



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE TIMOR-
LESTE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS
MEETING

Dili

13 July 2011

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a mix of satisfaction and motivation that I now bring to an end this meeting with the Development Partners of Timor-Leste.

Once again the International Community – friends and partners of Timor-Leste – and the various components of our Civil Society – Private Sector, NGOs, Churches, Media and others – have contributed with valuable interventions, in an atmosphere of cooperation, friendship and honesty, seeking to make this young Nation a more prosperous place with greater opportunities to improve the living situation of the Timorese People.

The Strategic Development Plan that I had the opportunity of launching during this meeting was awaited with great expectation by all those who are interested and who want to contribute to the development of the Country.

These two days of debate, mostly to discuss this new Plan, lead me to conclude, with a renewed sense of responsibility, that we have not failed to meet the expectations and that today we have mustered the conditions for successfully implementing a new strategy for developing the Nation.

In fact, the Financial Agreement signed just now between the Government of Timor-Leste and the International Development Association is an excellent indication of this and the perfect way to conclude this meeting, as the implementation of the Strategic Plan will start immediately.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is now an additional factor that makes us believe that this Plan will be successfully implemented: the way in which it was received by our Development Partners!

I say it again; it is with great satisfaction and particularly with great motivation that we have entered this new stage for Timor-Leste. The clearly positive input we received in relation to this Plan – the express will to support and contribute to its implementation – gives us great confidence.

Receiving this support and solidarity also gives us great responsibility. The drafting of the Plan is an important step, but it is its implementation that will determine whether the effort was worth it.

The presentation of the Plan is not an end in itself but rather a new start for Timor-Leste, a new opportunity!

There are many challenges to the implementation of the Plan, as we could see during these two days of “round table” discussion.

We accept and appreciate the various recommendations made here by the various representatives of our Civil Society – particularly the valuable contributions of the Private Sector, the NGOs, the Churches and the Media – and by the representatives from various foreign countries and international agencies in attendance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we are here to take on a new commitment.

We have learned a lot during the drafting of this Strategic Development Plan. We have learned a lot from our People and its will, which is stronger all the time, to contribute towards the construction of our Country. We have learned a lot from our development partners, which never refused to provide data and opinions to give coherence and even consistence to this Plan. We have also learned a lot from all those – technical officers, civil servants and advisors – who were directly involved in the drafting.

Most of all, we learned that we still have a lot to learn during the implementation of this Plan, which is ambitious but clearly doable.

We appreciate the various recommendations made here. We are aware that transparency and good governance during the implementation process are fundamental factors, and that this requires efficient verification and monitoring mechanisms.

We know that we will have to fine tune some programmes, to research new data and to constantly update the obtained data, particularly in productive key sectors such as the agricultural sector.

We are aware, and thus the focus on social capital, that without skilled and trained human resources it will be extremely difficult to implement this Plan.

We are aware that we still have to draft several legislation and regulation pieces, as well as to speed up administrative procedures in the various components of this Plan.

We are also aware that in order for us to achieve this goal we must always, and I mean always, work in a duly coordinated manner.

This means coordination between the various line ministries, coordination between the various Sovereignty Bodies, coordination between these State Agencies and Development Partners and, obviously, coordination and constant and open dialogue between the Government and Civil Society and between the Government and the Timorese People.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The national Private Sector will be essential for starting the economic growth described in the set strategies. We will continue to invest in this sector, however we will also urge it to control its frustrations, often regarding funding and know how, particularly when compared with the international private sector. It is important that the national Private Sector displays honesty and accountability beyond reproach, so that it can be a true agent of national development.

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great hope for the future that I bring this meeting to a close. The way in which the Strategic Development Plan was received encourages us not to rest for a single moment until we can truly move forward with the sector programmes we presented.

I must also thank the Ambassadors and representatives of various International Agencies in attendance, including Scholars and members of International Non Governmental Organizations, for their words of support and for their will to actively participate in this development journey of ours.

I do not need to tell you that, once again, we accept with humility and gratefulness all assistance that will be provided in order for us to achieve this goal.

The **Dili Development Pact** defines the new paradigm through which this new form of cooperation will be established. The new commitment between Timor-Leste and its Development Partners strengthens the need for a more articulate, responsible and dynamic partnership, based on the following core principles:

- National ownership, with greater responsibility for the Timorese and the commitment of strong leadership regarding the destinies of the Nation and the People.
- Greater articulation and transparency in the set assistance and cooperation mechanisms, moving gradually from a stage of development assistance to a stage of development investment.
- As partners towards the “best possible investment in Timor-Leste”, work together in order to reinvent synergies focusing on the expansion of the private sector, the creation of employment and investment in key areas enabling the sustainable development of the Country.
- Timely reform and reorganization of the set cooperation systems and mechanisms so as to ensure the implementation of the goals and a better service delivery to the Timorese People.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lastly, I would like to pay homage to His Excellency the President of the Republic José Ramos-Horta, for once again displaying his exceptional leadership during these two days in which he listened and reflected on the strategic Plan alongside us. He is undoubtedly a magnificent example of our Country’s commitment to move forward towards development and to provide our People with a better future.

I conclude this meeting by saying I am very happy to see that we have managed to link the vision of the Timorese People with the vision of our international friends and partners, so as to enable the successful development of Timor-Leste.

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

13 July 2011