

**The Secretary of State for the Council of Ministers and
Official Spokesperson for the Government of Timor-Leste
Ágio Pereira**

**March 30, 2010
Dili, Timor-Leste**



Government Launches official web portal under new Media National Policy

In a bid to modernize the country's communications systems and improve and enhance information for the domestic and international community, the Xanana Gusmão Government will be launching the new Government website on Tuesday March 30, 2010 in Dili.

The web portal is produced in three languages, the two national languages; Tetum and Portuguese, and English and has been constructed to be user friendly; with a dedicated team of Timorese professionals from the Office of the Secretary of State for the Council of Ministers, whose portfolio includes the whole of Government media and information management.

The site will "go live" on Tuesday evening March 30 and has this address:

www.timor-leste.gov.tl

Features of the website include the latest news, a comprehensive history, links to important resources and Ministries, upcoming events, multi-media presentations and access to the latest Government issued media releases.

The website will be a key point of access to explore Timor-Leste as a nation and a step in opening the country to the broader global network through on-line users; sharing the unique cultural fabric and national identity and most importantly, bringing global communities together to promote Timor-Leste.

The launch of the website is part of a larger overall Media National Policy (MNP) which was approved by the Council of Ministers March 24, 2010 and will, amongst other things, promote greater access to public sources of information, develop stronger mechanisms for information collection and dissemination through the country, especially in rural areas, and create opportunities for media training to improve the quantity and quality of national media professionals.

The core principle behind the MNP was to formalize and enhance the national media through legislative mechanisms to defend independence as per best global practice.

The policy provides a professional accreditation scheme which will be managed by independent media bodies to increase capacity and ensure that the rights and duties of journalists are protected for a fair, impartial and independent media.

Secretary of State Pereira who was the architect behind the MNP said "Timor-Leste's institutions are young, as is the media; so we must invest and develop the media as

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an equal independent pillar of the State for transparency, for accountability and to ensure our nation is educated on news and current events but is never misguided or manipulated through interference. This policy defends the dignity of the profession and supports its' evolution well into the future. The impact of this policy on national development, bearing in mind the potential for job creation in this important sector as well as the administrative reforms to be implemented under the relevant laws to be approved by our National Parliament, is immeasurable. " ENDS

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