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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION FROM TIMOR-LESTE  
VISITS ALABAMA TO GAIN INSIGHT ON  
EDUCATION BEST PRACTICES AND TEACHER RECRUITING**

This week, a delegation of top international officials, from the country of Timor-Leste, visited Alabama. The primary purpose of their visit was to explore effective practices to increase student performance, literacy, and teacher recruitment.

During a meeting at the Alabama State Department of Education, members of the national



Timor-Leste delegation emphasized their goal of exploring innovative best practices to eliminate boundaries for all students, especially those in rural communities.

Timor-Leste is working now to expand its national school attendance and long term achievement.

“Our meeting today with the national Timor-Leste delegation was highly productive,” said State Superintendent, Dr. Eric G. Mackey. “We had a great opportunity to share our state’s experiences in using a science of reading approach to build literacy among students. We also discussed effective strategies to enhance classroom performance and even talked about best practices to build teacher recruitment. It was a great meeting for everyone.”

Timor-Leste officials who participated in this week’s special delegation meeting were:

- **Mr. Flávio Fefourli António Bonito** - Human Resources and Policy Design Adviser for the Ministry of Education of Timor-Leste.
- **Ms. Nivia Joana De Jesus Lopes Pereira** - Human Resource Manager for Konneкто Employment Agency
- **Mr. Jose Raul De Olivera Da Silva** - Technical Youth Coordinator for World Vision of Timor-Leste.

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- **Mr. Xisto Gonçalves** - Advocacy Specialist and Program Manager for Equitable Partnerships of CARE International.
- **Mr. Ferderick Nelson Mandela Lopes** - Planning and Budget Advisor for the Office of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Social Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development and Housing Community.
- **Ms. Natalina Moniz** - Gender Expert for the United Nations Environmental Program.
- **Ms. Ana Teresa Kai-Soce Pereira De Araujo** - Advisor for Economic Affairs and Tourism for the Office of the Deputy-Prime Minister.

The Timor-Leste delegation is also exploring other key best practices from across the globe, in areas such as healthcare. The goal is to build a lifetime of sustained success for its residents.

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