



Media Release

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Peter Styles

Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Racing Gaming and Licensing

### **Timor-Leste looks to NT to help jump start racing industry**

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Timor-Leste is turning to the Northern Territory for guidance as it looks to develop Thoroughbred Racing in its own country.

Minister for Racing Gaming and Licensing Peter Styles today met with a delegation from the Race Horse Breeders and Owners Association of Timor-Leste (ACPCC-TL) including President Mr Fernando Da Encarnacao who was hosted by the Darwin Turf Club at its Shenannigans St Patrick's Day Races.

"It was a pleasure to meet with the Timor-Leste representatives at one of the Darwin Turf Club's largest race days outside of the Carlton Mid Darwin Cup Carnival," Mr Styles said.

"Timor-Leste sees the equine industry, in particular the Thoroughbred Racing sector, as an area of growth with the potential to boost its economy and generate job opportunities.

"Currently their racing product is limited by skills, resources and infrastructure but they have developed an ambitious growth plan for the next 10 to 15 years.

"The ACPCC-TL plan will require significant support from its own Government however the Territory can also assist.

"Early discussions between NT racing stakeholders and the ACPCC-TL indicate an appetite for initial support through knowledge transfer and training opportunities.

"One of the strategic goals in the Territory Government's Asian Engagement, Trade and Investment Strategic Plan is capacity building, so we are also keen to help facilitate any knowledge sharing.

"The Northern Territory Racing sector is run successfully and professionally by Thoroughbred Racing NT (TRNT) with excellent stewarding, animal welfare and safe work practices it can pass on.

"Combined with the renowned hospitality and events the Darwin Turf Club delivers off the track, particularly during the Darwin Cup Carnival, the capacity for the Territory to help is great."

Darwin Turf Club CEO Keith Stacy said the Northern Territory Racing sector is proud of its reputation for delivering high quality racing and entertainment products on and off the track.

“It is our aim to provide an exciting and hospitable trackside experience for our patrons as well as ensuring the highest standards in racing participant safety and horse welfare,” Mr Stacy said

“It is fantastic to host the ACPCCL-TL on one of our key feature race days and we look forward to continuing to share this knowledge with our Timor-Leste colleagues.”

NT Jockey’s Association President Troy Walsh said one of Timor-Leste’s leading female jockeys is visiting along with the delegation to witness first-hand how racing happens in the Territory.

“Ms Emiliana Fame Teixeira Lopes (known as Aninhas) has been able to meet with some of our local female riders today, her wish is to spend more time learning skills here in the Territory with a dream to take up a riding apprenticeship and professionally race in Australia.”

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