



9TH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

Decree-Law no. 46/2023

of July 28th

Organic Law of the 9th Constitutional Government

On July 1st, 2023, the 9th Constitutional Government took office with a mandate given to it by the Timorese People to resume the path of social and economic development over the next five years. Thus, the Programme of the 9th Constitutional Government was approved. This Programme is a political instrument through which the Government will resume the roadmap defined by Timor-Leste to comply with the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations" and the Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030) during the next five years to achieve concrete progress in sustainable development and effective social development.

Economic diversification and job creation are priorities assumed by the 9th Constitutional Government to meet the population's needs. As such, the Government will invest effectively and efficiently in three key areas: social capital, infrastructure development and economic development, based on an institutional framework that promotes competence, professionalism, honesty and transparency. This is reflected in its Programme, which focuses on the themes of basic infrastructure and will seek to emphasise the economy as the crucial and vital factor for the development of the Nation, starting from agriculture, fisheries, livestock, tourism and the initiation of small and medium industries, to gradually reduce the import of goods and products, which can be produced in the country itself.

To deliver on these priorities, which cut across different areas of governance, a dynamic, collaborative and properly sectorally coordinated government is needed. This requires assigning to various government members the task of ensuring that all areas of government collaborate in the preparation of action programmes, that they actively participate in them and that the pace of their implementation corresponds to the expected programming. The importance of collaboration is also manifested in the joint or coordinated exercise of administrative powers shared by various government members, depending on their areas of intervention.

The organic law of the Government must reflect its actual structure and express the philosophy that shapes it. Therefore, the present decree-law reflects not only the most appropriate organisation for implementing the Programme, which includes areas and

programmes that cut across several government areas but also the response to the demands of this legislature.

The structure of the 9th Constitutional Government thus responds to these imperatives, enabling a greater focus on the provision of essential services to the Timorese, in particular, but not only in health and education, the improvement of methodologies and the operationalisation of administration and management, and also the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan.

Given the above, this Decree-Law approves the organic law of the 9th Constitutional Government, defines the attributions pursued by each of the Ministries and assigns the competences to the Government Members according to the priorities set out in its Programme.

Thus,

The Government decrees, following Article 115(3) of the Constitution of the Republic, to be valid as law, as follows:

CHAPTER I GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Article 1 Object

This Decree-Law approves the Organic Law of the 9th Constitutional Government.

Article 2 Structure

The Government comprises the Prime Minister, Vice Prime Ministers, Ministers, Vice Ministers and Secretaries of State.

Article 3 Vice Prime Ministers and Ministers

1. The Government comprises two Vice Prime Ministers:
 - a) The Vice Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Environment;
 - b) The Vice Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs and Minister of Rural Development and Community Housing.
2. The Government comprises the following Ministers:
 - a) Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers;
 - b) Minister of Finance;
 - c) Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
 - d) Minister of Justice;

- e) Minister of State Administration;
 - f) Minister of Health;
 - g) Minister of Education;
 - h) Minister of Higher Education, Science and Culture;
 - i) Minister of National Liberation Combatants' Affairs;
 - j) Minister of Public Works;
 - k) Minister of Transport and Communications;
 - l) Minister of Tourism and Environment;
 - m) Minister of Trade and Industry;
 - n) Minister of Rural Development and Community Housing;
 - o) Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry;
 - p) Minister of Defence;
 - q) Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources;
 - r) Minister of the Interior;
 - s) Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion;
 - t) Minister of Youth, Sports, Art and Culture;
 - u) Minister of Planning and Strategic Investment.
3. The Vice Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs is also the Minister of Tourism and Environment.
 4. The Vice Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs is also the Minister of Rural Development and Community Housing.

