



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

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE,
DR RUI MARIA DE ARAÚJO,
AT THE SWEARING-IN OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE REFORM AND JUSTICE SECTOR COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Room of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
16 December 2015**

Your Excellency the Judge Administrator of the District Court of Dili, representing the President of the Court of Appeal

Your Excellencies the Members of Government

Your Excellency the President of the Anti-Corruption Commission

Your Excellency the Representative of the President of the Civil Service Commission

Your Excellency the President and the Members of the Legislative Reform and Justice Sector Committee who have been sworn-in

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great satisfaction that I have just sworn-in the permanent and non-permanent members of the new Legislative Reform and Justice Sector Committee, which was created last August.

I would like to salute the newly sworn-in members:

- Mr Jorge Manuel Ferreira da Graça, permanent member and President of the Committee;
- Mr Henrique Côrte-Real de Araújo, permanent member;
- Ms Melisa IbelaDiliana e Silva Caldas, permanent member; and
- Mr José Manuel Guterres, non-permanent member appointed by the President of the Court of Appeal.

I am certain that you will lead this new Committee with the utmost sense of responsibility, knowing that you must strive to serve and defend both the country and the interests of the Timorese citizens. I also believe that your academic training, professional experience and technical skills will enable you to meet and overcome the challenges you will be facing during this assignment. As such, I trust that the President and the permanent and non-permanent members will perform their duties in a committed and dedicated manner.

I use the word “new” because this Committee was created by the Sixth Constitutional Government. Its new structure, based on the 2011-2030 Strategic Development Plan, considers it essential to review and improve the legal instruments ensuring the protection of rights, liberties and guarantees, as well as access to the law, bringing the legislation closer to the democratic ideals and the citizens of Timor-Leste.

As such, the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, which is tasked with coordinating and centralising the Government’s legislative and regulatory process, has been conducting several preliminary consultations with various key entities, so as to listen to suggestions that may lead to the improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of the legislative and justice sector.

The Government considers that dialogue between the various entities can only benefit the Legislative Reform and the Justice Sector, as it contributes to better and more efficient correspondence with the public interest.

Consequently the Legislative Reform and Justice Sector Committee, which was sworn-in today and which is under the responsibility of this Ministry, seeks to respond to the need to continue collecting and consolidating the proposals resulting from these meetings. At the same time, the Committee will also carry out comprehensive studies on law reform, formal aspect and legislative standardisation, as well as promote the modernisation of the legislative procedure by drafting recommendations to be submitted to the Government, which will surely assist the Legislative Reform and Justice Sector process.

This is a key and strategic reform for enabling the growth and development of our country and for ensuring better service delivery to the people. It is vital to adapt the legal and normative framework to the context of Timor-Leste, ensuring its harmonisation and the unity of the legal structure. This will enable greater capacity in the legislative and judiciary sector, protecting the rights of the citizens and increasing the trust by citizens and investors in the sector, which in turn is reflected in terms of economic and social development of the country.

As such, and as I have stated before, the work to be done by this Committee will be very important and entail great responsibility, as it will suggest new methods giving it a new, simpler, more modern and harmonised dynamic.

This is the first step towards a crosscutting reform, affecting areas such as good governance, peacekeeping, security, decentralization, poverty reduction and the development of our country.

Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to wish all members of the Committee, who have now been sworn-in, great success in the performance of your duties serving the State and the people.

Thank you very much and good work to you all!

Dr Rui Maria de Araújo
Dili, 16 December 2015