

MEDIA RELEASE

“NGO Ba Futuru launches new *Feto Fantástiku* short film”

Dili, Timor-Leste – National NGO Ba Futuru, in collaboration with PixelAsia Productions and supported by the Canadian Government, launched a new episode of the *Feto Fantástiku ba Dame* (The Fantastic Female Peacebuilder) film series on Wednesday 28

January 2015. Approximately 100 representatives from government, not-for-profit organisations and the private sector were in attendance to see the new film “Stopping Gender-Based Violence” unveiled at Cineplex Timor Plaza.



Feto Fantástiku, played by Jacinta de Sousa Pereira, is Timor-Leste's first super-hero. Ba Futuru brought her to life in 2013 with a mission to spread peace and help Timorese individuals, families and communities resolve conflicts without using violence. The new film is *Feto Fantástiku's* fifth adventure, in which she turns her hand to helping a family experiencing gender-based violence.

For the first time, *Feto Fantástiku* has someone to help her, as the launch event also marked the introduction of her sidekick, *Mane Matenek* (Smart Man). The character *Mane Matenek* has striking similarities to Jose Antonio Carvalho Martins, the actor who plays him. Both have a history of involvement in violence but have now decided to commit their lives to bringing peace to Timor-Leste.

Ba Futuru's National Director Juliana Marçal was clear on the importance of a character such as *Mane Matenek*. “Gender-based violence is a serious issue for both women and men in Timor-Leste” said Mrs Marçal. “In this context it is critical to equip people with knowledge and skills to prevent gender-based violence”.



The film was funded by the Canadian Government through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. Representatives from the Embassy of Canada to Indonesia were in attendance including Mrs Helene Viau, Counsellor for Political and Public Affair. Mrs Viau spoke about the importance of empowering women and girls in a

development context, emphasising that without gender equality, sustainable development is not possible.



The remaining part of the project will see the film shown to over 3,000 high school students and at-risk youth in Dili, Atauro Island and Aileu District, as well as broadcast on TVTL. Copies of the film are available from Ba Futuru for use in work aimed at preventing gender-based violence.