Article 4

Vice Ministers and Secretaries of State

The Ministers referred to in the previous article shall be assisted in the performance of their duties by the following Vice Ministers and Secretaries of State:

- a) The Vice Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Secretary of State for Social Communication and the Secretary of State for Equality shall assist the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers;
- b) The Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment and the Secretary of State for Cooperatives shall assist the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs;
- c) The Vice Minister of Finance shall assist the Minister of Finance;
- d) The Vice Minister for ASEAN Affairs shall assist the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- e) The Vice Minister of Institutional Strengthening and the Secretary of State for Lands and Properties shall assist the Minister of Justice;

- f) The Vice Minister of State Administration, the Secretary of State for Toponymy and Urban Organisation Affairs and the Secretary of State for Local Development shall assist the Minister of State Administration;
- g) The Vice Minister of Institutional Strengthening of Health and the Vice Minister of Operationalisation of Hospitals shall assist the Minister of Health;
- h) The Secretary of State of General Secondary Education and Vocational Secondary Education shall assist the Minister of Education;
- i) The Secretary of State for Veterans shall assist the Minister of National Liberation Combatants' Affairs;
- j) The Vice Minister of Infrastructure and the Secretary of State for Electricity, Water and Sanitation shall assist the Minister of Public Works;
- k) The Vice Minister of Trade shall assist the Minister of Trade and Industry;
- l) The Secretary of State for Fisheries, the Secretary of State for Livestock and the Secretary of State for Forestry shall assist the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry;
- m) The Secretary of State for Civil Protection shall assist the Minister of the Interior;
- n) The Vice Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion shall assist the Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion;
- o) The Secretary of State for Art and Culture shall assist the Minister of Youth, Sports, Art and Culture.

Article 5 Council of Ministers

1. The Council of Ministers is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes, in addition to the Prime Minister, the Vice Prime Ministers and the Ministers.
2. Unless otherwise determined by the Prime Minister, the Vice Minister of Parliamentary Affairs shall participate in meetings of the Council of Ministers without the right to vote.
3. Vice Ministers and other Secretaries of State who may be convened by express indication of the Prime Minister shall participate in the Council of Ministers without the right to vote, except when they are replacing the Minister they are assisting.
4. It is up to the Council of Ministers to approve, by resolution, the rules on its organisation and operation.
5. The Council of Ministers is also responsible for deciding whether to set up standing or ad hoc committees to examine draft legislative or policy acts or to make recommendations to the Council.

CHAPTER II

COMPETENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Article 6 Prime Minister

1. The Prime Minister has his own competence and the competence the Council of Ministers delegate to him, following the Constitution and the law.
2. It is the responsibility of the Prime Minister in particular:
 - a) Head the Government and chair the Council of Ministers;
 - b) Direct and guide the general policy of the Government and all government action;
 - c) Represent the Government and the Council of Ministers in their relations with the President of the Republic and the National Parliament;
 - d) Coordinate the integrated national security system;
 - e) Guide the Government's overall policy in the areas of defence, security and national intelligence;
 - f) Guide the general policy of the Government in its external relations and represent the Government before the international community;
 - g) Guide ASEAN membership policy;
 - h) Guide Timor-Leste's participation in the g7+ intergovernmental organisation towards peaceful conflict resolution and the establishment of strategies to promote peace, democracy and the development of nations;
 - i) Guide the Government's overall policy in the area of financial management, including banking, the tax system and Petroleum Fund investment;
 - j) Lead the negotiation process with Indonesia on land and maritime borders;
 - k) Lead the implementation of the 'Tasi Mane' project, promoting the creation of the legal and institutional structures and the allocation of the resources deemed necessary or appropriate for it;
 - l) Lead the negotiation process on the development model of the *Greater Sunrise* field or other matters related to the exercise of jurisdiction in the Timor Sea, as well as in the area of the "*Greater Sunrise* Special Regime" under the Maritime Boundary Treaty between the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Commonwealth of Australia;
 - m) Lead and coordinate the development and implementation of the Blue Economy Policy;
 - n) Exercise supervisory powers over the Special Administrative Region of Oe-Cússe Ambeno and the Special Social Market Economy Zone of Oe-Cússe Ambeno and Ataúro;
 - o) Promote the institutional strengthening of the State;
 - p) Exercise the other competences provided for in the Constitution and the law that are not attributed to other Government members.

3. As Head of the Government, the Prime Minister has the power to issue directives to any member of the Government and to take decisions on matters included in the areas assigned to any Ministry or Secretariat of State, as well as to create occasional or permanent committees or working groups for matters that fall within the competence of the Government.
4. In his absence or impediment, the Prime Minister shall be replaced by the Vice Prime Minister he designates for that purpose or by the next member of the Government, in accordance with the order of precedence established in Article 3(2), in turn.

