



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

**REMARKS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF TIMOR-LESTE, HIS EXCELLENCY DR. RUI MARIA DE ARAÚJO, ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, HIS EXCELLENCY IR. JOKO WIDODO**

**JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**26 AUGUST 2015**

Yang Mulia Bapak Presiden Republik Indonesia, Ir. Joko Widodo beserta Ny. Iriana Widodo

Excellencies, Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honour for me to be here at the heart and centre of this great country, and thank you Mr. President, for hosting this wonderful lunch, and for extending such a warm hospitality to my delegation.

This is my first visit to Indonesia since I became Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, and more importantly, this is my first official visit, as Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, to any country.

Mr. President, it has been the practice of the leaders of Timor-Leste to pay our first official visits to our closest, biggest and friendly neighbour. It reveals how much, as you correctly pointed out, Timor-Leste value its relationship with the great nation of Indonesia.

This official visit is a live testament to the fact that you are our closest neighbour - we share an island and therefore we share land and sea borders and we share the view that international law should guide our efforts to finalise our border demarcation.

Moreover, it reflects the fact that while our nations have had a difficult past - a past shaped by colonialism, and the global politics of the Cold War - we now share the values of democracy, tolerance, peace and human dignity. And today, we are living a lively friendship with fraternal harmony, as you pointed out Your Excellency.

Today we are a global model for reconciliation and peace in an increasingly divided world.

Mr President, Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia and Timor-Leste began the transition to democracy at almost the same time.

We understand the challenges and difficulties of developing a nation and consolidating a democracy.

And we have much in common to celebrate.

Our nations have enjoyed many years of peace and have built the foundations for continued and balanced economic growth.

Our nations have successfully managed the transition, through democratic means, to a younger generation of leaders. And I am delighted Mr. President, that this visit and our meetings today, celebrate that too. I'm very glad that during this opportunity, I learned a lot from you Mr. President.

Mr. President, you have a compelling personal story. You have risen from humble beginnings to achieve great change for this great nation.

We know that Indonesia is in good hands. Timor-Leste looks forward to continuing to follow the progress of your nation under your outstanding leadership.

In Timor-Leste, while we are working hard to strengthen the quality of our health care and our education system, as well as to provide jobs and opportunities for our people, we have to acknowledge that we still have a long way to go.

We look to Indonesia, our neighbour and good friend, for trade and cooperation, and for support in developing a stable and strong economy.

In this respect, I am pleased with the progress of our cooperation in the areas of education, agriculture, socio-economic development, defence and security, and women empowerment, to name but a few. Today our two countries signed important Memorandum of Understandings to further enhance our cooperation in the areas of Agriculture and forestry.

Mr. President,

All these are a continuation of the cooperation forged by my predecessors, former Prime Ministers Mari Alkatiri, Ramos-Horta, Estanislau Aleixo da Silva, who is with us here, and Xanana Gusmao, who is also with us here today. I would also like to acknowledge that these would have not been possible without the great leadership and statesmanship of your predecessor, a great friend of Timor-Leste, former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

We are inspired by the great progress of Indonesia and the promise of your future.

Timor-Leste has a lot to learn from Indonesia, and we look forward to many other forms of cooperation for the mutual benefit of our peoples. This will serve as an important investment of our two countries, which will deepen the understanding between our people, as well as strengthening the friendship and the existing strong bilateral relations between our two countries.

To this end, it is extremely important that our common understanding about demarcation of maritime boundaries, based on international law, be successfully implemented.

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank you once again for hosting me and my delegation on this Official Visit as Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, and please accept my highest appreciation for the wonderful hospitality that you have offered us.

Sebelum berakhir, dengan rendah hati, saya mengundang ibu-bapak sekalian untuk ikut mengangkat gelas; pertama-tama demi kesehatan Yang Mulia Bapak Presiden Republik Indonesia Ir. Joko Widodo beserta Nyonya Iriana Kristiani Widodo, demi kesuksesan masa bakti pemerintahan Bapak Presiden Joko Widodo, demi kesejahteraan rakyat Indonesia, dan demi persahabatan yang abadi antara Indonesia dan Timor-Leste.

Matur Nuwun Sangat; Terima kasih banyak.

Jakarta, 26 of August 2015

Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo