



MEDIA CONFERENCE STATEMENT WITH H.E. MR. JOKO WIDODO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and a privilege to welcome H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, to Timor-Leste.

We are honoured the President has visited Timor-Leste in his first term as President.

The President's visit reflects and enhances the strong and positive bonds between our nations.

It follows the attendance of H.E. President Taur Matan Ruak at the swearing-in ceremony of President Widodo in October 2014.

And my visit in August last year - my first Official Visit on becoming Prime Minister, to any nation.

We are deeply moved that the President is visiting Timor-Leste so soon after the terrorist attack in Jakarta last week.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to personally pass on the condolences of the Government and the People of Timor-Leste to the President and to let him know that we stand in solidarity with Indonesia in the wake of this awful event.

I was also grateful to have the opportunity to tell the President how much we admired the response of the Indonesian people to this attack.

Innocent people lost their lives, and many more were injured.

Yet the Indonesian people refused to give in to terror.

Under the leadership of President Jokowi they were not afraid.

The President gave his people the confidence to go about their normal lives. He took control of the situation and ensured that security was maintained.

Indonesia's response to the attack did not surprise the Timorese.

We know Indonesia is a country of tolerance that celebrates the unity in its diversity.

We know Indonesia is the most dynamic nation, in the world's most dynamic region.

We also know that Indonesia is one of the few countries in the world that has achieved rapid and sustained economic growth.

Growth that we have played a small part in -Indonesia is by far our largest trading partner.

And we are not surprised by predictions that, by 2050, Indonesia will be one of the world's big four economies, alongside China, India and the United States.

We are fortunate to count Indonesia as our friend. And we are delighted that Indonesian firms are leading the way in the economic development of Timor-Leste.

While we have had a difficult past, today Timor-Leste and Indonesia are a global model for reconciliation and peace in an increasingly divided world.

We share an island and we share a future.

Today we had very productive and positive discussions.

We committed to conclude our land boundary discussions in a spirit of good will and solidarity. We have come so far. We have only the smallest of segments to settle and we are confident that this can be achieved quickly and in friendship.

We also spoke about our maritime boundaries. Indonesia can be proud of the leading role it played drafting the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Timor-Leste and Indonesia will be guided by this convention, and the principles of international law, in setting our maritime boundaries.

We know the importance of international law and the law of the sea in protecting the rights of States and in maintaining global peace and order.

Both nations acknowledge that it is more important than ever to have clear, well defined, maritime boundaries and we will work together to achieve that end.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This visit further strengthens the strong bonds between our nations.

We share many people to people links. Over four thousand Timorese are studying throughout Indonesia at its many great institutions of learning.

Today, we also signed five important Memoranda of Understanding.

These Memoranda will strengthen the bi-lateral relationship between our countries in the areas of minerals and energy, youth and sport, climate and geophysics and between our national archives.

The signing of these agreements are a further testament to the friendship and good will between us.

We also thank Indonesian for its strong support for Timor-Leste to join ASEAN. We are humbled by Indonesia's confidence in the future of our country and its unwavering support for our ASEAN membership.

Indonesia was the first to recognise that ASEAN's vision of 'one Southeast Asia' cannot be realised without Timor-Leste's participation.

I am pleased that this visit has been such a success and has further strengthened the strong bond of friendship between our nations and our people.

I would like now to invite H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, to say a few words.