Article 7 **Vice Prime Ministers**

1. Vice Prime Ministers rank, in terms of institutional and protocol precedence, immediately after the Prime Minister and above the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, other Ministers and Government members.
2. Vice Prime Ministers are functionally dependent on the Prime Minister and politically subordinate to him.
3. The Vice Prime Ministers shall not have any competence of their own, except for their respective offices, and shall exercise, in each case, the competence delegated to them by the Prime Minister or the Council of Ministers.
4. The Vice Prime Ministers shall be replaced in their absences and impediments by the Minister designated for that purpose by the Prime Minister upon the proposal of the Vice Prime Minister to be replaced.

Article 8 **Competence of Ministers**

1. Ministers have their own competence and the competence delegated to them by the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister under the law.
2. Each Minister shall be replaced, in his absence or impediment, by another Minister or by the Vice Minister or Secretary of State within the same Ministry, designated by the Prime Minister, upon proposal of the Minister to be replaced.

Article 9 **Competence of Vice Ministers and Secretaries of State**

1. The Vice Ministers and Secretaries of State shall not have any competence of their own except for their respective offices. In each case, they shall exercise the competence delegated to them by the respective Minister.
2. Vice Ministers and Secretaries of State functionally depend on their Minister and are subject to their Minister's political direction.
3. Ministers retain political responsibility and the right of revocation (*poder de avocação*) over the competences they delegate.

4. The Secretaries of State who assist the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs shall have the competences of their own that may be enshrined in their respective organic laws and the competences delegated to them by the Council of Ministers or the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, under the law.
5. The Secretary of State for Equality shall have such competences as may be enshrined in the respective organic law and such competences as may be delegated to her by the Council of Ministers or by the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, under the law.

Article 10
Solidarity and confidentiality

1. All Government members are bound by the deliberations taken at the Council of Ministers meeting and the duty of confidentiality regarding agendas, the content of the debate and the positions taken therein.
2. Except for public consultation, hearing or negotiation, provided for by law or decided by the Council of Ministers, the disclosure of matters submitted or to be submitted to the Council of Ministers or preparatory meetings thereof is prohibited.

CHAPTER III
GOVERNMENT ORGANIC STRUCTURE

SECTION I
Services and bodies depending on the Prime Minister

Article 11
Services and bodies depending on the Prime Minister

1. The Presidency of the Council of Ministers is the government department chaired by the Prime Minister, whose mission is to provide support to the Council of Ministers and other Government members in the same integrated, as well as to promote the coordination of the various government departments.
2. The services, entities, bodies and structures integrated into the Presidency of the Council of Ministers depend on the Prime Minister, who may delegate the respective competence to the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
3. The bodies and services that comprise the Presidency of the Council of Ministers are those defined in the respective organic law.
4. Without prejudice to the possibility of delegation, shall be under the responsibility of the Prime Minister:
 - a) The National Intelligence Service (SNI);
 - b) The Interministerial Security Commission;
 - c) The Integrated Crisis Management Centre (CIGC);

- d) The Land and Maritime Border Office.

Section II
Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Article 12
Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers

1. The Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers assists the Prime Minister in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the coordination of the Government. He assumes the functions of spokesperson for the Government and the Council of Ministers, as well as the policy's design, implementation, coordination and evaluation, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for parliamentary affairs, media and gender equality.
2. It is the responsibility of the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers:
 - a) Coordinate the preparation and organisation of government work, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of decisions taken by the Council of Ministers;
 - b) Coordinate legal support and consultation to the Council of Ministers.
3. In addition to the functions referred to in the previous paragraph and other functions delegated to him by the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers shall also be responsible for:
 - a) Coordinate the Government's legislative and regulatory process;
 - b) Prepare draft Government laws and regulations in coordination with the relevant ministers;
 - c) Analyse the draft legal and regulatory acts of the Government, submitted by the competent Ministers for consideration and approval by the Council of Ministers,
 - d) Ensure the State's litigation services;
 - e) Coordinate the representation of the State by legal representatives in proceedings to which the State is a party;
 - f) Appoint counsel or represent the State in arbitration, mediation, conciliation and non-jurisdictional disputes under the law;
 - g) Prepare responses, in collaboration with the relevant ministry, to constitutionality and legality review procedures;
 - h) Represent the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister, when they so decide, in specially created committees;
 - i) Carry out in-depth research on law reform, legislative standardisation and harmonisation, as well as assessing the need for government or national parliament intervention;
 - j) Propose and promote the modernisation of the legislative procedure;

