
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS

Name: **Brígida Suzana Esteves da Silva**

Photo



Profiles

1) Education

- 2004 Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning, University of Hawaii, USA;
- 1993 Bachelors Degree in Physics for Education, Satya Wacana Christian University, Salatiga, Indonesia;
- 1984 Technical High School, Solo, Indonesia;
- 1980 Junior High School, Dili;
- 1975 Ciclo Preparatório do Ensino Secundário, Dili.

2) Seminars/Trainings/courses

- Aug 2010, completed the Timor-Leste Customs Capacity Building Programme, Phase 1, from 8 to 20 August 2010 in Auckland, New Zealand;
- April 2010, completed a one week training on EDF Financial Procedures in Dili, delivered by a team from EC Brussels;
- Aug 2009, completed a two weeks training on 10th EDF Procedures and Regulations for the PALOP-TL group in Lisbon, organized by the PALOP-TL secretariat, financed by the 9th European Development Funds
- Sept 2007, completed a one week course on Project Implementation System organized by the ADB, in Manila, Philippines;
- May 2007, participated in the ADB's Country Strategy Program Workshop in Sydney, Australia;
- 2005 Training on Project Management Cycle and Portfolio Management Course, ADB, Manila;

- 2003 Completed a five-week (May-June) Internship program at Mega-Tech Co. Ltd., Virginia, and USA, sponsored by the East-West Center based in Hawai'i;
- 2001 Participant of a Seminar on ASEAN Affairs for Officials of East Timor (4 – 18 March) at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- Nov - Dec 2000 Completed a two months Training on Environmental Issues, in Dili, delivered by the Sydney University Team.
- Nov - Dec 1995, Completed the Environmental Impact Assessment Courses (AMDAL A dan AMDAL C), Solo, Indonesia;
- March 1981, Administrative and Financing Courses, Surabaya, Indonesia.

3) Working Experiences

- April 2008, Deputy National Authorizing Officer (d-NAO) for the European Union;
- Present Development Fund (EDF), Ministry of Finance, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste;
- March 2008 Asian Development Bank (ADB);
- July 2005 Portfolio Management Officer;
- June 2005 National Consultant for the Asian Development Bank (ADB);
- Feb 2005 Environmental Specialist;
- Jan 2005 Note Taker for the Global Environmental Fund (GEF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP);
- June 2002 Research Assistant, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA);
- July to Sept 2001 Program Assistant at the Office of the Special Advisor of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET);
- June 2001- Sept 2000, Program Assistant to Environmental Protection Unit (EPU), UNTAET;
- April 2000 to August 2000 Program Assistant of Women's Affairs and Public Information Unit, at Dili District Administration, UNTAET;
- Jan 1994 to Sept 1999 Civil Servant of the Environmental Bureau, Local Government of East Timor, the 27th Province of Indonesia
- June 1982 to August 1985, Civil Servant of the Public Works, Division of Irrigation Systems
- June 1980 to June 1982, Temporary staff of Public Works, Division of Irrigation Systems.



Related Information

Before the Indonesian Administration left the territory of Timor-Leste in October 1999 in consequence of the result of the referendum that was held on the 30th of August 1999, the Timorese Customs officers had prepared a project of emergency, which was called *POLATIL (Polícia Aduaneira de Timor-Leste/Customs Police of Timor-Leste)*. On 11, 14 and 15 June 1999, meetings with the President of the *CNRT (Conselho Nacional da Resistência Timorense/National Council of the Timorese Resistance)*, Xanana Gusmão, were held at the special prison in Salemba, Jakarta, Indonesia, to discuss the emergency project.

After the announcement of the result of the referendum in 4 September 1999, the Indonesian military and the pro-Indonesian militias destroyed many infrastructure facilities in the whole territory of Timor-Leste. In December 1999 recruitment of candidates for the officers of the Border Service (an organ under the Ministry of Internal Administration that performed the functions of Customs, Immigration and Quarantine) started. The local staff of Border Service started working officially on 28 January 2000, under the control of UNTAET (United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor). The first work station was the Comoro Airport (now International Airport President Nicolau Lobato). The date is considered as the birthday of Customs. Customs officers annually celebrate the anniversary of their organization.

