

The national impact of **Benefits for Former Combatants**

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For BELUN seminar

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The state's money?

- Money to pay for all state programs, including benefits for veterans, comes 95% from oil and gas wealth under the Timor Sea.
- Timor-Leste's total petroleum resources are worth about \$26 billion to the nation.
- When we spend our resources on one thing, we cannot use them for something else.

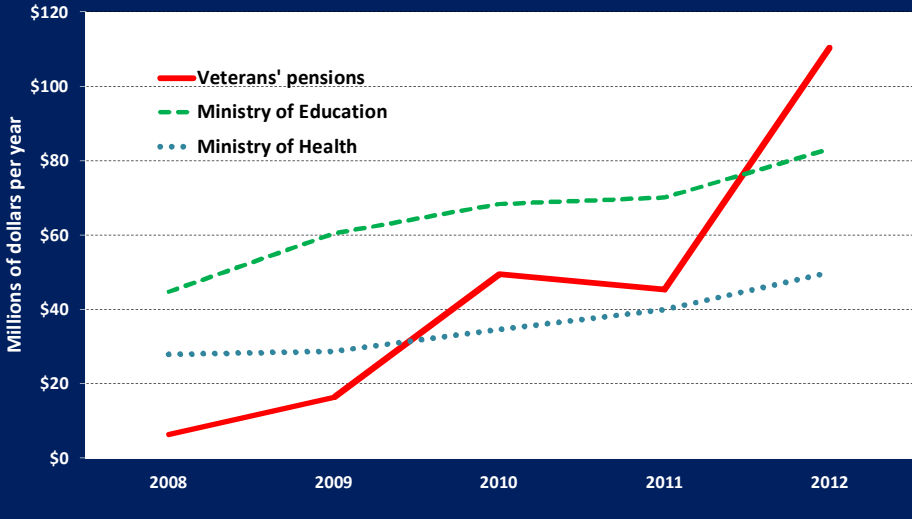
Allocation of the 2013 State Budget

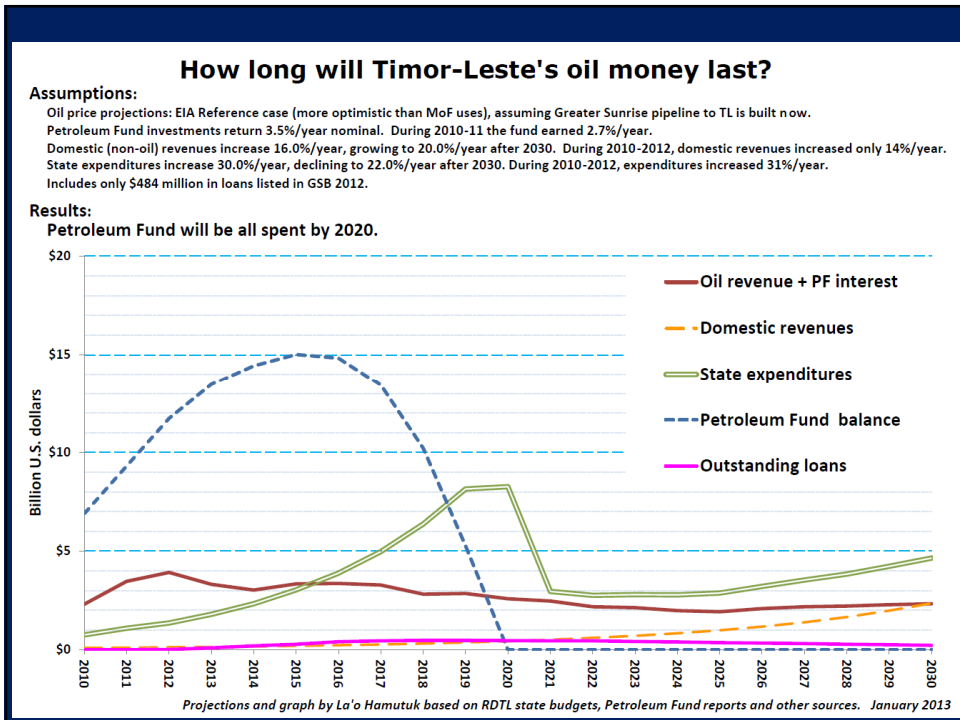
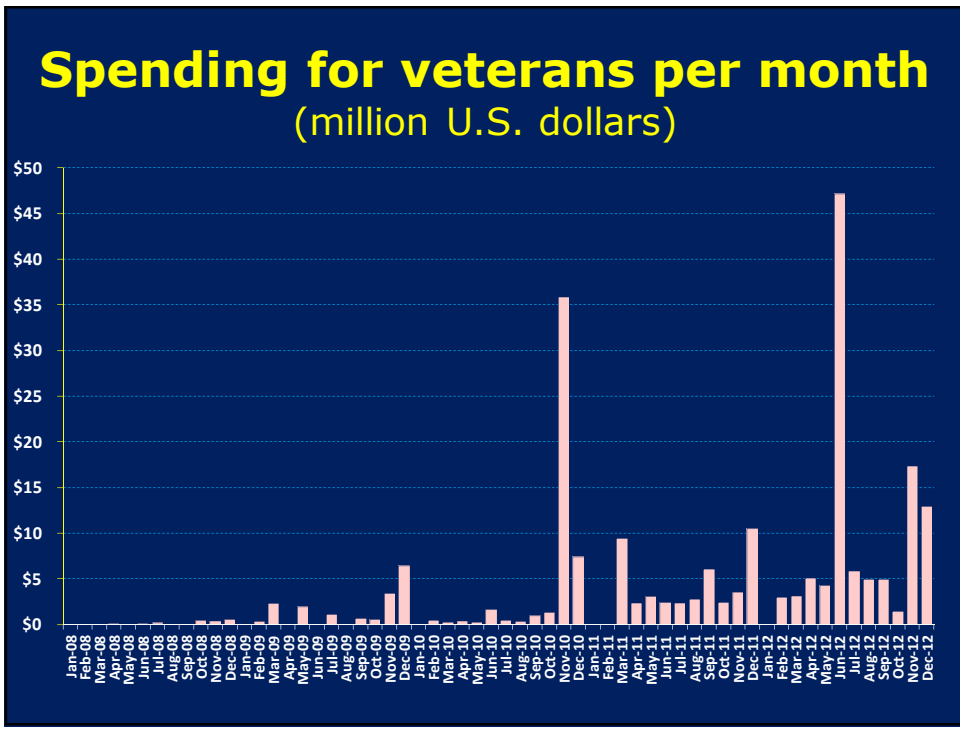
Allocation of the 2013 State Budget (\$1,648 million US Dollars)



