



Dili, May 30^{TH} , 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Council of Ministers meeting on May 30th, 2017

The Council of Ministers met this Tuesday, at the Government Palace, in Dili, and the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications presented and saw approved the Government Resolution on the **National Policy for Civil Aviation**. The policy reflects the Government's vision that, by 2030, Timor-Leste will have a safe, sustainable and growing aviation industry, which makes a significant contribution to economic and social development and helps to promote a positive image of Timor-Leste abroad.

After the approval of the <u>Information and Communication Technology National Policy</u>, it was necessary to create the <u>Information and Communication Technologies Institute</u>. This entity, approved in the meeting of the Council of Ministers, will be responsible for the sound management of networks belonging to the Government and other public entities,,allowing for the modernization of the State and a better provision of services.

The Minister of State, Coordinator of Economic Affairs and Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries saw approved the Decree-Law on the **credit guarantee scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises**. As a tool for social justice, and a fundamental component for the creation of a solid and viable business, this was a priority for the Government. It intends to facilitate credit access to commercial companies with at least 75% Timorese ownership and to self-employed Timorese people. With this mechanism, the State shares the risk of credit granted by commercial banks, up to a maximum of 70% of the loans that meet the legal requirements.

Prior to his attendance at the <u>Conference</u> "Our Oceans, Our Future: Partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal14", at the United Nations in New York, between June 5th and 9th, the Minister also made a presentation to the Council of Ministers on the **National Policy of the Oceans**.



Finally, the **National Employment Strategy 2017-2030** was analysed, aiming to strengthen and facilitate effective policies for job creation, as framed in the <u>Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030</u>.

The Minister of State, Coordinator of Social Affairs and Minister of Education saw approved the Government Resolution on the **designation of the commemorative dates in Education**: National Day of Teachers (October 29th) and National Day of Higher Education (November 17th).