



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

**ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SWEARING IN OF THE
PRESIDENT AND TWO COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

GOVERNMENT PALACE

14 August 2009



Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with particular pride that I preside over this Ceremony marking the achievement of another of the main political commitments of this Government, precisely today when we conclude the week celebrating the second anniversary of the IV Constitutional Government.

The establishment of the Civil Service Commission strengthens the institutional capacity of Public Administration, protects the interests of the State and improves the performance of public services, along with the development of good governance mechanisms that we have been implementing, thus confirming the iron will by this Government in achieving all that it promised to achieve.

Today, 14 August 2009, it is with the utmost confidence and determination that I have sworn in:

- The President of the Civil Service Commission – Mr Libório Pereira;
- The Member of the Civil Service Commission – Dr Abel da Costa Ximenes; and
- The Member of the Civil Service Commission – Ms Maria Olandina Caeiro Alves.

These are offices of high responsibility, requiring full commitment and dedication, because more than assuring an apolitical Civil Service that is based on merit and professionalism, they are tasked with providing quality public services and defending the interests of the community and the People.

As proposed by the Government and approved by the National Parliament, the goal of the Civil Service Commission is to ensure:

Firstly – an impartial Civil Service, based on merit and with high standards of integrity and professionalism;

Secondly – a Civil Service providing quality services to the State and the People of Timor-Leste;



Thirdly – an efficient, effective and economic management of the Civil Service and its performance;

Fourthly – fair and reasonable treatment to Civil Servants;

Fifthly – the development of leadership and innovation throughout the entire Civil Service.

Dear President of the Civil Service Commission,

Dear Commissioners,

In order to achieve these goals you have been given a five-year mandate. The noble mission you have taken on today is the outcome of the expertise and professional skills you have shown, but also the acknowledgement of your integrity and courage in accepting this challenge.

Our Public Administration currently has around 12,800 permanent staff members and around 13,400 staff members. Dealing with the situation of the temporary staff members, ensuring and promoting compliance with the rules of the Civil Service Statute, is in itself a tremendous challenge.

On the other hand, Civil Service is a vital component of formal economy, and for now it is the main driving engine of the economy, as it is civil servants who are the first to run and manage public investments.

Thus, in order to drive economic growth it is essential to have technical and administrative skills, i.e. productivity, professionalism, integrity and efficiency in Public Administration.

Civil servants are responsible for providing services to the entire population, and must consequently perform their tasks with even greater efficiency and professionalism and constantly improve their knowledge and expertise. Your mission, Illustrious Commissioners, is to ensure that this is so.

Ladies and Gentlemen,



The creation of the Civil Service Commission has been a priority of this Government right from the start, as it is a vital component of National Development – through transparent and efficient Governance.

I have always defended that we need bold policies to enable social and economical development and poverty reduction. In order for this to be possible, we first need to transform the State thoroughly, denouncing favouritisms and weaknesses, and making the administrative machinery leaner, more organized and more functional, as well as bringing public services closer to the populations.

Today we have taken another decisive step in this direction. The Government, and particularly the Civil Service Commission, are the actors in this essential reform. They rely on technical support by the AusAID and the UNDP, and to them I would like to convey my sincere appreciation.

We are still awaiting the nominations from the National Parliament regarding the two other Commissioners so that the Civil Service Commission may fully start functioning, acting independently, free from Government intervention or from any of its members.

I conclude by wishing every success to the Commissioners sworn in today, knowing that you will always work towards the defence of the public interest and the promotion of a strong and independent public service, able to deal professionally with this Government and any other Government that rules the Nation in the future, for the good of the future generations.

Thank you very much!

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

14 August 2009