



EU EOM Press Release.

Smooth polling and a swift count conclude a well-administered election day

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“Timor-Leste polling preparations were well-administered by the electoral authorities and election day was calm and orderly. The strong presence of candidate agents and national observers lent transparency to the process. EU observers assessed voting and counting processes positively,” affirmed this morning Domènec Ruiz Devesa, the Chief Observer of the EU EOM, in a press conference in the capital.

The EU EOM Chief Observer underlined: “The elections were competitive, and the campaign was largely peaceful, with a slight uptick in personal attacks in social media in the final days.” Ruiz Devesa emphasised that, “women attended campaign events in lower numbers, and although there was an increase in the active participation of women as speakers, there was less attention given to women’s empowerment than during the first round.”

“During the run-off campaign, public *Rádio-Televisão Timor-Leste* (RTTL TV) provided equitable editorial coverage to both candidates. Private *Grupo Media Nacional* (GMN TV) continued favouring Ramos-Horta’s candidacy. RTTL TV provided slightly more news coverage to Lú-Olo, while GMN TV news featured Ramos-Horta twice as much as Lú-Olo.”

Ruiz Devesa explained: “The Mission has had a permanent presence across the country since mid-February, and its findings are based on direct observation of some 200 campaign events and over 1,000 interviews. On election day, more than 40 EU observers reported from over 160 polling stations across the 12 municipalities and the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno.”

This preliminary statement of the EU Election Observation Mission is delivered before the completion of the entire electoral process. Critical stages remain, including results tabulation and the adjudication of eventual petitions. The EU EOM remains in the country to observe the remainder of the electoral process.

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