



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

ADDRESS BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER

KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SWEARING-IN OF CAPTAIN
PEDRO KLAMAR FUIK AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL
DEFENCE INSTITUTE**

3 May 2012

Conference Room of the Ministry of Defence

Fatuhada, Dili

Dear Secretary of State for Defence,
Dear Chief of the Defence Force,
Dear Captain Pedro Klamar Fuik,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The swearing-in ceremony of Captain Pedro Klamar Fuik as the Director of the National Defence Institute, which brings us here today, represents the start of an innovative stage in the way the Timorese State sees matters concerning national defence and sovereignty, striving to involve all sectors of society.

In today's ever-changing world, the concept of defence has evolved as threats against peace and the territorial integrity of States become ever-more diversified. As such, it is essential to think and rethink the tactical and strategic engagement of forces whose primary responsibility is to ensure the independence and inviolability of internationally-acknowledged borders.

Today it is not enough to have Armed Forces that are technically well prepared and disciplined. It is also necessary to understand their role and to make sure that the entire community is aware of the importance of, and need for, the Armed Forces as the final protection of their wellbeing and their quality of living.

Defence must not be considered by the military alone, but rather by all those who work in the public service and by all those who, while working outside State agencies, also seek to contribute to Statebuilding.

In view of this, the Fourth Constitutional Government committed itself to creating the National Defence Institute – a body that will be responsible for shaping the future staff and strategic leaders of Timor-Leste, instilling in them a sensible Defence vision and improving their understanding of all matters related to defending the Nation and ensuring the safety of the population.

The main task of the National Defence Institute will be to develop the staff of the Armed Forces, Public Administration and Universities, as well as those whose work contributes to the economic and social development of the Timorese Nation.

The Institute must also seek to raise awareness within civil society of national defence and security problems, particularly of threats against civil society and the duties binding every citizen, in order to ensure national sovereignty and the preservation of the Rule of Law.

We must realise that it is time for the Timorese to decide for themselves on issues which are important to their lives as all activities seek to defend the independence of the Nation.

We have been relying on friendly international support to create a professional defence force that is technically well prepared and has sustainable operation levels. Without this support it would have been very difficult for us to have reached our current position in such a short time.

We had this same support when drafting the full framework for defence and security, since we were not yet sufficiently skilled to do it alone.

We are grateful to all those who supported us in these vital tasks, however, we cannot forever depend on external assistance in matters that concern only ourselves.

This is why this moment is so important for Timor-Leste. Although exciting, we know that the mission ahead of the National Defence Institute, in terms of preparing responsible staff with a strategic culture of national defence, will be difficult to carry out.

As such, we sought to choose the most suited person to lead the helm of the National Defence Institute in this initial stage. Captain Pedro Klamar Fuik meets every requirement to carry out the tasks that are now given to him.

He has always held important positions during the creation of F-FDTL, namely being responsible for monitoring King's College studies and for the Training Centre in Aileu, as well as being head of operations, Commander of the Nicolau Lobato Training Centre, Coordinator of the 2020 Study and Commander of the Naval Section.

Along with activities carried out within the structure of F-FDTL, Captain Pedro Klamar Fuik did not neglect his military training, going to Portugal to attend the Course for Promotion to Officer at the Command Corps, the General Naval Course at the Institute of Higher Military Studies – IESM – (equivalent to the Course for Promotion to Senior Officer), the Complementary Course on Naval Warfare, also at IESM (equivalent to the Command and Leadership Course) and the Port Authority Course.

In Australia, he completed the Command and Staff Course and the Centre for Defence Strategic Studies' Course (equivalent to Promotion to General Officer).

Consequently, Captain Pedro Klamar Fuik has a brilliant past in the service of the Military, making him one of the most promising officers of his generation, for whom there will surely be tasks of even greater responsibility in the future.

I am positive, Captain, that you will be able to fully meet the goals set for the National Defence Institute. You may always rely on my institutional support, as well as on the support of other political leaders and the senior structure of F-FDTL.

May you continue to be successful in this new stage of your life.

Thank you very much.