



DILI, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2013

## PRESS RELEASE

## Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers, of the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2013

The Government gathered, extraordinarily, this Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, at the Council of Ministers meeting room, at the Government Palace, in Dili, and approved:

1. Institutional Licensing and Initial Accreditation of Díli University (UNDIL) and the Timor-Lorosa'e Eastern University (UNITAL)

Following the institutional licensing and accreditation process for universities, which began in 2007, the Council of Ministers approved the accreditation of the UNDIL and UNITAL Universities, which were both on a "Probationary Period".

In October this year, the National Agency for Academic Evaluation and Accreditation (NAAEA), the accreditation organism responsible for ensuring quality in Higher Education in Timor-Leste, has conducted a new evaluation for UNDIL and UNITAL's 3<sup>rd</sup> phase Institutional Licensing and Accreditation, having recommended the accreditation of both Universities, pending a few conditions. The Evaluation Panel was composed of two international evaluators, Professor Nirwan Idrus (Malaysia) and Doctor Manuel Corpus (Philippines) and a national evaluator, Mrs. Dirce Belo, Quality Official for the NAAEA.

The Council of Ministers decided to follow the recommendations of NAAEA, approving the accreditation of both universities, highlighting that the fulfilment of the conditions must be accompanied by NAAEA. The Agency must also monitor all previously accredited universities.