



PRIME
MINISTER

**SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
DR RUI MARIA DE ARAÚJO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE
PROGRAMME OF THE SIXTH CONSTITUTIONAL
GOVERNMENT TO NATIONAL PARLIAMENT**

National Parliament, Díli
24 March 2015



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

Your Excellency
The Speaker of Parliament
Your Excellencies
The Deputy-Speakers of Parliament
Your Excellencies
The Members of Parliament
Fellow colleagues
Dear Government Members

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great honour and satisfaction that, for the first time as Prime Minister of the Sixth Constitutional Government, I address this Great House of Democracy. I believe that both Government and Parliament will be working together constructively in order to build the present and the future of our Nation.

A little over a month after being sworn-in, the Government comes here today, as required by the Constitution, to submit the Programme of the Sixth Constitutional Government to debate and consideration by the Distinguished Members of Parliament in this great Assembly.

I must state that this is an enormous responsibility for me and for the whole Government. It is a responsibility because it is an immense privilege to work with and for the Timorese people and because our actions must convey the great respect that we have for the legacy we received from the previous government.

By taking on our new tasks, we are also assuming the commitment of honouring and preserving our story of resistance, of dignifying the accomplishments of our heroes and veterans, and of continuing the process of building and consolidating our State, our agencies and our democratic values.

We, the new generation of leaders, have been given the opportunity to continue the efforts towards national unity, sovereignty and development. We must create new synergies in order to continue fighting tirelessly to free our people from misery, illiteracy, ill health, injustice, inequality and all other abject conditions that characterise poverty.

This is a national cause that requires the participation of us all. This is a challenge that forces us to be resilient, disciplined and dedicated, as were all Timorese heroes – the martyrs and those who are still alive – when they gave all they had so that Timor-Leste could become an independent Nation.

This accomplishment was not achieved by a few, but rather by all the people. Similarly, it will not be the isolated efforts made by this Government that will enable us to overcome the obstacles of poverty, but rather the joint efforts by all past, present and future Governments, working in close collaboration with the other Bodies of Sovereignty, Civil

Society and all Timorese citizens – all united in this cause of development and working responsibly towards the common good of all the people.

Our “culture of the resistance struggle” shows that this political and social approach yields good results. We must, however, use our past as guerrilla fighters to build a “culture of development”. As such, the cornerstones of our government are continuity, responsibility and collective participation.

This new dynamic of a younger, more functional and more efficient structure, that former Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão wanted to instil within the new Government and in society in general, by passing the torch, may and will succeed, as long as we can change mindsets, so that the priority of every Timorese citizen will be to love their Homeland, respect their compatriots and work to benefit everyone and not just themselves.

And when we speak about civil servants this is even more relevant, who have added responsibilities in ensuring the fair and transparent management and implementation of public investments.

The Sixth Government brings together the right components for encouraging better service delivery to the population: there is a convergence of talent, skills, experience with deliberations that are exempt from political and partisan ideologies, doctrines and interests.

In addition to our abilities, skills and thorough commitment, we have the wisdom and the knowledge of our older leaders and our mentors. We will consult with them and listen to them with humility and we will carefully weigh the pros and cons of our actions, so as to achieve an integrated and sustainable development process.

For this same reason, I must underline the importance of a vital aspect that the Sixth Government has inherited and that will surely be important for what we can make of Timor-Leste in the future: the atmosphere of peace and social and political stability we experience in the country!

These are key factors for economic growth. Without peace and stability there is no national or foreign investment, there is no tourism and, more importantly, there is no trust by the people in their agencies and in their leaders.

There will be no room for permissiveness or passivity in situations that jeopardise the public order and the authority of the State. Consequently, maintaining internal stability and safety will continue to be a priority target for the Government.

As the good students we need to be, we have learned from the past. Our recent history has shown us the importance of addressing the root causes of problems and of being determined in finding solutions, so as to achieve long term results that promote reconciliation and the feeling of safety, and that preserve the ideals of freedom for which the Timorese fought for more than two decades.

For this reason as well, I would like to reiterate that this government transition – from the Fifth to the Sixth Government – is a landmark for democracy in the country, since it was founded on the pragmatic logic of serving the national interest above any other and of finding solutions to the challenges faced by the country. This is to be achieved in a gradual and continuous manner, so as to enable long term success.

Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Programme of the Sixth Government has little over two years to be implemented. Because of this, it is also important to stress that the Programme that we will be debating is not a new programme but rather the continuation of the policies set in the Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030, which began with the Programme of the Fifth Government.

