



**P R I M E  
M I N I S T E R**

**ADDRESS BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER  
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE VII MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF CPLP POLICE CHIEFS**

**26 November 2012  
Hotel Timor  
Díli**



Palácio do Governo,  
Avenida Presidente Nicolau Lobato,  
Díli, Timor-Leste

Excellencies, CPLP Police Chiefs,  
Excellencies, Ambassadors of Portugal and Brazil,  
Excellencies, Members of the Delegations,  
Distinguished Guests,

It is with particular satisfaction that I preside over the opening of the VII meeting of the Council of CPLP Police Chiefs, with you all gathered here this time in Dili.

This year, CPLP has honoured us with high level visits, including Heads of State and with the organisation of conferences such as that of the Bishops, Military Chiefs and Justices of the Supreme Courts.

Today, Timor-Leste is a very different country to that of six years ago, when there was a need to seek external assistance to re-establish public order and guarantee unity of the State. The people, throughout the whole national territory, now live with security and all our institutions, both public and private, undertake their activities normally.

Not one threat, internal or beyond our borders, puts at risk the national sovereignty or the existence of our pluralist State based on the rule of law.

The PNTL is now better prepared to meet any type of violation of the law and is sufficiently organised to act, within the strict limits that are imposed, to guarantee the most basic rights of the citizens.

The PNTL has proven that since 27 March last year, when the Timorese State reassumed executive responsibility for internal security, to be able to fulfil with zeal and determination all the tasks of prevention and repression of criminality, using only its workforce and acting upon its own chain of command.

The Armed Forces have also overcome their internal conflicts that caused a significant loss of their members in 2006, and have reached the level demanded of professionalism and operational capacity, being able to undertake any specific operation of its primary responsibility as well as those which support the population affected by calamities or other difficulties.

On 31 October, the United Nations Police, UNPOL, and the International Stabilisation Force, ISF, fully ended their respective operational activities, and are at present, in the process of progressively withdrawing their personnel and materials, until the end of this year.

We are grateful to all those who, in this first decade of the independence of our Nation, gave so much to Timor-Leste and its people, decisively contributing to the building of an independent and sovereign State.

The PNTL itself carried out in an exemplary form the organisation of this event, and has proved to be at the height of its responsibilities, placing competent and dedicated members, capable of undertaking any task with high professionalism and efficiency.

To the PNTL General Commander and all the officers, sergeants and officers involved in the preparation of this meeting, I extend my sincere congratulations for the remarkable work done.

Excellencies  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Last week, the last contingent of the GNR (National Republican Guard), an Institution that during eight years, of which the last six were consecutive, left an indelible mark on all Timorese, becoming a reference and an example for our police to follow.

I have already said many times and I say it again now, the action of the Guard was a determining factor for the re-establishment of public order, gravely affected during the crises we faced in 2006, and for which, allow me, General Commander of GNR, to congratulate and thank you for the service that your men and women here undertook for the sake of the security and wellbeing of all Timorese.

The role of the GNR in Timor-Leste is not finished here; it has been given a new mission, already in progress, which is to provide basic training to the new PNTL recruits, a fundamental step for us to be able to have in place a disciplined, cohesive and well trained Police, taking into consideration future challenges.

The presence of Portugal in supporting the security sector was not only carried out through the GNR. Since the beginning of the United Nations Mission, the Public Security and Foreign and Border Service Police actively participated in the peace effort of the Country, integrating into UNPOL, where they left an impressive image of dignity, dedication and competence.

It must be added that the last UNPOL Commander, who is still performing his duties, Chief Superintendent Luís Carrilho, belongs to the PSP, and honours the uniform that he wears by the way he performed his role as commander and by his dedication to the cause of public security of Timor-Leste.

To the National Directors of PSP and SEF, also present here, I extend a word of appreciation for the excellent service that your institutions performed in the Timorese territory.

Brazil, equally, has marked a strong presence in the UNPOL, through its Military Police, with the Brazilian police noted for their generosity, camaraderie, contagious joy and great professionalism that always characterises them.

To the Delegation of the Federal Police of Rio de Janeiro, I equally express my acknowledgement and appreciation for all that your police have offered us.

Excellencies  
Ladies and gentlemen

In the recent past, we Timorese were merely receptive to receiving the necessary assistance from friendly countries, fundamental for the building of our State. Today, fortunately, we are also in a position to reciprocate to others what was previously offered us. That is why we have already seventeen PNTL members accredited to undertake peace missions under the United Nations.

We have marked our presence in Kosovo, with ten police officers, and at present we have two PNTL members in a lusophone country, Guinea-Bissau. Our Guianese brothers and sisters are also facing grave difficulties.

We express here our commitment to Guinea-Bissau so that it returns quickly to the community of countries, where public order and respect for popular decisions is the rule. Thus, I appeal that even at a forum like this, of CPLP, we will not allow that the Guianese people are abandoned to their own luck.

It would be a success for all of us if at the next Meeting of the Council of CPLP Police Chiefs to be held next year Guinea-Bissau could be present.

Our Community has an advantage in terms of being geographically positioned in the four corners of the globe, thus allowing for a very broad coverage of the problems of today's world.

I know that in this Meeting, you will debate issues such as: exchange of information between our institutions, focused on the mission of providing national security in each member country; the role of Police in the consolidation of stability and peace and not least, the cooperation between our institutions in the fight against organised crime.

I hope that, having identified the areas that our countries can cooperate, we can come to strengthen the capacity of each one in guaranteeing more effective conditions for security within the respective borders, which is an indispensable measure for the social and economic development of our nations.

The voice of CPLP is being heard and respected in the four corners of the world and events of this nature, that Timor-Leste is proud to host, contributes much to the prestige that the Portuguese speaking countries have cemented among their international partners.

To all the members of the various delegations here present, I wish you an excellent stay in Timor-Leste and I would hope that despite the tight work program that you have, you are able to enjoy a little of what we have to offer.

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão