

**8.1 FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT WITH VEMASSE, TIMOR-LESTE:
PROGRESS REPORT**

(LIAS91:NA)

Submitting Councillor: Cr J Banerji

NOTICE OF MOTION*That Council:*

- 1. Notes that the progress report in relation to the establishment of a formal Friendship Relationship Agreement with the Sub-District of Vemasse, Timor-Leste.*
- 2. Refers the matter of administrative and financial support to the Monash Friends of Vermasse to the 2009/2010 Budget process.*

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an update on the development of a formal Friendship relationship with the Sub-District of Vemasse in Timor Leste and discussions on providing Council administrative support to the Monash Friends of Vemasse (MFV).

BACKGROUND

At its 28 October 2008 meeting, the Council resolved, in part, to explore the development of a formal friendship relationship with the Vemasse and the feasibility and costs of providing support to the MFV.

DISCUSSION

Discussions at officer level have been held with Mr Allan Clausen, President of the MFV and MFV Committee members, on the proposed form of the Friendship Agreement as well as the provision of various supports to the MFV.

Friendship Agreement

A draft of the proposed Friendship Agreement is attached. The form of the Agreement was provided by the MFV and draws on the structure of agreements entered into by other Melbourne metropolitan councils. A draft form of the proposed Agreement is attached to this report.

It should be noted that the wording in the Agreement stipulates that the Friendship Agreement is not a legally binding document.

It is proposed that the signatories to the Agreement would be the Mayor of the City of Monash, together with the President of the Committee of Belun Vemasse and the District Administrator of Baucau (of which Vemasse is a Sub-District).

Recently, administrative changes have occurred in Baucau. The MFV will advise the Council of the names of the individuals who have been appointed to the positions of Committee President and District Administrator.

Administrative & Financial Support to MFV

The MFV has advised that it would find the Council's support invaluable in its efforts to support the people of Vemasse through the following –

- ❑ Assistance with the printing of brochures, which would promote/publicise its activities.
- ❑ Assistance to establish an MFV website.
- ❑ Use of Council facilities to hold public meetings, functions, dinners, etc such as fund raisers.
- ❑ Inclusion of the MFV in Council's public liability cover, for MFV's various fund raising and educational/awareness events.

Brochures

The MFV proposes an initial run of 500 A4 size brochures being printed. This amount could be increased. The MFV also proposes that the Council agrees to its logo appearing on the brochure, as a sponsor/supporter of the MFV.

Website

Technical expertise currently exists within the MFV to establish a website, but some further technical assistance is being sought.

Use of Council facilities

The frequency of use is yet to be determined. The MFV has advised that the facilities would predominantly be required after hours.

Inclusion in Council's public liability cover

This request would be referred to the Council's insurer for advice.

FINANCIAL

Funding of the support sought by the MFV could be considered in the context of the 2009/2010 Budget process.

CONCLUSION

That Council notes the progress report on the proposed formal Friendship Agreement with the Sub-District of Vemasse, Timor-Leste and the proposed provision of support to the Monash Friends of Vemasse.

ATTACHMENT 1

DRAFT

FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF VEMASSE AND THE CITY OF MONASH

In a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation, the Council of the City of Monash affirms its intention to enter into a Friendship Relationship between the City of Monash and its people and the Sub-District of Vemassee and its people.

The Agreement is a guide to the organisations of the City of Monash and the Sub-District of Vemassee and the peoples they represent and is not intended to have any legal effect.

The Council of the City of Monash undertakes that it will:

- ❑ Work together with the people of Vemassee to listen and respond to their aspirations and goals, to build local democracy and a sustainable future.
- ❑ Base all of its activities on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation and local decision making.
- ❑ Ensure that all projects and initiatives to which it commits to take full account of its capacity to resource and sustain them.
- ❑ Seek to develop understanding between our communities.

Dated this day of

2009

CR PAUL KLISARIS

Mayor

City of Monash

President

Committee of Belun Vemassee

District Administrator of Baucau