We are not concerned with time, because the development vision we have to implement goes beyond the next two and a half years and beyond the next five or ten years of the next legislatures. Instead, it is a long term vision, based on the Strategic Development Plan.

In fact, it could not have been any other way! The vision for Timor-Leste does not belong to this or to any other Government, it belongs to the Timorese people! Our national vision is the result of a broad consultation that encompassed the entire territory, listening to the needs and aspirations of the Timorese, as well as to their concerns and their ambitions.

Considering the actual circumstances of the country and the varied and pressing challenges and needs faced by our people, we must implement measures and actions that will have sequence over the next few years until we accomplish the goals set for 2030.

As such, the question put when reviewing the Programme of the Sixth Government is not what will be implemented, but rather how it will be implemented. The priorities for the country have already been determined; what we now need to decide is how to implement those priorities in an efficient and effective manner.

The members of this executive have carried out a sector by sector review of the commitments made in the Programme of the Sixth Government. They have identified the current situation and considered what has already been implemented, what will be implemented by 2017 and the things that, while not fully achievable by 2017, we can at least create a foundation for achievement in terms of design and implementation in order to continue the work into the future.

As Prime Minister, I have been visiting several State institutions, departments and agencies, including schools, hospitals and health centres, in order to try and see for myself the actual situation of the country. This will enable a better diagnosis by the Government, so as to find the broad solutions in order to meet the challenges faced by the country.

The key issue is not the content of the programme, which is a continuation of the previous programme, but rather the manner in which it is to be implemented that is more results orientated.

Your Excellency the Speaker of Parliament
Your Excellencies the Deputy-Speakers of Parliament
Your Excellencies the Members of Parliament

This Government is committed to improving service delivery. As such, we will focus on:

- (1) **Improving the quality of public works**– because an integrated infrastructure plan will only result in competitive advantages if the works are of good quality and if they are proportional to the value of the investment. This means requiring strictness, professionalism, planning, verification and cost control – in relation to materials, human resources and the companies engaged.
- (2) **Reforming public administration** – because, when they are sworn-in, civil servants swear to obey the Constitution and the Law and to work with honesty and professionalism, so as to safeguard the interests of the Nation. As such, we will be requiring civil servants to be fully accountable for their actions and we will conduct performance evaluations so as to guarantee merit-based promotions. Additionally, we will thoroughly assess the needs of public administration in terms of recruitment, accountability for services provided and strictness when managing public assets, in order to prevent waste. We will also combat the bureaucratisation culture.
- (3) **Harmonising and standardising laws** –because we need to accelerate the development of a standardised and harmonised Timorese legal order with which the Timorese citizens can identify, while also creating measures to make the legal system bilingual, promote access to justice and give legal security and certainty to potential investors.
- (4) **Undertaking tax reform** – because we need to improve the tax balance by way of a tax system that collects greater domestic revenue, while maintaining a competitive tax regime that is able to attract investment.

In order to achieve these goals, the very organic structure of the Government has been streamlined to enable greater coordination of government activities. As such, I would like to stress the following:

- (1) The Government programme does not have a new political agenda. It was drafted within a context of continuity, while enabling reassessments and readjustments to ongoing projects. This results in a programme that is more adequate to the remainder of the mandate and that is also an important link to sustainable long term policies.

- (2) It is a programme that covers several sectors, which is why it is vital to have good coordination between the various line ministries and/or State agencies. For instance, our goal of “Protecting Children and Young People” requires active intervention by the Minister of State and the Coordinating Minister of Social Affairs who will create the Committee on the Rights of the Child; through the Ministry of Social Solidarity, with welfare measures directed to children and young people; by the Ministry of Justice, through an adaptation of the legal framework; by the Ministry of the Interior, to prevent abuses against minors; by the Secretary of State for Employment Policy and Vocational Training, so as to combat child labour; and of course by other relevant Ministries, within a broader framework that promotes health, education, professional training, culture and, particularly for our young people, employment. The programme must be read, interpreted and implemented in a cross-disciplinary manner, since it is not one project or one ministry, working by itself, that will enable us to meet our goals. Instead, it is necessary that all projects and all ministries work as one.
- (3) It is a programme that seeks **good governance** in every aspect of the executive’s action, including outcome-centred planning, correction of systems and mechanisms, and transparency, and responsibility and accountability when implementing programmes. We will be the first enemies of our own development if we do not address the plight of corruption in a serious manner! Each one of us needs to have the courage, particularly those who hold public offices, not to look for easy ways out, not to be tempted by corruption or perks and not to compromise meritocracy in order to safeguard individual interests.
- (4) It is a programme that is **centred on the people and that relies on the people**. Civil society organisations, the press, the private sector, the churches and the citizens in general are fundamental strategic partners of development. They are the auditors of the work done by the Government and their active and responsible participation is a national symbol of life in democracy.
- (5) Lastly, it is a programme that seeks **inclusiveness and the fight against inequality**, by creating opportunities for all Timorese citizens, regardless of whether they live in the capital or in remote areas, whether they are men or women, or whether they are young or old. The gender-integrated approach in all government agencies is already a reality in Timor-Leste. We want to continue nurturing the role of women in our society, both because it is a duty of the State and because making use of the skills and abilities of women in the political, economic and social arenas of the country is truly a need and an advantage for our development.

Your Excellency the Speaker of Parliament
Your Excellencies the Deputy-Speakers of Parliament
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In view of the above, I want to reiterate that this Government's political agenda will continue, albeit with a new dynamic, the four pillars of national development:

1. Social Sector

A just and developed Nation is a Nation that invests in social capital, which includes promoting access to health, education, professional training, information, social justice and culture, as well as managing and protecting our environmental resources in a sustainable manner, so as to ensure quality of living in the present and to protect the needs of future generations.

The Government will continue ensuring access to **health services** and to improve medical attendance, as well as to regulate the national health system and to strengthen infrastructure and qualified human resources. This entails more training, better management and better working conditions for health professionals. In 2014, we had 1,754 new scholarships recipients studying in specialised or technical areas of health which are also going to support the objective of improving this sector.

We will continue implementing community service models and domiciliary services that reach everyone and will deliver a set of services to the sucos with between 1,500 and 2,000 people in remote areas, considering that in 2014 we already achieved 50% of this target. We will also manage better the provision of medication, we prevent and combat malnutrition and strengthen vaccination programmes (with the target to achieve until 2017 90% of the children with less than one year old to have vaccinations of pentavalente 3 and for measles). With an incidence of < 1 case per 1,000 of the population Timor-Leste achieved the MDG for combating malaria and also reduced the maternal mortality from 557/100,000 in 2012 to 270/100,000 in 2014. We will continue to giving priority to improve infant and child health as well as mental health, focussing also on better education and awareness as a form of prevention, primarily with contagious diseases.

We will continue rehabilitating Hospitals, Health Centres and Health Clinics in order to have at least one Clinic in every suco, at the moment we have 272 clinics after building 79 new clinics since 2012. At the moment 50% of sucos with a population of more than 2,000 have at least one doctor, one nurse and one midwife residing locally and the target to 2017 is to achieve 100%. We will also expand the National Hospital with a new paediatrics service and enable specialised services such as oncology, cardiology and haemodialysis in order to reduce the need for medical treatment abroad.

The Government will continue to strive to ensure that all children and young people have access to **quality education**. This implies accelerating the introduction of education policies, including school and academic curricula, as well as strengthening administrative and financial management, institutional coordination and qualified and competent human resources.

We will continue to construct and equip approximately 250 new pre-schools and to refurbish every degraded classroom, which is going to allow that at least half the children

between 3 and 5 years old have access to pre-school and we are going to continue to rehabilitate schools in basic and secondary schools throughout the country. We will continue providing teachers with the opportunities to improve their skills and to receive continuous training, while requiring them to be professional and committed.

The quality of teaching and learning, also in the domain of the Portuguese language, will be nurtured with pedagogic and scientific methodologies that are results orientated with the support of the right school materials. We will continue increasing the capacity of secondary schools and developing strategically the technical and vocational schools, so as to provide pathways into higher education or the labour market more related to the needs of the productive sectors of the country.

The Government will continue promoting an effective polytechnic and university sector, ensuring academic assessment and accreditation, the continuous training of teachers and professors, the development of partnerships with higher education establishments, the planning of three new Polytechnic Higher Education Institutes – Engineering in Suai, Service Industries in Lospalos and Agriculture in Same – and one Academy of Fisheries and Maritime Studies in Manatuto, and the Faculty of Engineering of the National University of Timor-Leste in Hera.

