



Celebration of the World Day of People with Disabilities - December 3rd, 2016

Message from the Prime Minister to the Nation

Today, December 3rd, different countries celebrate the World Day of People with Disabilities, created to give special attention to all those born with a disability or that acquired it throughout their lives.

The State of Timor-Leste aims to ensure that people with disabilities are also able to participate in the national development, seeking to include everyone and not leaving the disabled behind.

The Government has pursued different efforts to respond to the situations that people with disabilities face, in a series of aspects, particularly in the area of Education, where efforts have already been made to create an inclusive system (which integrates people according to their abilities and adapt the programme to their needs); and in the Health area, where we have been creating support mechanisms to assist people with disabilities.

The Government is also developing social protection programmes to provide training and employment opportunities, and to stimulate the area of sport for the disabled.

The celebration of the World Day of People with Disabilities awakens us all to the importance and priority to be given to social development programmes, helping the disabled to reach an adequate standard of living, and to feel protected within society.

Taking advantage of the celebrations of the World Day of People with Disabilities, we all have to make an effort to:

- Reduce inequality in the development;
- Increase the participation of people with disabilities in the economy of the nation;
- Promote an inclusive education;
- Ensure normal access to everyday life services (accessibility) and consolidate partnerships for the protection of the disabled.

I greet all Timorese with disabilities and I want you to know that you can count on the support of the Government.

One for all! All for one!