



Monitoring Committee in Bazartete Officially Commenced

On 23 February 2010, Luta Hamutuk team dispatched to Bazartete, a sub district of Liquisa district administration. Through the bumpy roads, driving for almost 1.5 hours we finally arrived in the sub-district office. Bazartete is beautiful in scenery and well known as the origin of the first RDTL president Nicolau Lobato.

Luta Hamutuk team consisted of Akara, Francisco Vasconcelos, Joazito, Antonio, Bria, Zenatu, Yuliana, Jonas accompanied with two Journalists from Timor Post and Radio Timor Leste. We met head of the sub-district, discussing some matters while waiting for all focal points, chief of villages and other stakeholders to start the meeting. It was a day when a new monitoring committee established in Bazartete. This is an initiative of Luta Hamutuk based on experience gained from Lospalos Committee to involve local authorities and other community members to be participative in development programs of their area using Timor Leste state budget. The committee will mainly function to monitor the development projects such as roads, clean water, etc and based on that Luta Hamutuk will advocate at national level to ensure that all allocated budget are disbursed or used effectively and create positive impacts to the community.

A memorandum of understanding was signed by all stakeholders forming the committee. The stakeholders comprising a representative of Luta Hamutuk, representative of Luta Hamutuk Focal Points, Representative of Youth, Chiefs of four villages, Chief of health department at sub-district level and Bazartete sub-district administrator who assumed role as Counselor for the committee. The Coordinator of the new committee is a lady called Paula, one of Luta Hamutuk Focal Points in Bazartete.

In his speech, the sub-district administrator, Mr. Augusto expressed his happiness for this initiative as Luta Hamutuk is well known for its consistency to speak and advocates for the people who suffers from injustice. In the same occasion Luta Hamutuk Director again reinforce the objectives of the committee, to facilitate local communities to aware about the rights of communities as citizen, working together and

learning together to practice participatory development in their sub-district. "We should consider this committee as a school for all its members, learning from those who knows and sharing knowledge among the members", said Akara.