



PRESIDÊNCIA DO
**CONSELHO
DE MINISTROS**
VI GOVERNO CONSTITUCIONAL



Gabinete do
Ministro

Speech by H.E. the Minister of State and
Presidency of the Council of Ministers,

Agio Pereira

“National Day”

1st of September 2015

“Expo Milano 2015”

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Excellences,

Honored Guests,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

We are grateful for your presence in this ceremony, to mark the “National Day” of Timor-Leste. Our delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate all the pavilions that have marked their “National Day”, which we were told, has been done with remarkable success.

On 30th of August 1999, 16 years ago, our people courageously determined the destiny of our country with a vote, under the auspices of the United Nations. The result of that vote, known as Popular Consultation, was Timor-Leste, standing within the international community as equal, an independent and sovereign nation.

Today, in this unique World Expo “Milano 2015”, we celebrate the 16th Anniversary of that referendum, the “Popular Consultation”, which confirmed once and for all the determination of our people to be in charge of our own destiny.

In September 2002, Timor-Leste joined the United Nations, and became the youngest UN Member of 20th century. Our delegation cannot stress high enough how important it is, for Timor-Leste to be present and actively participating in this important global event.

Our nation came into being as a sovereign State with clear objectives about the achievement of healthy living. Our Constitution makes it clear that the objectives of the State are to ensure that our people live in peace and prosperity and guided by mutual respect in relations with all other nations.

Our national flag has enshrined in its colors the goals of fighting poverty and achieving prosperity. The red is a constant reminder that not only could the ultimate goals of independence and sovereignty not have been achieved without sacrifice, but also today, the desire of our people for healthy living and long-lasting peace, demands sacrifice from each and every one of us.





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The black and yellow remind us that we must continue to struggle against poverty, illiteracy and malnourishment and above all, that to be truly independent, we must strive to build a nation with well-educated and skillful people.

The white star epitomizes the commitment of our nation to strive for peace and to always work hard towards the consolidation of long lasting peace for our people and for the humanity as a whole.

It is a constant warning that no matter how harsh the road ahead of us is, there is always light at the end of the tunnel; that in our struggle to consolidate sovereignty, just like during almost a quarter of century of struggle for freedom and independence, honesty and perseverance will ensure that justice will always prevail.

These were guiding principles that led us to victory in the struggle for national liberation, a struggle of biblical proportion, where David finally defeated Goliath on August 30th 1999.

We live in an age of transformation; in an interconnected world where knowledge can be easily acquired. In all our work within the community of nations, it is our solemn national commitment to strive to promote peace and prosperity for all.

In this regard, we can see that in this global activity, “Expo Milano 2015”, the message is clear; that it is vital that humanity shifts its focus away from greed and towards healthier lifestyle, more integrated and, above all, with strong and sustained sense of solidarity.

Building the capacity of our people to enjoy healthy lifestyle is top on the list of our national priorities; and it will remain so for the foreseeable future. That is why we have declared eradication of poverty a national cause.

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends





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Our national culture embraces nature as the vital ingredient for survival. This is part of the belief that by paying sincere respect to the natural environment, nature itself will provide healthy living for all.

Our traditional diet is mainly vegetarian; the way we cook and process our foods for healthy living dates back to our ancestors' way of living.

We are aware that the modern eating habits pose a real challenge for younger generation. That's why for Timor-Leste, we see it as a national duty to ensure that ancestral healthy nutritional living are successfully transferred to the younger generation. This transfer of national values come with its cultural and political dimensions – vital for the younger generation to understand national identity. After all, the younger generation are the hope of ensuring a successful future for our nation; ensuring that not only the sacrifices that our people embraced in the recent years of suffering to become a proud nation prevail, but also, to never underestimate all the sacrifices imposed upon our ancestors, for centuries, to enable us today, to be united as one, and respected as equal, within the community of nations.

In this magnificent world expo, "Expo Milano 2015", inspiring us with the theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", we are proud to be part of the Expo's cluster coffee.

The evolution of our coffee culture suffered a setback during WWII, when Japan invaded and occupied Timor-Leste. The occupation and war with the Australian forces, led our people to abandon coffee plantations.

After the war, the plantations gained renewed attention and coffee trees spread beyond previous boundaries, growing naturally. A new breed of hybrid coffee emerged and the practice of nurturing organic coffee became entrenched in our country until today - a national tradition of growing coffee for healthy living.





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Ladies and gentlemen, if you have not yet tasted Timor coffee, please do. You will feel the difference. Its organic nature provides for a unique and unforgettable taste.

Last but not least, allow me on behalf of Timor-Leste's delegation, to use this opportunity to congratulate the government of Italy for its exemplary leadership and dedication, making Expo Milano 2015 such a global success. The organizing committee has certainly shown an extraordinary capacity to ensure that all is smooth; extremely well managed.

Our Expo team, our delegation and country, have learned much from this experience; and we cannot stress high enough, how proud we are for the opportunity to be part of this global effort to achieve healthy living, conserving the energy of our planet to nurture life.

In this regard, Italy and all the participating countries of this magnificent event, which we are so proud to be part of, have indeed, done a remarkable job for our planet.

Socrates was quoted as saying "I am not an Athenian, or a Greek, but a citizen of the world."

All participating countries of this event are certainly achieving remarkable goals, which transcend national boundaries.

Drawing from this inspiring global vision of Socrates, that "I am not an Athenian, or a Greek, but a citizen of the world", let us say: "So does Timor coffee. Its delicious and unique and healthy organic nature demands, that we declare, Timor coffee belongs to the world."

Thank you for receiving our delegation, to share with us your experience and to commit yourselves to also learn from us. We hope you not only enjoy visiting our pavilion, but also consider visiting our country.

Obrigado barak! Grazie! Congratulazioni Italia. Thank you.