Within the scope of **professional training and employment**, we will continue focussing on the Technical and Professional Training and Education Plan, investing in the qualification of young people in strategic areas in the industries of oil and gas, tourism and hospitality, agriculture, construction and automobiles, as well as in the maritime industry. We will continue the National Training Commitment, so as to have an average of 2,500 accredited and funded training positions every year, and we will continue with the professional traineeship programme. This year we will send more than 250 workers to Korea and Australia under the policy of creating jobs in other countries. Additionally, we will continue investing in order to train trainers, develop training facilities and materials and create a new Public Finance Management Training Centre.

Social justice will continue to be vital for this Government programme. **Welfare protection** to the most vulnerable, including mothers, widows, the elderly, the disabled, children and our veterans, honours our ideals of freedom and will continue to be supported through allowances and in-kind transfers. We will also continue to work to adapt and expand the current transitional welfare scheme in order to make it a permanent, mandatory and contributory scheme that is sustainable and provides welfare to every worker and their dependants.

Dignifying, honouring and supporting the **Combatants of the National Liberation** continue to be priorities for the State. By 2017, we will establish a National Council for the Combatants of the National Liberation which will allow for the organisation of the Veterans Councils in every Municipality and we will continue awarding scholarships to the children of Veterans and Martyrs. We will also focus on preserving and promoting the History of National Liberation, in a year when we are celebrating our FALINTIL heroes' 40th anniversary!

We will also support welfare agencies and create Welfare Attendance Services, by investing in the training of future welfare officers. The Government continues to make it a priority to ensure rights and opportunities for **women** and will promote a Zero Tolerance Policy to violence against women and girls.

The **media** and the strengthening of our **national identity** are vital for developing our social capital. As such, we will continue developing the diversity and independence of media organisations and promoting access to information and civic education. We will also valorise the Timorese legacy and culture, through the process of establishment of cultural institutions – the National Library, the Museum and Cultural Centre and the Academy for Cultural Creative Arts and Industries.

2. Infrastructure Sector

There is already a programme for investing in integrated basic infrastructures, which we want to implement with greater accuracy and sustainability. Roads, bridges, ports, airports, public buildings, telecommunications and connectivity are cornerstones of economic growth and diversification.

We will also continue implementing the National **Road** Improvement Programme, particularly for the country's most vital connections. By the end of its mandate, the Government will improve the following roads:

- Dili – Manatuto – Baucau
- Baucau – Lospalos (including Lautém – Com), and Baucau – Viqueque
- Maubara – Carimbala, Loes – Mota Ain and Gleno – Ermera
- Manatuto– Laclubar
- Dili – Liquiçá, Tibar – Gleno and Carimbala – Loes. These road tracts also cover Tasi Tolu – Tibar, Maubara – Carimbala and Gleno – Ermera.

We will also rehabilitate the main roads, including the roads in the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse Ambeno and in Ataúro, and we will start the construction of the Dili – Aileu – Maubisse – Aituto – Ainaro – Cassa road project. We will also implement the Rural Road Master Plan and we will establish a programme for rehabilitating and maintaining national, urban and rural roads. We intend to maintain 1,426 km of national and municipal roads, rehabilitate 268 km of rural roads and maintain 521 km of already rehabilitated rural roads.

The Government will continue investing in the management of drinking water resources, water supply services and **basic sanitation**. From 2015 to 2017 we will be implementing at least 125 water systems in order to improve access to water in rural households. We will also restore urban water and sanitation infrastructures, including the construction of sewerage systems, wastewater treatment facilities and final destination of urban solid waste. This will be achieved until 2017 by way of:

- Developing a Master Plan for Municipal Centres, namely Baucau, Viqueque, Lospalos and Same.
- Developing solutions for water supply in Suai.
- Implementing Water Master Plans in Manatuto and Oecusse.
- Repairing bores, rehabilitating damaged pipes and connections, as well as consolidating new water sources and constructing reservoirs and treatment plants.
- Connecting households to piped water supply.

In Dili, we will implement the Master Plan on Sanitation and Drainage, so as to achieve staged improvements in terms of sanitation, to rehabilitate drainage and to separate drainage of wastewater and rainwater.

Renewable energies and full rural electrification will be the two pillars of our **electricity** agenda. As such, we will review the ongoing programme and study it from a cost-benefit perspective. We will also invest in solar and wind power, particularly in remote areas, with studies of a proposal to install facilities for wind and solar energy that are cheaper and easier to install and that are environmentally friendly.