- k) Manage the Government's information technology system and ensure the provision of the respective services, in liaison with the relevant Government Departments;
 - l) Coordinate, in liaison with the competent ministers, the reforms of public policies and the development of projects of an intersectoral nature that may be determined by the Prime Minister or the Council of Ministers;
 - m) Promote and monitor, in coordination with relevant government departments, the effectiveness of external assistance;
 - n) Propose policy measures promoting administrative reform, including through the use of *e-government* tools, and ensure coordination and monitoring of the implementation of such measures;
 - o) Ensure, as a measure to promote access to the law for citizens and in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, a specialised legal translation service responsible for the use of official languages in all areas of law;
 - p) Ensure regular coordination with the National Parliament;
 - q) Represent the Government at the Conference of Representatives of the Parliamentary Benches and at the plenary sessions of the National Parliament when the Prime Minister or the Ministers responsible for the matter are absent or prevented from attending;
 - r) Propose policy and draft the necessary legislation and regulations in the area of media;
 - s) Exercise superintendence and supervision over the state media;
 - t) Coordinate the dissemination of information on Government programmes and actions;
 - u) Promote gender equality in laws, public policies, strategic and operational plans, government programmes and the General State Budget, in raising public awareness of gender equality and inclusion issues, in eliminating discrimination and violence against women and children, and in promoting women's participation in national political and socio-economic life.
4. The Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers shall be functionally dependent on the Prime Minister and subject to the latter's political guidance.
5. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers:
- a) The National Press of Timor-Leste, I.P. (INTL);
 - b) The Radio and Television of Timor-Leste, E.P. (RTTL, E.P.);
 - c) TATOLI - News Agency of Timor-Leste, I.P.;
 - d) The Civil Service Commission (CFP);
 - e) The Archives and Museum of East Timorese Resistance (AMRT);
 - f) The CHEGA! National Centre I.P.;
 - g) The General Inspection of the State (IGE).

Section III
Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs

Article 13
Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs

1. The Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs assists the Prime Minister in coordinating and supervising the Government members responsible for implementing policies for economic areas of governance, namely:
 - a) The Ministry of Trade and Industry;
 - b) The Ministry of Tourism and Environment;
 - c) The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry;
 - d) The Ministry of Transport and Communications;
 - e) The Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment;
 - f) The Secretary of State for Cooperatives.
2. It is the responsibility of the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs:
 - a) Coordinate the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the policy defined by the Council of Ministers in the areas of economy, labour and vocational training;
 - b) Monitor and evaluate the work and service delivery of the Government members referred to in the previous paragraph;
 - c) Propose and develop economic public policies that contribute to improving service delivery to citizens;
 - d) Propose policies and legislation and establish mechanisms related to the promotion of public and private investment, national and international, in liaison with the relevant entities;
 - e) Promote the development of the national private sector and formulate policies and mechanisms to support and incentivise the development of the industry;
 - f) Promote dialogue with the national private sector regarding the development of the country and the fight against unemployment;
 - g) Promote job creation and vocational training;
 - h) Promote the development of the cooperative sector, especially in rural areas and in the agriculture sector, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry;
 - i) Disseminate the importance of the cooperative economic sector and micro and small enterprises and promote training in the constitution, organisation, management and accounting of cooperatives and small enterprises;
 - j) Organise, administer and keep updated the National Register of Cooperatives;

