



**P R I M E
M I N I S T E R**

**OPENING REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME
MINISTER OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO TO THE FIRST QUARTERLY
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' MEETING 2015**

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5 February 2015

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to the First Quarterly Development Partners' Meeting 2015.

I want to give a special welcome to Her Excellency, Dr Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Timor-Leste.

This is Dr Heyzer's last visit to Timor-Leste as Special Adviser, and we thank her for her trust in us, and her contribution to supporting our sustainable development and State building. We will be highlighting one of her many initiatives later tonight at a "Lighting Ceremony" that will showcase a project she has driven to bring solar lighting to our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the first time this group has met since the 2014 Timor-Leste Development Partners' Meeting which was held immediately following the Community of Portuguese Language Countries Summit. This was the first time the CPLP Summit had been held in the Asia Pacific region and with Timor-Leste assuming the CPLP Presidency we have been working to achieve shared prosperity, reduce poverty and bring progress and stability across the Portuguese speaking world.

At the 2014 Timor-Leste Development Partners' Meeting we agreed that we must work together, in friendship and with an attitude of tolerance and understanding, to bring progress to our country.

With much of the world unravelling into conflict and instability, we agreed that Timor-Leste was a development success story thanks to the determination of our people and the support of our international friends you are here representing. We have tackled the root causes of our fragility and as a result we are now embarking on a process of State building. Peace and security gave us the time to reflect, and consult and turn our attention to long term planning and as a result, at the Timor-Leste Development Partners' Meeting in 2011, we launched our *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030*.

We are now focused on implementing our strategic plan and we are pleased that our development partners have aligned their efforts with our priorities.

This meeting provides us with the opportunity to refocus our efforts and discuss our progress and learn from our success as well as the challenges we have faced and that we are going to face in the future.

As you know, in order to monitor our shared progress and ensure our efforts and programs are aligned with the Strategic Development Plan we are developing the SDP Matrix. The purpose of the Matrix is to provide a structure and process to ensure accountability for results. The Matrix will be a tool to ensure that the work of both government and of development partners is aligned to our national priorities.

This morning we will discuss progress in development of the Matrix and the indicators to adopt to monitor our success.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The building of a foundation of stability has not only allowed us to develop a long term Strategic Development Plan, it has also meant that we can plan our future with confidence. And so, with our shared success in State building, we can now transition to our leaders of tomorrow.

That is why we are embarking on a re-structure of the Government of Timor-Leste. This re-structure will result in a more efficient government that will improve our service delivery.

Importantly, our restructure includes a younger generation of leaders - the future of our nation. We have peace and stability, we have a strategic development plan – we are well placed to open up opportunities for the leaders of tomorrow to step up and grasp the future of our country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish us all the best today and trust that this will be a productive dialogue. We share a common goal which is to improve the lives of the Timorese people. Today gives us the chance to come together and work towards our shared desire to realise the dreams of our nation.

We thank our development partners for all they have done for our country. Without your solidarity and goodwill we could not have come so far.

I urge you to keep working with us with trust and confidence to build a future of opportunity and progress for the Timorese people.

Thank you very much.

5 February 2015
Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão