



## Early Warning, Early Response System (EWER) ALERT

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Televised debate between Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão and  
Sr. Mauk Moruk

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Dili district  
November 2013  
2pm

From October to November 2013, there has been media coverage of statements made by Sr. Mauk Moruk, a prominent veteran from the Resistance. Sr. Moruk's statements are criticising the Government and the Prime Minister for failing to improve the social and economic conditions for the majority of the population of Timor-Leste (Jornal Diario, 28 October 2013).

On 8 November 2013, Prime Minister Gusmão extended an invitation to Sr. Moruk to participate in a dialogue to discuss their differences of opinion and development strategy (Timor Post, 8 November 2013). This will be held at 2pm on November 11, 2013 at the Convention Centre in Mercadu Lama, Dili. Through the media, Prime Minister Gusmão has invited members of Parliament, civil society and Timorese citizens to attend the dialogue, and encouraged those at home to listen or watch through public broadcasting. However, he has also advised those not attending to stay calm and indoors, to exercise caution and avoid the possibility of tensions arising in public spaces (Timor Post, 11 November 2013).

Prime Minister Gusmão has said that if the dialogue does not proceed, he will use the opportunity to reflect upon the history of the resistance and the importance of the contribution of youth to the resistance struggle, in light of tomorrow's National holiday to commemorate the Santa Cruz Massacre of 12 November 1991.

# Recommendations

## Prime Minister Gusmão and Sr. Mauk Moruk:

- Avoid using provocative language that may be likely to inflame political differences.
- Refrain from personal attacks against each other during the debate, instead focusing on policy issues toward improving social and economic conditions in Timor-Leste.

## State security actors:

- Continue to conduct your civic duties to provide protection to community members in a neutral and non-partisan manner.

## TVTL and other public broadcasting facilities:

- Ensure responsible commentary of the live broadcast of the debate to diffuse the impact of any potentially inflammatory language that may mobilize political differences.

## Newspapers and other media coverage:

- Responsibly report on the debate and refrain from publishing any provocative or misleading information.

## Citizens:

- Encourage and engage in constructive debate on social and economic policies, and long-term avenues for reform.
- Avoid using provocative language that may be likely to inflame political differences within the community.

## *For further information, questions or clarification, please contact:*

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