



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

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE,
DR RUI MARIA DE ARAÚJO,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE**

Dili, 25 April 2016



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

Your Excellency, Ambassador Jonathan Schwass

Your Excellency, Ambassador Peter Doyle

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour to speak at this Dawn Service to commemorate the ANZAC tradition of the Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.

It is also a privilege to take part in this moving service of such significance to the Australian and New Zealand people.

Today we reflect on the men and women who fought and died in battle in the name of liberty. Through the ANZAC tradition we are reminded of the sacrifices that were made so that our region, and the world, could be free.

In Timor-Leste we know first-hand of the bravery of the ANZACs. In the II World War Australian soldiers fought and died on our soil. They were remarkable and exceptional men who withstood great hardship as they fought against the odds for their country.

The Timorese are also proud that many of our people risked their lives in support of these Australian soldiers.

Many of these soldiers later devoted their lives to repaying this 'debt of honour' to our people. Today, we also honour these wonderful Australians.

While we will not forget the horrors of II World War, we also know that it was this war upon which the strong bonds of friendship and solidarity between the Timorese and Australian people were built.

The Timorese also know of the bravery of Australian and New Zealand soldiers from both the INTERFET and the International Stabilisation Force deployments to Timor-Leste.

At our time of need, in both 1999 and in 2006, Australia and New Zealand stood with us to help secure peace in our country.

Timor-Leste has now enjoyed many years of peace and we share this success with the soldiers from Australia and New Zealand. Today also allows us to give thanks for their service and for their commitment to our people.

Let me end by saying that we must remember not only the soldiers that died in battle, but the horrors of war.

In Timor-Leste we know well the despair and violence of war and the terrible impact it has on soldiers and their families.

And so, through remembering, we not only honour our veterans but we value the importance of peace.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At this solemn service we reflect and remember those who have given their lives so that we may be free.

And we honour the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who have served in Timor-Leste and around the world in the name of freedom.

Thank you very much

25 April 2016

Dr Rui Maria de Araújo