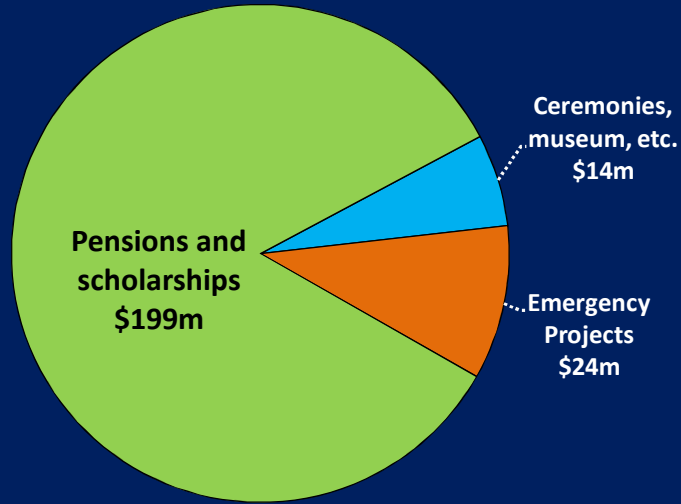
Spending on Veterans and the Future

Executed expenditures in a few sectors





Spending on veterans' programs during 2008-2012



Payments to Veterans

Type of Pension*	Scale*	Rank*	Total Number of Registered Veterans**	Monthly Pension*	Total Yearly Pension Payment***	Total outstanding one-off Payments***
Special Retirement Pension with Distinction		Rank 1	4	\$750.00	\$36,000	\$0
Special Retirement Pension (participated 20 to 24 years in the armed struggle)	Scale 1	Rank 1	34	\$575.00	\$234,600	\$13,800
		Rank 2	33	\$517.50	\$204,930	\$12,420
		Rank 3	148	\$460.00	\$816,960	\$82,800
Special Retirement Pension (participated 15 to 19 years in the armed struggle)	Scale 2	Rank 1	27	\$460.00	\$149,040	\$11,040
		Rank 2	156	\$402.50	\$753,480	\$77,280
		Rank 3	304	\$345.00	\$1,258,560	\$293,940
Special Pension of Subsistence (participated 8 to 14 years in the armed struggle)		Rank 1	34	\$345.00	\$140,760	\$49,680
		Rank 2	635	\$310.50	\$2,366,010	\$387,504
		Rank 3	6,194	\$276.00	\$20,514,528	\$4,838,832
Disability Pension (unable to work due to disability)		Rank 2	16	\$310.50	\$59,616	\$14,904
		Rank 3	355	\$276.00	\$1,175,760	\$990,288
Survivor's Pension	With Distinction	Rank 1	11		\$99,000	\$45,000
		Rank 1	177	\$287.50	\$610,650	\$627,900
	Without Distinction	Rank 2	598	\$258.75	\$1,856,790	\$1,810,215
		Rank 3	13,479	\$230.00	\$37,202,040	\$46,550,160
One-off Payment of \$1,380.00 (participated 4 to 7 years in the armed struggle)		Rank 1	36			\$23,460
		Rank 2	528			\$284,280
		Rank 3	14,938			\$5,971,260
Total			37,707		\$67,478,724	\$62,084,763

Emergency projects to veterans

	2010	2011	2012 (part.)	Total
Number of projects	54	53	16	123
Total contract value	\$30.5m	\$30.1m	\$17.4m	\$78.0m
Average value of each project	\$0.56m	\$0.57m	\$1.09m	\$0.63m

Jornal Nacional
04 Marsu 2013

Diário

ano 07 - 1890 - \$0,50

Lista Veteranus 2009 Sae Ba 250.000

MSS Isabel : Governu Sei Investiga Didiak

Governu liu husi Ministerio Solidaridade Sosial (MSS), sei kria Komisaun Kombatentes hodi halo investigasaun profunda ba Veteranus falsu sira ne'ebe mak inventa dados hodi hetan osan Estadu nian.

"Dados 2009 nian ne'e iha 250 ita mil pesoal mais ou menus

agora iha ne'e tenki haree. se ida ne'e realmente numeru ne'e hot-hotu Veteranus ka lae, ne'e mak atu kria komisaun kombatentes nian atu haree iha distritu ida-idak lori haree fali hot-hotu veteranus ka lae, tanba ita hakarak ema ne'ebe mak Veteranus sira ne'e

Kontinua ba pagina.....15



Money for veterans: keeping an election promise?

“On 6 June, the day after the campaign began, Secretary of State for Veterans Affairs Marito Reis announced that the government would begin paying the pensions due to more than 27,000 veterans of the resistance and their families on 15 June.

The decision ... suggests that the government may have been using the advantages of incumbency to win over to CNRT a constituency which had been identified as crucial to the success of the party's campaign.

Although legal in Timor-Leste, this is not in line with international best practice for democratic elections.”

-- European Union Observer Mission report on 2012 Parliamentary Elections

Money for veterans: keeping an election promise?

The largest part of this year's rectification is \$27 million more for pensions for veterans of the liberation struggle, adding to \$80 million allocated in the original 2012 budget. The proposed rectification doesn't give a good reason why this needs to be increased.

We think that these warriors, genuine heroes of our independence, deserve attention from the state, but we worry when this rectification is used to pay for political party promises.

La'o Hamutuk submission to Parliament on 2012 mid-year budget rectification

Veterans' pensions: how much in future decades?

The 2013 state budget allocates \$92.5 million for benefits for veterans of the liberation struggle during 2013 and projects this to increase by exactly 4.00% each year in the future, which ignores inflation and the passage of generations.

This year's budget rectification included a huge increase in veteran's benefits, and we are dubious that they will be reduced from now on. This is a large part of the budget, and Parliament deserves better information about how much it will cost the state over the next decades.

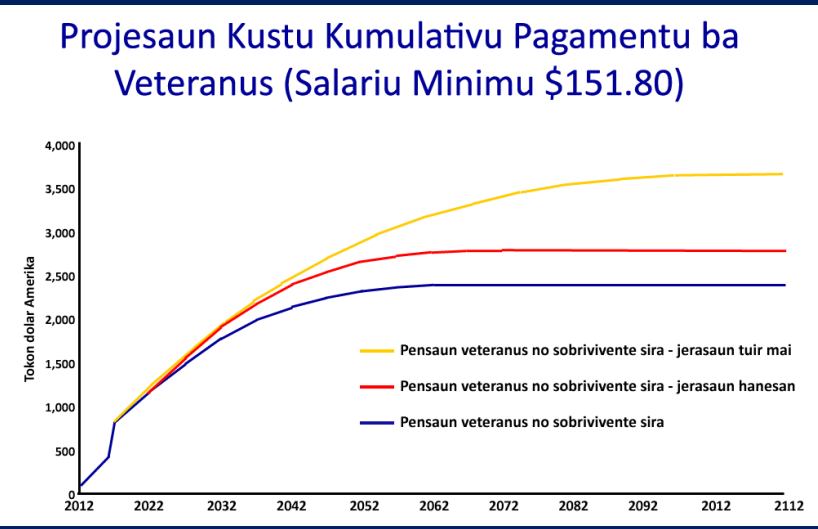
La'o Hamutuk's submission to Parliament on the 2013 Budget

Total cost in the future?

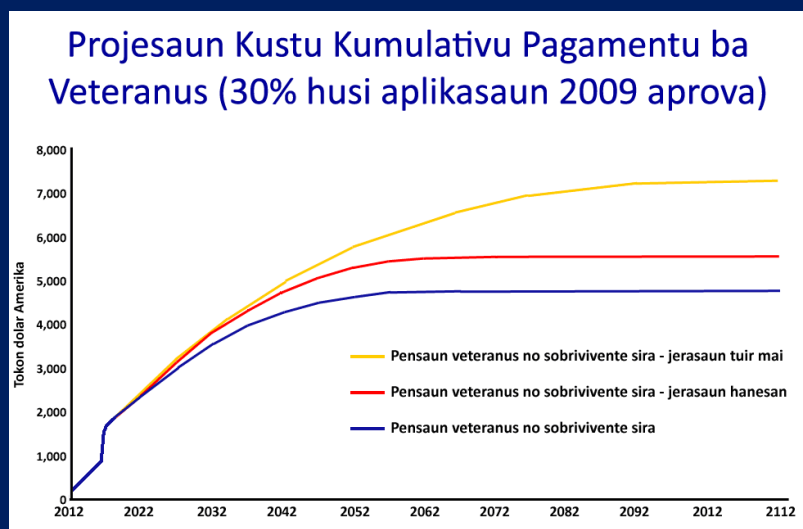
According to an internal government report:

- Payments to veterans will continue until 2122.
- The estimated total cost is \$2.8 billion, which could double if new veterans continue to register or the minimum wage goes up.

Reference case: \$2.8 billion



Higher case: \$7 billion



Total petroleum wealth: \$26 billion

For more information

Visit www.laohamutuk.org

or

<http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/>

Thank you.