



**Address by H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão**  
**Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**

**On the occasion of the 3rd Quarterly Development Partners' Meeting**  
**2009**

**Ministry of Finance Meeting Room (Knowledge Centre)**  
**Thursday, 29 October 2009**

Your Excellencies the Members of Government

Your Excellency, Mr. Finn Reske-Nielsen, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and UNDP Resident Representative

Representative of the World Bank, Mr. Habib Rab

Excellencies, the Ambassadors and Heads of the International Agencies

Representatives of Civil Society

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and thank you for attending this, our third Quarterly Development Partners' Meeting for 2009.

The Development Partners' Meetings and the National Priorities Process are the primary way in which the Government enters into dialogue and discussions with the development partners about the Government's priorities.

As you all know, the National Priorities Process is also one of the Government's highest level coordination and monitoring tools.

It provides a mechanism for whole-of-government cooperation and consultation on critical issues for our development – issues that cut across more than one Ministry or Government body.

And it is of great benefit for us to have our friends, the development partners, deeply involved in this process.

Working together in this way we can do so much more than if we were working apart.

And so, I look forward to hearing from you today on the progress of the Working Groups and to discussing the goals and priorities of each Group for 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The National Priorities Process is greatly valued by the Government.

That is why I encourage you all - Ministers and Secretaries of State, as well as our development partners - to re-double your efforts in the last quarter of 2009.

Re-double your efforts to make sure that the goals and targets that we set at the beginning of this year are achieved.

This is not so that we can simply “tick a box” – it is so we can make sure that we are delivering for the People of Timor-Leste.

We must build on our achievements.

And we must seize the opportunities that are provided by our fast growing economy and our secure and stable environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2010 State Budget - which was recently submitted to the National Parliament - is linked to the seven national priorities identified by the Government for 2010.

The budget draws upon the commitment of both the Government and the development partners to prioritize our effort, and our focus, and our resources toward these key priority areas.

And this is a point we should emphasize: a key purpose of the National Priorities Process is to allow the Government to express its priorities to our development partners.

And this allows the development partners to align their support with the priorities of the Timorese - as determined by the Timorese.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I understand that many of you are also interested in the progress of the Strategic Development Plan.

The Strategic Development Plan is in its final stages of preparation and will be released for comment and consultation toward the end of the year.

This will allow this forum to discuss the Plan at the next quarterly meeting - and for it to also be considered at the 2010 Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting to be held in April.

With the finalization of the Strategic Development Plan, the development partners will also be better able to align their programs and support with the Government's multi-year planning process.

I would also like to reiterate one last point – it is a point that I have made before but it is worth repeating – it is that we must all remember that 'if everything is a priority, nothing is a priority'.

And so, I encourage you to all work with focus, and a sense of defined purpose, to make this National Priorities Process a success.

It is in this way that we can work together to develop our nation and improve the lives of our People.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate the development partners for their efforts and achievements, working in coordination with the Government, and consistent with the Government of Timor-Leste's priorities.

And I encourage you to continue to work with the National Priorities Process as you develop your programs, make decisions about your support and prepare your country plans.

Thank you once again for attending today and I wish you all the best for a successful and productive meeting.

Your cooperation and involvement is greatly appreciated in the spirit of our ongoing partnership.

Thank you very much.

29 October 2009  
Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão