



**SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCE THE PRIME MINISTER  
OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE,**

**TAUR MATAN RUAK**

**OFFICIAL CEREMONY OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES EXCHANGE  
FOR RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING  
THE MARITIME BORDERS IN THE TIMOR SEA**

**GOVERNMENT PALACE, AUGUST 30, 2019**

Your Excellency the Prime Minister of Australia, Honourable Mr. Scott John Morrison

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Heads of Government and other Dignitaries

Ladies and Gentleman

Distinguished guests

With this act of Diplomatic Notes Exchange between Australia and Timor-Leste, we begin a new chapter of the bilateral relations between our two nations.

This is a moment that demonstrate our strong mutual desire to reach a fair and equitable agreement, after a successful negotiating process that used, for the first time, the mechanisms of conciliation provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

That's why we mark, with great pride, the entry into force of this treaty, in both countries, as a good example to the World, regarding peaceful resolution of conflicts in a cooperative and collaborative way.

Australia and Timor-Leste share the fundamental principles and values of the International Right and the Human Rights.

This close and positive relationship has been present for years, at a bilateral level, through the cooperation in all areas of common interest, namely in defence and security, in health and education and in the strengthening of the civil society, and especially in ties of citizenship.

Although the strong ties that already unites us, I would like to convey to Your Excellency Prime Minister, our strong commitment to invest more time and effort in broadening and deepening our relationship in all levels, answering to the expectations of our peoples.

The spirit of this permanent Maritime Borders Treaty represents to us a source of inspiration and encouragement, that stimulate us moving forward.

I believe that this spirit will certainly help both Governments to work with renewed commitment, both bilaterally and cooperatively, in favour to our nations and the well-being of our people.

Your Excellency Prime Minister

Distinguished guest

We firmly believe that Australia and Timor-Leste will continue to work together, thus fulfilling, in an increasingly practical and conscientious way, the legitimate expectations and aspirations of our two Peoples!

May God bless us all!

Thank you!