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UNMISSET PRESS RELEASE

President thanks SRSG, FC for football tournament

(Dili, 7 August) – RDTL’s President Xanana Gusmão today thanked the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Timor-Leste, Ambassador Kamallesh Sharma, and the Commander of the Peacekeeping Force, Major-General Tan Huck Gim, for their support in the promotion of football, and for recognising the role the sport can play in the education of youth. He was speaking after the final of the Force Commander’s Cup football tournament at Dili’s National Stadium this evening.

Academia Timor-Leste beat the Second Battalion of F-FDTL one nil to receive the tournament’s Cup from the FC and the F-FDTL Commander, Brigadier-General Taur Matan Ruak.

Before the final, President Xanana Gusmão and the SRSG led their teams to a 1x1 draw in the ‘VIP’ match between the Timorese government and UNMISSET.

The President also received a donation from the Republic of Korea to Timorese children. At half-time, the crowd in the packed stadium watched taekwondo displays by F-FDTL and by members of the ROK Battalion of PKF.

The tournament was conceived by the FC to mark Falintil Day [20th August] and with a view to promoting better working relationships between the various security agencies in Timor-Leste, and with the international community. 17 teams representing the different PKF contingents, UNPOL, UN Military Observers, UNMISSET civilian personnel, UN agencies, the RDTL government, PNTL, F-FDTL as well as local teams and all-women teams competed over the past week and a-half, culminating in the all-Timorese final this evening.

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For further information contact:
Marcia Poole
Spokesperson/UNMISSET

Mobile: + 670 723 0793

Telephone: + 61 8 8946 3900 Ext. 6059