

Land issues in Timor Leste

By :Arsenio Pereira da Silva



Timor Leste



Total Area 14. 690 km²

- Total area for rice field: 80.000 ha
- Total area for dry land: 120.000 ha.
- Total area for cash crops : 90.000 Ha
- Forest : 1,000.000 Ha.
- Grass field :220.000 Ha.
- National Park :123.000 Ha.



Agreements made by government (MOU)

- 100.000 Ha of land for sugar cane plantation, MAF-GT Leste Biotech Company
- 100.000 Ha of land for corn plantation to be produce for ethanol, MAF-Komor enterprise South Korea
- 300,000 Ha of land for hybrid Seeds trial in Maliana district.
- 59 ha of land for Jatropha plantation: carabella oil Enterprise.



USAID promotes land registration program in Timor Leste

- AusAID, USAID and the World Bank, have pushed for commercialization of land in Timor Leste by constitution amended, to allow foreign corporations to own land.



Continue.....

- In reality many foreigners own the land and use the name of local people in the certificate of ownership of the land.
- Foreign government influence Timor Leste Government to produce draft of land regulation to control land ownership.



Foreigner reclaiming Land and property in Timor Leste

- Ensul: a Portugal company, had reclaiming buildings, hotels and plantation as their property.
- Hotels/pousada in maubesse
- Coffee plantation in Ermera also reclaim as their property while the local people can not own it.



Land disputes

- Timor Leste occupied by Portugal for years and now they come again and reclaim what they left behind.
- Indonesian Military occupation for 24 years after left by Portugal.
- There is not much change after independent, the interest of the imperialist had change our culture, local farming system, land occupied, relocated people etc.



Peasant rights

- Millions of peasant families had force to leave their land because of land grab facilitate by national policy or military. Land had been in control by few people by using it for hotel, golf field etc.
- LVC had been promoting the peasant rights for years. The Peasant rights declaration become our struggle into the recognition of the peasant rights through the UN system.
- LVC build alliance with other peoples organization and NGO to promote the peasant rights at international, regional and national level.
- The peasant right violation is happen in our daily live and this need to be protected.

