

ABSTRACT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA) WORKSHOP

On

Efforts to address the legacies of past human rights abuse in Indonesia and Timor Leste

By

Fernanda Borges, MP

Title: Why Implementation of CAVR is Critical to the Success of Timor Leste

The paper has the objective of outlining the efforts Timor Leste has undertaken to address the legacies of past human rights abuses. In particular, the paper focuses on the Report of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in Timor Leste (CAVR) and its efforts in inquiring into the conflict that took place from 1974 to 1999.

The paper provides some background information on how the Commission tried to address key issues on justice and reconciliation and explains the frustrated process in National Parliament to pass the laws that will enable the implementation of the CAVR. The continuation of truth finding, reparations program for the vulnerable and communities, and justice and reconciliation is critical for a stable and fair society to evolve.

Unless the Institute of Memory Law and the Reparations Law are passed, victims will have no rights and their needs will be forgotten. The country will also not be able to safeguard against future breakdown in violence and human rights abuses. Impunity will prevail and the obligation of the State to ensure that the human rights abuses are not repeated will not be achieved.

In short, Timor Leste success in nation building depends on the implementation of the CAVR recommendations. It will provide the foundational platform for democratic principles, such as the rule of law, responsible and accountable government, to be instilled in the State institutions and in how the country is governed.