



**PRIMEIRO  
MINISTRO**

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE, DR. RUI MARIA DE ARAÚJO,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY TIMOR-LOROSA'E  
ADVANCED TRAINING CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Díli, Timor-Leste**

**10 March 2015**

Illustrious Chancellor of the National University Timor Lorosa'e, Professor Doutor

Aurélio Guterres

Hon. Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Chancellors

Hon. Deans, Heads of Department and Professors

Hon. Speakers and visiting researchers

Dear students,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great satisfaction that I accept to be present at this important initiative of the National University of Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) to launch an Advanced Training Centre with a view to capacity building and training of lecturers of the University.

The UNTL, being the only public institution of higher education in the country, should affirm itself as a privileged space for the generation and sharing of knowledge and skills and assume responsibility for shaping the professional cadre so essential to the country.

In my swearing-in speech I referred very clearly of the need for, together, the Government and State institutions to open a new page towards the delivery of services to the population. And in saying this I focused specifically in the sectors that are fundamental to the existence of a healthy and education society, that is, health and education, and the efficient and effective functioning of the State, or rather of public administration.

We are gathered here today to talk about academia, teaching and excellence, and in doing so I will focus briefly on what I consider essential to the success of this and other initiatives that UNTL has made towards fulfilment of their noble and fundamental mission in our society.

Illustrious Chancellor, dear professors, researchers and students,

Distinguished guests,

It has been part of my professional experience, as a member of the executive of government, doctor and professor, to have at my disposal good work tools and resources to undertake my tasks, but increasingly I realize that this will not necessarily lead to success and sustainable results. And this probably occurs to most of those present here; precisely because the success of our work also depends on the proper functioning of the structures we are a part of, and including the collaboration from our colleagues.

And by this I mean that we cannot ignore the imperative need to link these important initiatives, such as the establishment of the Centre that brings us here today, to effective actions that create solutions and resolve the difficulties in management, administration and coordination which will enable the University to deliver more and better services and achieve the qualitative leap that we all aspire.

As you know, I was a member of the General Council of UNTL and I am glad to acknowledge here that UNTL is growing, it is facing the challenges that a knowledge-based society creates and therefore has to build a solid base of operation, in which professionalism, discipline and rigour walk hand in hand with excellence of scientific production, the generation of new knowledge and of its application, which can also help us to reform and to interpret the demands of our social reality.

The difficulties that we face in education are considerable and this is exactly why we have to be prepared to humbly identify limitations and design a strategy in which everyone knows their role and contribute with a high sense of responsibility to improve the quality and the delivery of education in the country.

And I have to mention here the fundamental role of professors in this process. Given the enormous limitation of human resources, it has been demanded from many teachers to teach subjects that they are not specialised in or that are not part of their training. Nonetheless, we all certainly recognise that, to read and write does not mean being able to teach biology or literature and to know how to count does not mean being able to teach mathematics.

We cannot be ashamed of not knowing and have to face this situation without inferiority nor superiority complexes. Regardless of this we have to create conditions for the effective development of qualifications and competences for the teaching career; we must have schools with the essential conditions for a modern and attractive education, which will help teachers and students build a pedagogical and scientifically capable school.

Illustrious Chancellor, dear lectures, researchers and students,  
Distinguished guests,

I want to conclude my intervention with a clear message of collaboration and of willingness on the part of the Government to contribute, within our competence, so that UNTL becomes a reference for teaching and learning, not only at the national level but also internationally, in areas of expertise where we can make a difference.

Yet the way forward is for you to lead and therefore it is up to you to overcome existing constraints and transform your institution into a space for knowledge, where quality and excellence are a reality that are capable of contributing to solving the problems our society faces, capable of avoiding at all times wasteful expenditure, and able to repay the investment of the State in the production of knowledge that allows us to advance at scientific, technological, social and cultural levels.

I therefore hope that this Advanced Training Centre fulfils the mission for which it was established and that lecturers take advantage of the best ways to deepen their knowledge and contribute to the much needed increase in the quality of our education.

Thank you very much  
Díli, 10 March 2015  
Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo