

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

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Dili, 16 September 2002

NEW BRIDGE FOR ERMERA

On Saturday a new bailey bridge was opened at Ermera, south west of Dili, to replace a structure that had been washed away 4 months ago.

The lack of a bridge had taken its toll on the local population. East Timor's Voice Minister of Transport, Communication and Public Works, Cesar Vital Moreira said at the opening, "with the transport system cut, the local economy has stagnated, the children cannot travel to school and families cannot visit each other".

The new 30-metre bailey bridge, named the Eniwa-Makomanai Bridge, was constructed by the UNMISSET PKF Japan Engineer Group with the embankment work carried out by a civilian contractor.

The bridge was opened by the Minister, Cesar Vital Moreira, PKF Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier Justin Kelly, PKF Assistance Chief of Staff Support, Colonel David Welch and Japanese Engineer Group Commander, Colonel Shoichi Ogawa.

The construction of bridges is one of the many tasks being carried out by the PKF Japan Engineer Group as continues to help in the rebuilding of East Timor.

FAREWELL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL, PAULO GUERREIRO

A ceremony organized by Quarters Northern Command was held in Darwin today for Brigadier General, Paulo Guerreiro before his body was transported back to Portugal.

The slow escort comprising 6 personnel from Australia and the Irish and NZ National support elements carried the casket for the last 150 meters to the plane.

A piper was also present. Six UN Military personnel flew to Darwin for the ceremony including four Portuguese personnel. The Honorary Portuguese Consulate in Darwin was also present.

Brigadier General Guerreiro passed away on Sunday 8 September. He had been the UN Chief Military Observer in East Timor since July this year and had previously served as the PKF's Chief of Staff from December 2001 to June 2002.



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

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