



CA office within the MoF building

### Obituary: Commissioner Jose Abilio (1958-2024)

The Timor Leste Customs Authority (CA) and the nation are mourning the loss of Commissioner Jose Abilio, who was born in 1958 and passed away on May 13, 2024, following a three-month illness.

Commissioner Abilio dedicated his life to public service, holding various positions in municipalities and within the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for the last 7 years. His distinguished career reached its zenith when he became the first Director-General of the Customs Authority, and later, its Commissioner.

### Customs Authority and AEMTL Host Trade Talk Event

The Timor Leste Customs Authority (CA) and the Associação Empresarial das Mulheres de Timor-Leste (AEMTL), with support from the USAID/Timor-Leste Trade Governance Activity, hosted a Trade Talk event on July 3, 2024, at Timor Plaza's Maubara Room. The event aimed to enhance the trading community's understanding of import and export clearance procedures.

More than 65 participants, including media personnel, attended the half-day event. The opening remarks were delivered by Acting Commissioner Armindo dos Santos, followed by Mr. Robert

Barton, USAID Mission Director, who reaffirmed the Mission's commitment to supporting Timor-Leste in trade facilitation through the Trade Governance Activity and its partnership with the CA. Director Ivo Gomes presented a well-received audiovisual presentation on the key aspects of the customs import and export processes. The AEMTL President also spoke, acknowledging improvements in the overall customs process but highlighting that bureaucracy at Tibar Port and Batugade negatively impacts commercial activity.

Participants expressed strong support for the event and requested similar sessions in the future.

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Mr. Ivo Gomes Acting Commissioners Mr. Armindo Dos Santos

### Acting Commissioner Leads Customs Authority Amid Transition

The Timor Leste Customs Authority (CA), the key government agency responsible for revenue collection on imports and border protection, is currently without a permanent Commissioner.

To address this vacancy, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has appointed two senior CA officials as Acting Com-

missioners: National Director of Operations, Mr. Armindo dos Santos, or in his absence, National Director of Customs Compliance Management, Mr. Ivo Gomes. This temporary arrangement will remain in place until a new Commissioner is appointed by the Government of Timor Leste (GoTL).

In the interim, the CA will continue its vital work under the leadership of Mr. Armindo dos Santos or Mr. Ivo Gomes.

### CA Woman Recognized as WCO Technical Expert

Mrs. Livia Soares de Deus, a young woman from the Customs Authority has been selected as a Professional/Expert Associate for the World Customs Organization (WCO) Career Development scholarship in Brussels, Belgium. This prestigious program, funded by the WCO, will run from September 2024 to July 2025.

Livia's selection highlights her expertise and leadership in Customs technical training, both in Timor-Leste and internationally. She holds a Master

Trainer Program (MTP) Certificate on the Harmonized System (HS) from the WCO/JICA Joint Project in the Pacific Islands (2021-2024). Currently, she is the Section Head of HS Classification at CA's National Directorate of Customs Compliance Management.

CA management and the Ministry of Finance have expressed immense pride in Livia's accomplishments and hope her dedication will inspire other officers to pursue further professional development.

Congratulations to Livia on her new journey in career development.

### Customs Authority Relocates to the Ministry of Finance Building.

The Timor Leste Customs Authority (CA), a key division within the Ministry of Finance (MoF), is set to relocate from its current office in Colmera to the MoF Building in Aitarak-Laran, Dili. This move aligns with the government's new plan for restructuring.

The relocation process began in the third week of June 2024 and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2024. The CA will occupy the sixth floor of the MoF Building.

The CA team anticipates the appointment of a new Commissioner soon, who will spearhead the institution's modernization efforts and enhance coordination of MoF.



Livia Soares de Deus