



Special edition of UNMIT Photo-of-The-Day to
commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the
Popular Consultation, 30 August 1999



10 years on...

UNAMET deployed rapidly to make the August ballot possible following the 11 June 1999 mandate from the Security Council. Led by SRSG Ian Martin, a Dili headquarters and eight regional offices were set up: 500 UN Volunteers were deployed, mostly as district electoral officers, along with 28 electoral professionals, 275 police, 15 political officers, 271 administrative and support staff, and leading up to the ballot 4,000 Timorese support staff.
Photo UN archive (Lautem district).



10 years on...

Over 400 UN Volunteer district electoral officers were deployed throughout the country by mid-July, 1999. Reaching out to communities to inform them about UNAMET and the ballot was a first priority, as well as identifying 200 registration and polling stations. Photo taken in Uai-Lili, Baucau.

Photo by UN Volunteer/UN



10 years on....

Despite security concerns raised by the Secretary-General, and a delay in opening voter registration, UNAMET began registering voters on 16 July 1999. Over 100,000 voters registered in the first five days, showing the overwhelming public support for the Popular Consultation process.

Photo by UN Volunteer/UN



10 years on....

UNAMET began voter education in villages across the territory in July 1999 as soon as it completed 22 consecutive days of voter registration. UNAMET raised awareness of the historic ballot and of how to vote using community "mock ballots", daily radio and television broadcasts, newspaper notices and posters. The UNAMET song was heard far and wide. Nearly 500 UN Volunteers led voter education activities.

Photo by UN Volunteer/UN



10 years on....

International observers played an important role in monitoring conditions throughout the territory in the lead-up to the 30 August 1999 Popular Consultation. Indonesia and Portugal each fielded teams of 50 observers, and official government delegations came from a range of countries. Civil society fielded teams to some of the most remote parts of the territory.

Photo by UN Volunteer/UN



10 years on....

UNAMET used a range of methods to inform communities about the historic Popular Consultation on 30 August 1999. In addition to community meetings, UNAMET used radio, television, newspapers and posters (pictured). The UNAMET song echoed throughout the country in the months before the vote.

Poster design by Public Information Office, UNAMET



10 years on....

The 14-day campaign period for the 1999 Popular Consultation was tense across the territory. Despite violence and intimidation against independence supporters, rallies were held in the districts and Dili between 14-28 August.

Photo by Charles Dharapak/AP (published with approval)



10 years on.....

The days leading up to the 30 August 1999 ballot were tense, with outbreaks of serious violence in Dili and some districts. Throughout the lead-up to the vote, Secretary-General Kofi Annan regularly drew attention to the high level of tension and political violence against pro-independence supporters, and he and UNAMET continued to insist that Indonesian security forces fulfill their obligations to maintain security.

Photo by David Longstreet/AP (published with approval)



10 years on....

98.6 per cent of registered voters turned out to vote for the historic ballot on 30 August 1999. Counting began on 31 August and was completed in the early hours of 4 September. Secretary-General Kofi Annan read the results of the ballot in New York at the same time as Ian Martin, his Special Representative, read out the statement in Dili: 94,388, or 21.5 per cent, *in favour* and 344,580, or 78.5 per cent *against* the proposed special autonomy.

Photo by UN Volunteer/UN