The development of **sea ports** facilitating the importing and exporting of goods continue to be a priority, with the planned construction of a national multipurpose port in Tibar which will start in 2015 and the construction of a port in Suai, that is currently in the last phase of the tender process, so as to establish a logistics base for the petroleum sector. By the end of 2017 we will have finalised the pre-construction processes for the development of ports between Laga and Lautem, Ataúro, Kairabela and Manatuto. We will also invest in the development of agencies and **land transportation** infrastructure, giving priority to improving road traffic and safety, and in **air transportation**, by expanding and modernising the International Airport and starting studies to assess the feasibility of municipal airports in 2016.

Telecommunications are vital for business growth and better service delivery. Consequently we will work towards the project to connect Timor-Leste to a national and international network through land and underwater optic fibre.

3. Economic Sector

Sustainability and economic diversification are vital to Timor-Leste's current stage of development. We cannot continue being so dependant from oil revenues, particularly when this resource is limited and when the price of oil has been dropping, leaving economies such as ours extremely vulnerable.

Intelligent investment in economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, small industries and the petrochemical industry is vital and generates employment.

We will focus more seriously on a strong **agricultural sector**, with improved agricultural practises, use of new production and harvesting technologies, training in the application of proper technologies and better guidance to farmers in view of local circumstances. In this strategy, it is pressing to ensure the provisioning of water for agriculture and to invest in irrigation. As such, we want to improve the production of rice and maize, as well as coffee, vanilla, candlenut and coconut oil.

Seeds, fertilizers and sprayers, as well as equipment, will continue to be made available to farmers. Consistent training and support to agribusinesses and extension campaigns will have a broader scope. The inter-sectorial programme on **breeding cattle and small animals** in proper areas, by establishing cooperatives and promoting mixed farming, as well as basic animal health care through a new pilot programme of vaccination against brucellosis, will improve the country's nutritional security and generate income.

The Government will continue promoting the sustainable use of **marine resources**, seizing the potential of our coast line in order to acquire nutritional and economic benefits for each of the 11 coastal Municipalities. The National Aquaculture Development Strategy includes investment in the establishment of aquaculture of tilapia and other species with commercial and nutritional value, so as to ensure the provision of fish to the central areas of the country and to improve the protein in school meals.

The Government is revising the current commercial fishing licences in our territorial waters. We will also give more attention to patrolling and surveillance of our maritime coast, so as to protect our corals and fishing resources against illegal incursions into our sea.

The **tourism sector** can be an unlimited source of income if we know how to use our natural, landscape, cultural and historical wealth. Our tourism potential can benefit from the economic supremacy of Asia, which is seeking to new tourist destinations. This will require an inter-sectorial strategy that also covers human resources, infrastructure and promotional activities.

The project seeking to build a tourism and hospitality training centre in Dili, the drafting of the Tourism Master Plan focussing on the three main tourism areas – eastern, central and western – and international marketing, including the participation at the Milan 2015 World Expo, will boost this sector with strategic importance for economic development.

We will give more attention to the sector of **trade**, making available transit and storage warehouses and peeling machines throughout the country. The creation of **agribusinesses** will also be encourage by business training and capacity building, in cooperation with the Business Development Support Institute, by supporting market studies and developing strategies on marketing, training and technical assistance, and by developing technologies, products and funding.

Our economic growth is also sustained by the development of commercial policies, including the management and organisation of municipal markets and the creation of

facilities and conditions for programmes seeking to support the circulation of products inside and outside the country. The Forestry Management Plan and the National Bamboo Policy and Marketing Strategy will support our economic diversification strategy, while protecting our natural resources.

The Government will continue focussing on the **petroleum industry**, so that it provides a solid base for the structural transformation of the Timorese economy. In order to do this, we will continue training national staff to work in this sector – including in the areas of geology, chemical and petroleum engineering, petroleum finance and project management – and we will continue to develop the South Coast and maintain our steadfast commitment to transparency regarding petroleum sector revenues. We will also develop the mining industry, including the approval of the mining code, the transformation of the National Petroleum Authority into the National Petroleum and Mineral Authority, and the creation of the National Mining Company – TIMOR MINES.

In order to achieve sustainable development in the economic sector we will continue working in a **business and investment scenario** involving a diversified private sector. As such, we will continue to:

- Strengthen the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Develop the single-stop counter – SERVE.
- Develop Public-Private Partnerships, linking funding with national and international know-how.
- Establish the National Development Bank and promote the National Commercial Bank of Timor-Leste, in order to provide micro, small and medium companies with access to credit, both in urban and rural areas.
- Support the development of the Special Zone of Social Market Economy of Oecusse Ambeno and Ataúro.
- Expand the Business Development Support Institute's Business Development Centres.
- Develop and regulate land property and promote the approval of the Land Law.

