

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 8 August 2002

TALK SHOW ON THE RATIFICATION OF CEDAW

Prime Minister, Mari Alkatiri, emphasized the importance for the government to enhance women's skills and give them all their rights given the role women played in the resistance movement. PM Alkatiri was part of a discussion panel on a National Television (TVTL) talk show held on 7 August 2002, to discuss the ratification of the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Mr. Alkatiri stressed that based on the country's constitution, it is most natural that the CEDAW be signed and ratified by East Timor.

Other speakers in the panel included the PM's Advisor for the Promotion of Equality, Maria Domingas Fernandes, MP Terezinha Viegas (FRETILIN), MP Mariano Sabino (PD) and the head of the National Human Rights NGO, José Luís Guterres. The talk show was hosted by Maria-Gabriela Carrascalão-Heard, OIC of the Public Information Office of UNMISSET. A church representative did not attend the talk show.

During the talk show, organizers played Bishop Belo's national declaration on Domestic Violence and on the protection of women's rights.

The event, held in the TVTL studios in Dili, was organized by the Office for the Promotion of Equality in Cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and UNMISSET's Gender Focal Point.

The talk show was broadcast live on both TVTL and Radio Timor Leste (RTL).

PORTUGUESE BATTALION PROVIDES ASSISTANCE

The Portuguese Battalion (PortBatt) carried out 217 medical treatments and distributed 223 meals to East Timorese communities in and around their area of patrol in a four-day operation named *Operação Descoberta 022*.

The operation aimed at fostering better relations between PortBatt and its neighbouring communities.

PortBatt also provided approximately 600 litres of water to the Canossian Sisters in Becora, Dili.