



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY
THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE,
DR RUI MARIA DE ARAÚJO

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE BY
SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO HUN SEN,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Samdech HUN SEN

It is with great pleasure that myself and the Government of Timor-Leste welcome you and your delegation to Dili, Timor-Leste.

We feel very honour with your presence here accompanied with Members of your cabinet, which reflect the importance you have attached to this visit and the relations between Timor-Leste and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Timor-Leste and Cambodia shared similar history in terms of conflicts and peace building process. The history has thought us lessons how important peace and stability of the country are instrumental in the national development of our countries.

After emerging from decades of conflicts, I am sure Timor-Leste and Cambodia can share and cooperate with each other to enhance the bilateral cooperation between our two countries for the benefit of our two people.

Samdech HUN SEN

In our meeting today, we have discussed and identified a range of potential areas of cooperation that Timor-Leste and Cambodia can collaborate to further enhance our bilateral relations.

We have also witnessed the signing of a Framework Agreement on Technical and Economic Cooperation; an Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Service Passports and a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the cooperation in the Field of Labour. These agreements and MoU will pave the way for further cooperation.

I would like to make reference to the potential cooperation in the agriculture, petroleum, education and commerce sectors where Timor-Leste and Cambodia can share each other's experiences. The two Foreign Ministers will work on practical programs for implementation.

Timor-Leste, as a new nation in the Southeast Asia region, is embarking on its national development to build the country and provide services to the people.

We are however mindful of the fact that we are part of this region and for that reason, Timor-Leste is seeking membership in the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In this connection, On behalf of the Government of Timor-Leste, I would like to acknowledge the unwavering support, personally from Samdech HUN SEN and the Government of Cambodia for Timor-Leste's membership in ASEAN.

Timor-Leste is ready to be a member of the Association and is ready to have a meaningful contribution to the organisation.

Samdech HUN SEN

Ladies and Gentlemen

Apart from the official visit and the meeting that we have just had, you are the guest of honour in the commemoration of the 41st Anniversary of FALINTIL, our Liberation Armed Forces, which was first the military wing of the FRETILIN Party and later on of the whole People of Timor-Leste during the struggle for liberation and lately become the embryo of the current Defence Force of Timor-Leste.

As someone with experience in fighting to liberate your own country at the youngest age, you will understand and appreciate how our heroes and veterans made the ultimate sacrifice for our country to be at his stage, where we are now.

Therefore the commemoration this year is truly honour by your presence and your experience from the struggle for the liberation of your country and the way you have developed your country, become an inspiration for us to ensure that all the sacrifices of our fallen soldiers and veterans will not be in vain.

Once again, Samdech HUN SEN thank you very much for honouring us with your visit. I would like now to invite Samdech HUN SEN to say a few words.

19 August 2016