection we support the suggestion of Timor-Leste that a robust UN police, military and civilian mission is indispensable to assist the people of Timor-Leste to consolidate their hard-won peace and freedom. We stand ready to provide additional police contingents once the UN made a decision in this direction.

9. My delegation is also concerned that more than 133,000 internally displaced persons are living at various locations in the DiLi, and in other areas throughout the country. Priority must be made to provide protection, food, water and sanitation, health and shelter to these internally displace persons. We would like to commend on the contributions that has been made and we call on the United Nations system to continue providing to the needs of these people.

10. Finally we would like to call on all parties in Timor-Leste to continue their political dialogue and engagement involving all relevant stakeholders and to peacefully settle their differences and work towards national unity and reconciliation.

Thank you, Madam President.