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**MEDIA
RELEASE**

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Government enhances coordination with Development Partners

The Government's 2016 Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting [TLDPM] commenced today, the 4th of July, at the Dili Convention Centre. Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo described the meeting as a place "to discuss and share ideas on the challenges ahead, the lessons we have learned and the next steps to be taken by Timor-Leste on the path towards continued progress."

The annual meetings are convened by the Government to improve alignment and enhance cooperation with development partners in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for the people of Timor-Leste.

Prime Minister Araújo noted that this year's theme of "Financing for Sustainable Development in Timor-Leste" was a reaffirmation of the Government's "commitment toward implementing the Strategic Development Goals at a national level, and determining the best way to fund this."

Over two days, members of the Government and National Parliament, representatives of the development partners, participants from civil society organizations and the private sector, along with visiting delegates from the g7+ will consider areas such as Timor-Leste's progress in implementing the first phase of the Strategic Development Plan, Aid Policy, the Private Sector's role in contributing to national development and the impact of recent reforms. Breakout sessions will allow contributions from the various stakeholders on implementing and financing specific Sustainable Development Goals. Preparations for the 2017 elections will also be discussed to maximize coordination with partners.

On Tuesday afternoon a communiqué will be prepared to capture the outcomes of the meeting and reflect the consensus of participants regarding the ongoing coordination between Government and development partners.

Prime Minister Araújo said that he would like Monday the 4th of July 2016 "to be remembered as a day of 'symbolic launching of the SDGs in Timor-Leste', so that we all be the witnesses of the engagement and the commitment of each of the agencies we represent towards these global goals."**ENDS**



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