Lastly, and because we will only be a developed economy if we combat asymmetries and inequalities throughout the country, we will continue focussing on **decentralisation policies**. By 2017 the Government will implement the Policy on Administrative Decentralisation and Local Government, reorganise Local Administration and decentralise competences and services. In order to do so, we will be starting decentralisation pilot-projects in Aileu, Liquiçá and Ermera.

4. Good Governance Sector

A sustainable tax policy and public expenditure that is coherent with our plans is vital for preventing waste and for achieving outcome-oriented goals. The economic diversification plans I have just mentioned can only be successful if we use State revenue, which mostly comes from the Petroleum Fund, in an efficient and transparent manner. The essential

improvements in public service delivery demands a public sector that is sustainable and efficient and for this reason the civil service a courageous reform program which we are determined to execute.

The point throughout this entire speech is of the vital need for ensuring better service delivery is also related to the fact that our public sector is currently still the main driving force of economic growth. For this same reason, the civil service continues to require a reform plan to improve its ability to execute its tasks.

We will invest in better **strategic investment and planning** policies, with greater rationalisation of financial resources and feasibility studies, as well as a data survey enabling us to know the actual conditions of the country, including studies on poverty and the holding of the Census 2015.

Also in terms of strategic investment, the Government will make contacts and conduct thorough studies in order to determine the possibility of presenting investment plans for the Petroleum Fund. We will also continue focussing on procurement processes that are transparent and rigorous and that evaluate and monitor physical projects, as well as admitting multiyear projects under special funds for investing in infrastructure and the capacity building of human resources in strategic sectors.

In order to facilitate a more active and responsible participation in the development process and for improving service delivery, we will start the "**e-Government**" initiative. This will be a platform linking the Government and the citizens, which will also enable the delivery of online services.

Good governance is also intrinsically linked with the promotion of peace and stability and the promotion of the Rule of Law. As such, we will continue giving maximum priority to key reforms introduced in the sector of **defence and security**. We will continue implementing the strategic plans in this sector, so as to ensure the professionalisation, integrity, capacity building and capacity of our Armed Forces and of our National Police Force.

A just and developed country is a country where **justice** and law are accessible and where there is a framework leading to a modern and progressive country and to a freer and more equalitarian society. We will continue improving the way in which our agencies operate, while strengthening the competences and skills of our personnel. We will also conduct, in the short term, a thorough assessment of the sector of justice and establish a new cooperation framework that is adequate to the needs of the country.

Lastly, the Government will continue promoting the fundamental interests of the Timorese people, safeguarding the independence, sovereignty and national integrity of our Nation. In view of the effects of globalisation and our highly strategic location, we can use diplomacy to ensure our security and to protect our natural resources.

As such, our **foreign policy** seeks to protect and to promote the fundamental interests of the Timorese people, adopting a policy of friendship and cooperation with every country in

the world, particularly our neighbours and our development partners. We will strive to strengthen bilateral relations with our regional partners and to enhance the role played by Timor-Leste in regional and international organisations and structures.

The Government will continue committed to have Timor-Leste join ASEAN and to meet all its commitments as the country assuming the rotating presidency of the CPLP. We want to give this organisation a new dynamic, focussing on economic and business cooperation.

Still within the scope of foreign policy, one of our priorities is to ensure the delimitation of our maritime, land and air boundaries under international law. The Council for the Final Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries will do all that it can so that Timor-Leste may effectively enforce its sovereign powers within its national territory.

Lastly, we will start drafting the general foreign policy guidelines of Timor-Leste, which will serve as a transitional instrument until the drafting of the White Paper on Foreign Policy, to be completed by the end of this Government's mandate.

Your Excellency the Speaker of Parliament
Your Excellencies the Vice-Speakers of Parliament
Your Excellencies the Members of Parliament

Through its programme, the Sixth Constitutional Government urges everyone, without exception, to be involved and committed, so that together we may be part of our country's sustained and balanced development, for everyone and with everyone, building the present and the future of Timor-Leste.

Imbued by this spirit of duty, responsibility and union, each of us can and should contribute. Together, we can make a difference. This starts today with the constructive debate on the government program.

Our young nation has already achieved much progress, and I am certain that everyone here acknowledges this reality with pride and seriousness. However, there are still many challenges ahead and we must continue fighting for this cause of national development!

Thank you very much.

Dr Rui Maria de Araújo
24 March 2015