



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

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE KAY RALA XANANA
GUSMÃO AT THE FAREWELL DINNER FOR THEIR EXCELLENCIES DR.
H. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO AND MADAM HJ. ANI BAMBANG
YUDHOYONO, PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA**

Cristo Rei, Dili

26 August 2014

Excellencies
First Ladies
Distinguished guests,

This is a very special moment for both our countries and our governments, and also holds great significance for our two peoples.

The people of Indonesia and Timor-Leste have, since the referendum of 30 August 1999 (which, in 3 days time we will celebrate the 15th anniversary of), enjoyed a climate of unique relationships forged in friendship, solidarity and cooperation across all levels.

Mr President,

Together we experienced a bitter past, a past that owed much to the global environment of the Cold War era, where international policy was dictated by the balance of power between the West and the East.

We ended the conflict between us and what remains today is the memory of the heroic deeds of the people of Timor-Leste and we were moved by and thank you for your visit to the Cemetery of Heroes in Metinaro, yesterday.

What I want to highlight today, on the eve of the celebration of August 30, is the fact that, without precedent, the two governments and the two peoples knew how to show to today's world not only extraordinary courage but, above all, a particular understanding of each of our own processes. The policy of reconciliation between our two peoples will be, for many regions of the globe, a reference to reduce tensions and to end conflicts plaguing less developed countries.

Indonesia and Timor-Leste began, almost at the same time, their own transition to democracy. This process is always a difficult one and it is always more complex when, like in Indonesia, the dimension of demands is greater.

As a new born country, we also faced challenges inherent to post-conflict situations, but fortunately we have already overcome the cycle of crisis that impeded us from looking to the future with confidence.

As closest neighbours we have also followed the very astonishing process of democratic transition in the Republic of Indonesia.

Mr President,

We followed the efforts of Your Excellency, since your first mandate and, I only have, on behalf of the people of Timor-Leste, to congratulate you.

If today Indonesia presents to the world its huge potential to be an emerging and innovative economy over the next decade, this is due to the commitment Your Excellency made to the consolidation of democracy.

If today Indonesia can now present itself to the world as a recipient of secure investments, it is due to the stability that Your Excellency assured and promoted in your first five year mandate.

If there is no peace, security does not exist, and without security there can be no space for development! For us, the great success of Your Excellency was in guaranteeing a stable and democratic Indonesia, a fundamental condition to ensure that values and international standards could be practiced.

The process of consolidation of democracy in Indonesia was the key driving factor for the world to really begin to look to Indonesia as a country that has something to say in international politics.

And Your Excellency accomplished this, and Your Excellency positioned the Republic of Indonesia in its rightful place in the international arena.

Mr President,

You will finish your mandate as President of the Republic of Indonesia. But SBY will not end his mandate because, for us, the Timorese, SBY will remain the best friend that Timor-Leste has.

And, even worse, Mr President, you will remain in the land of Timor-Leste. The 50,000 trees that you offered us, will be distributed throughout our country. In Indonesia you may call it 'nangkanda' but in Timor-Leste I will baptise them with another name, a much shorter one, because it will be called 'SBY'.

Excellencies
Distinguished guests,

I propose a toast to the good health and prosperity of the President and First Lady and the people of the Republic of Indonesia.

26 August 2014
Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão