

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

**June 24, 2010  
Díli, Timor-Leste**



**Timor-Leste congratulates Prime Minister Julia Gillard**

The Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Xanana Gusmão, on behalf of the Institutions of the State and the people of Timor-Leste, wishes to extend warmest regards and best wishes to Australia's newest Prime Minister, Julia Gillard as she embarks on her new role as leader of Australia.

Prime Minister Gusmão noted that Australia is one of Timor-Leste's closest geographic neighbors, with both countries committed to maintaining regional peace and stability and to strengthening relations in all facets of mutual cooperation. He also took the opportunity to thank former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for his steadfast support of Timor-Leste, particularly during the difficult circumstances of February 11, 2008.

"Australia continues to play a valuable role in the development of Timor-Leste" said Prime Minister Gusmão, "the peoples of Australia and Timor-Leste share a strong and mature friendship which will continue under the new leadership of Prime Minister Gillard. We look forward to working with her and her cabinet on critical matters that concern both our countries and the region."

Prime Minister Gusmão also commended Gillard's professional achievements in the areas of education, health, employment and social inclusion. "Prime Minister Gillard has proven to the Australian people and the global community that she is committed to those matters that profoundly affect the lives and livelihoods of humanity as a whole; creating better conditions for this generation as well as all future generations." **ENDS**

For More Information Please Contact:

**Ágio Pereira** +670 723 0011

E-mail:

[agiopereira@cdm.gov.tl](mailto:agiopereira@cdm.gov.tl)

or

[govtlmedia@gmail.com](mailto:govtlmedia@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.timor-leste.gov.tl](http://www.timor-leste.gov.tl)

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