Timorese Border Service officers were helped by the Customs officers from various countries including, Portugal, New Zealand, Australia, United States of America and Finland in the early phases of the establishment of Border Service. In 2001 the Border Service was transformed into Customs Service, which was placed under the Ministry of Finance.

The Timorese people took every possible advantage from a very difficult situation through unity in order to create a solid and dynamic Customs Service.

Timor-Leste Customs has the following posts: Dili Sea Port, International Airport President Nicolau Lobato in Dili, Dili Post Office, Maliana Customs (western border area), Batugade Customs (western border area), Salele - Suai Customs (western border area), Baucau Customs (in the eastern part of the country), Oecusse Customs (Sakato and Bobometo --- in the enclave of Oecusse).

Timor-Leste Customs became 162nd member of the WCO (World Customs Organization) in July 2003. From the beginning until June 2004, Customs was managed by the international staff members of the United Nations. A totally Timorese management started in July 2004. A National Director and two Deputies were appointed.

The following are the existing Customs regimes in accordance with Customs Code (approved by Decree-Law 11/2004):

- Definitive importation
- Temporary importation --- Re-exportation
- Bonded Warehouses
- Transits (internal and external)
- Definitive exportation
- Temporary exportation --- Re-importation
- Drawback
- Outward processing (Portuguese: *aperfeiçoamento passivo*)

Customs collects three types of taxes as follows:

- Import duty (2.5% for all goods imported)
- Sales Tax (2.5% for all goods imported)
- Excise tax (only for ten items):

The list of excisable goods	
Beer	US\$ 1.90/liter
Wine, vermouth, fermented beverages	US\$ 2.50/liter
Other alcoholic beverages	US\$ 8.90/liter
Gasoline, diesel fuel products, etc	US\$ 0.06/liter
Tobacco and tobacco products	US\$ 19.00/kg
Cigarette lighters	12% of the excise value
Smoking pipes	12% of the excise value
Arms and ammunition	200% of the excise value
Motor cars (on the value in excess of US\$70,000)	35% of the excise value
Private boats and aircrafts	20% of the excise value

Some common types of infractions in Customs context:

- Undervaluation
- Wrong declaration of quantity of goods
- Wrong declaration of type of goods
- Goods are not declared to Customs in the authorized points of entry
- Goods are brought into the country through unauthorized points of entry

Following a request from the Minister of Finance of the IV Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste for a review of the Timor-Leste Customs Service, the World Bank and NZAID (New Zealand Agency for International Development) agreed to undertake a comprehensive diagnostic study in November – December 2007 to examine the situation in Customs at that time and to make recommendations. The report of the diagnostic study was presented to the Government and the Government accepted the recommendations.

Legislation

The following is the list of Customs-related legislation:

- Taxes and Duties Law – Law 8/2008;
- Attributions and Competence of the National Directorate of Customs – Decree-Law 9/2003;
- Timor-Leste Customs Duty and Taxes Exemption – Decree-Law 8/2006
- Customs Code – Decree-Law 11/2004;
- Legal Regime for the Timor-Leste Fiscal and Customs Infractions – Decree-Law 10/2004;
- General Regime for Importation, Warehousing, and Circulation of Goods subject to Excise Tax – Decree-Law 9/2004;
- Status of Official Customs Brokerage Services – Decree-Law 15/2005;
- Notification on Health and Fiscal Control of the Manufactured Tobacco-Decree-Law 9/2006;
- Regime for Customs Emoluments and Customs Fund - Decree-Law 5/2007;
- Price of ASYCUDA Form - Ministerial Diploma 7/2003;
- Dispatch 5/GPM/IV/09: Condition and procedures for the Importation and Commerce of Motor Vehicles;
- New Model of the Customs Declaration - Ministerial Diploma 4/2003;
- New Customs Procedures –Ministerial Diploma 5/2003;
- Uniform of the National Directorate of Customs – Ministerial Diploma 2/2004;
- Percentage of Insurance for Imported Goods – Ministerial Diploma 4/2004;
- Organic Statute of the Directorate General of Revenue and Customs - Ministerial Diploma 3/2009;

- Payment of Customs Duty by Government Agencies - Customs Circular No. 02/2009;
- Delegation of Power to Grant Tax Exemption – Customs Circular No. 03/2009.