



26 June 2024

Murak Rai Timor, E.P. in Collaboration with Local Authorities of Liquiça Municipality Held a Cultural Ceremony at Suco Fahilebo

Following the granting of the Reconnaissance Permit (RP) on the 24 May 2024 in Bobonaro Municipality by the National Minerals Authority (ANM) for one of the MURAK RAI TIMOR, E.P. (MRT) Concession Areas, MRT carried out consultation with local authorities and community in early June. Through this consultation, MRT officially introduce the plan for reconnaissance activities to be carried out in the project area MRT-Fahilebo, located in Post Administrative Bazartete, Municipality Liquiça.

MRT in collaboration with the locals carried out its first cultural ceremony on Tuesday, 25 June 2024 at Hohmadoen, Suco Fahilebo, Post Administrative Bazartete, Liquiça Municipality. The cultural ceremony is part of the Timor-Leste tradition to pay respect to and seek permission from the nature and ancestors to carry out an activity through traditional ritual '*loke dalan*'.



Figure 1: Cultural ceremony at Hohmadoen Sacred Ground presided by elders (lia-nain) of sucos within the MRT-Fahilebo project area.



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During the ceremony the President & CEO of MRT, Mr. José Gonçalves, reaffirms MRT's commitment to honor and pay respect to the ancestors on the land wherever it operates and further expressed his gratitude for the support received from the local authority, community and "*lia nain*" to welcome reconnaissance activity in their area. On the other hand, the president of the municipal authority of Liquiça Mr. Paulino Ribeiro M.PA, confirms the municipality's support and collaboration through its local representatives in *Sucos* and *Aldeias* to ensure the reconnaissance activities are carried out without any impediments.

This ceremony was attended by the President of ANM, the President of Municipal Authority, PNTL Liquiça Municipality, Administrator of Bazartete Post, PNTL Bazartete Administrative Post, Chefe Sucos, OPS and elders '*lia-nain*' representing each of the *sucos* within the project area MRT-Fahilebo. The main cultural ceremony is presided by elders from the villages within the MRT-Fahilebo.

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