



Díli, 19 April, 2016

## The Government of Timor-Leste expresses solidarity with Ecuador in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake

On behalf of the people of Timor-Leste, the Government extends its condolences to the families and friends of those killed as a result of the powerful earthquake occurring near the northern Ecuadorian town of Muisne on Saturday. The Government expresses its solidarity with the Government and people of Ecuador as they deal with the aftermath of this tragic event.

The earthquake has resulted in a distressing loss of life. Several thousand people have been injured and the destruction of homes and infrastructure is severe and widespread.

The Government of Timor-Leste conveys its support to President Rafael Correa in this difficult time and commends the work of police and military who have been mobilized to assist in the worst affected areas.

Spokesperson for the Sixth Constitutional Government, Minister of State Agio Pereira noted "We are mindful of the people of Ecuador. Our hearts go out to families who have lost loved ones and we salute those who continue to valiantly search for survivors. Timor-Leste stands in solidarity with President Rafael Correa and the Government and people of Ecuador in these most difficult of days and in the challenges that lie in the weeks and months ahead." **ENDS** 

