



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 HANDOVER CEREMONY AND LAUNCH OF THE SNAPSHOT OF
THE SIXTH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE [2015 - 2017]**

**Great Hall of the MFAC
4 August 2017**

Your Excellencies
The Members of Parliament and Presidents of Parliamentary Committees
Fellow Government Members

Illustrious
Representatives from the Diplomatic Corps
Development Partners
Representatives from International Agencies, Non-governmental Organisations and Civil Society
Representatives from the National Liberation Combatants and Veterans
Vice-Rectors of the Universities of Timor-Leste

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sixth Constitutional Government is very pleased to be here today for a ceremony celebrating the fruits of our work and our commitment over the last two and a half years.

More importantly, we are very proud to be here today!

When we took the helm of Government, back on 16 February 2015, we did so with a true sense of State and responsibility. At the time we vowed to continue improving our country's status and our people's living conditions.

We still have that sense today, which is why we want to pass on to the next Government the legacy of our key achievements.

The Sixth Constitutional Government focused on continuing the atmosphere of peace and stability felt by our people, which is an essential and crosscutting condition for the sustainable implementation of our Strategic Development Plan.

Our sustainable development programme is centred on four sectors: social, infrastructure, economic and governance.

As such, we had the following priorities:

In the **Social Sector**: the Comprehensive Primary Healthcare Package and the Family Health Programme; improving health infrastructures, including the Regional Hospital of Baucau; building new schools and training teachers; the Social Security General Scheme Law and our National Liberation Combatants and Veterans.

In the **Infrastructure Sector**: continuing the development of core infrastructures; building, rehabilitating and maintaining roads and bridges, which enable development in other areas; water supply and irrigation systems, which among other things enable the growth of our agriculture.

In the **Economic Sector**: boosting and diversifying our economy by way of a clear commitment to the approval of a Guide for Economic Reform and Growth; supporting businesspeople and the private sector, as well as agriculture and tourism, so as to increase employment, particularly among our young people.

In the **Governance Sector**: Tax Reform, Public Administration Reform, Legislative Reform and Justice Reform, resulting in increased revenues, stronger financial execution, better service delivery and greater compliance with the legal framework.

We continued developing the Special Administrative Region of Oe-Cusse Ambeno and the Special Zones of Social Market Economy.

We also held the Rotating Presidency of the CPLP (2014-2016) and implemented the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

We established the Council for the Final Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries and we initiated Compulsory Conciliation proceedings against Australia.

I am just mentioning a few examples, particularly since you will all be able to leaf through the Government Snapshot in a few moments.

If we have been able to achieve so much, it is thanks to our work and to the serious and responsible manner in which we took on the mission to rule our country. However, it is also thanks to the assistance by all those who have partnered with us – and who are here today representing the various organisations and agencies that have collaborated closely with us in implementing the Government Programme.

Conscious of the impact that this two-and-a-half-year mandate had on all Timorese citizens and on the Nation, the Ministries and their respective autonomous agencies and entities are here today handing over the **Governance Process**.

We want to inform the next Government about the structure of each Ministry, Secretariat of State and autonomous agency and entity, as well as about those programmes, policies, reforms and strategies that have been implemented and those that are still ongoing, including financial information and recommendations for the future, so as to contribute to a responsible and transparent government transition.

To the other sovereignty bodies, to the people of Timor-Leste and to the community in general we leave the Snapshot of the Sixth Constitutional Government, which reflects the achievements that have most benefited our people and our country.

Our work is a “work in progress”, which means that we have continued working from the time this data was collected until today. Consequently, there have been more achievements that are not listed in the snapshot.

Last but not the least, I want to thank every Government member for their dedication, drive and perseverance throughout this mandate. This includes the dearly missed Minister Fernando LaSama de Araújo who, although no longer with us, played an important role in the outcomes achieved.

I would also like to thank the families of every Government member. Our achievements would not have been possible without their understanding and personal sacrifice.

I would also like to thank every civil servant and every person who collaborated with the Ministries, Secretariats of State and autonomous agencies and entities for their teamwork.

A special thank you to Maun Boot Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão for giving us the opportunity to be part of this team and for being an inexhaustible source of inspiration and an unshakeable foundation of support over these 30 months of governance.

In conclusion, and following our motto of “One for All and All for One”... it was an honour to lead the Sixth Constitutional Government!

Thank you all very much.

Dr Rui Maria de Araújo
04 August 2017