- k) Create mechanisms to support and finance job creation and vocational training projects;
 - l) Promote the tripartite relationship between the Government, employers and workers to prevent labour conflicts;
 - m) Promote mediation, conciliation and arbitration services in labour relations;
 - n) Encourage programmes to hire Timorese abroad;
 - o) Regulate the labour regime for foreigners in Timor-Leste and coordinate its supervision with the Minister of the Interior;
 - p) Promote the monitoring of compliance with legal provisions on labour matters;
 - q) Promote the monitoring of health, safety and hygiene conditions at work;
 - r) Ensure coordination with relevant entities contributing to economic development;
 - s) Promote the supervision of the operation of commercial establishments, especially those in the catering and beverage sector, concerning compliance with food and economic safety rules.
3. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs:
- a) The National Centre for Vocational Training and Employment of Timor-Leste (CNFPE);
 - b) The National Vocational Training Centre - Becora (CNFP-Becora);
 - c) The National Institute for Manpower Development, I.P. (INDMO);
 - d) The General Labour Inspectorate (IGT);
 - e) The Authority for Inspection and Supervision of Economic, Health and Food Activity, I.P. (AIFAESA);
 - f) The Institute for Quality of Timor-Leste, I.P. (IQTL, I.P.);
 - g) The Dili Convention Centre (CCD);
 - h) The Bamboo Research, Development, Training and Promotion Institute (Instituto do Bambu);
 - i) The Business Registration and Verification Service, I.P. (SERVE);
 - j) National Commission for Trade Facilitation (CONFAC);
 - k) The Institute for Support to Enterprise Development (IADE);
 - l) The Investment and Export Promotion Agency of Timor-Leste, I.P. (TradeInvest Timor-Leste, I.P.);
 - m) The GESPIN - Gestão de Parques Industriais (Industrial Park Management), S.A.;
 - n) The National Logistics Centre (CLN).

Section IV
Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs

Article 14
Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs

1. The Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs assists the Prime Minister in coordinating and supervising the Government members responsible for the implementation of policies for socially-oriented areas of governance, namely:
 - a) The Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion;
 - b) The Ministry of National Liberation Combatants' Affairs;
 - c) The Ministry of Health;
 - d) The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture;
 - e) The Ministry of Education;
 - f) The Ministry of Youth, Sports, Art and Culture.
2. It is the responsibility of the Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs:
 - a) Coordinate the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of policies defined by the Council of Ministers in the social areas;
 - b) Coordinate the preparation and organisation of the work of the government departments that depend on it;
 - c) Monitor and evaluate the work and service delivery of the Government members referred to in the previous paragraph;
 - d) Propose and develop public policies of a social nature that contribute to the improvement of service delivery to citizens;
 - e) Coordinate the preparation and organisation of government work in the social area;
 - f) Ensure coordination with relevant entities contributing to social development.
3. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs:
 - a) National Sports Commission;
 - b) Martial Arts Regulatory Commission, I.P.;
 - c) Civil Society Support and Social Audit Service, I.P.;
 - d) The National Institute for Fighting HIV/AIDS, I.P. (INCSIDA);
 - e) The Institute for the Defence of Children's Rights I.P. (INDDICA);
 - f) The Mission Unit for Combating Stunting.
4. The Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs is required to meet, on an ordinary basis, once a month with the Government members of the area of governance for which he is responsible.

Section V
Government departments

Article 15
Ministries

The Ministers referred to in Article 3(2)(b) to (s) shall be the Government members who chair, respectively, the following government departments:

- a) Ministry of Finance;
- b) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- c) Ministry of Justice;
- d) Ministry of State Administration;
- e) Ministry of Health;
- f) Ministry of Education;
- g) Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture;
- h) Ministry of National Liberation Combatants' Affairs;
- i) Ministry of Public Works;
- j) Ministry of Transport and Communications;
- k) Ministry of Tourism and Environment;
- l) Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- m) Ministry of Rural Development and Community Housing;
- n) Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry;
- o) Ministry of Defence;
- p) Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources;
- q) Ministry of the Interior;
- r) Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion;
- s) Ministry of Youth, Sports, Art and Culture;
- t) Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment.

Article 16
Ministry of Finance

1. The Ministry of Finance is the government department responsible for the policy's design, implementation, coordination and evaluation, defined and approved by the

Council of Ministers for planning, monitoring and annual evaluation, the General State Budget and public finances, and is responsible to:

- a) Propose monetary policies in collaboration with the Central Bank of Timor-Leste;
- b) Propose policy and prepare the necessary draft regulations on macroeconomics, tax and non-tax revenue, fiscal framework, annual monitoring and evaluation, procurement, public accounting, public finance, internal audit and control of the State treasury, issuance and management of public debt, public companies (public undertaking) and public investments, and mobilisation of external resources, as well as promote tax, customs, public finance and financial management reform;
- c) Coordinate the work of preparing the General State Budget and the General State Account, and prepare the respective drafts;
- d) Collect taxes, customs duties on imports and other contributions that are not legally the responsibility of other government departments;
- e) Administer the Petroleum Fund of Timor-Leste, and make transfers from the Petroleum Fund to the Treasury account for financing the General State Budget after approval by the National Parliament;
- f) Administer other public funds which other government departments do not administer;
- g) Negotiate and accept donations and financial contributions from third countries;
- h) Coordinate projects and programmes between Timor-Leste and development partners, in liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and other relevant Ministries;
- i) Negotiate and sign loans on behalf of the State, issue public debt securities, including Treasury bills and bonds, and manage domestic and external public debt;
- j) Manage the State's participation in development partnerships, coordinating and defining the financial and fiscal aspects;
- k) Manage, monitor and evaluate the State's holdings in public and private companies and business projects;
- l) Promote, negotiate and sign agreements with third countries to avoid double taxation, improve the exchange of tax information and combat tax fraud and evasion;
- m) Ensure the exercise of the State's shareholder function in coordination with the relevant Ministries;
- n) Negotiate, sign and manage the implementation of public-private partnership contracts, ensuring their financial evaluation, with a view to adequate risk

sharing between the State and the private partner and the sustainability of each project;

- o) Manage the State's assets without prejudice to the Ministry of Justice's responsibilities in the area of real estate, including the creation of inventory, administration and monitoring systems;
 - p) Promote the management policy of the State's movable assets in collaboration with other competent public entities;
 - q) Ensure the supply of procured goods for all ministries;
 - r) Exercise supervision and oversight over the national statistical authority;
 - s) Manage the Central Treasury of the State, including cash management and the management of the General State Appropriation;
 - t) Promote the necessary regulations and exercise financial control over the expenditure of the General State Budget that is allocated to other ministries, in the context of pursuing a policy of more significant financial autonomy of the services;
 - u) Ensure the proper management of funding from the State Budget by the State's indirect administration bodies and local governance bodies through monitoring and follow-up;
 - v) Representing the State at international financial institutions;
 - w) Coordinate national and international technical assistance promoted by international organisations or bodies in the area of technical advice to Government bodies and in liaison with the relevant ministries;
 - x) Exercise customs jurisdiction following the law;
 - y) Define the accounting standard for the Public Sector and the Private Sector;
 - z) Develop integrated financial management information systems in all services and organisations of the Public Administration in the development of the *e-government* process;
 - aa) Promote public finance reform and the implementation of programme budgeting policy to increase economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money;
 - bb) Promote capacity building of public administration workers in the area of financial management;
 - cc) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies responsible for related areas.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Finance:
- a) The Tax Authority (AT);

- b) The Customs Authority (CA);
 - c) The National Institute of Statistics of Timor-Leste, I.P. (INETL);
 - d) The Millennium Challenge Account - Timor-Leste, I.P. (MCA-TL).
3. The other bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Finance are those defined in its organic law.

Article 17
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation is the government department responsible for the policy's design, implementation, coordination and evaluation, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for foreign policy and international cooperation, consular functions and the promotion and defence of the interests of Timorese citizens abroad, and is responsible to:
- a) Plan, propose and implement Timor-Leste's foreign policy and ensure its unity and coherence;
 - b) Prepare draft legislation and regulations in their respective areas of responsibility;
 - c) Promote Timor-Leste's interests abroad and ensure the protection of Timorese citizens abroad;
 - d) Ensure the representation of Timor-Leste in other States and International Organisations and manage the network of embassies, missions, permanent and temporary representations and consular posts, following foreign policy priorities;
 - e) Plan and execute the preparation for Timor-Leste's accession to the Organisation of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ensure the country's representation at its meetings and activities;
 - f) Coordinate Timor-Leste's participation in the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) and ensure the country's representation in its meetings and activities;
 - g) Centralise and coordinate the relations of any public entities with diplomatic or consular missions, international organisations and the representations of cooperation services accredited in East Timor;
 - h) Propose and implement the international Cooperation policy in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and other relevant government institutions;
 - i) Coordinate, with the Ministry of Finance and other relevant Government departments, Timor-Leste's relations with development partners;
 - j) Perform such duties as may be assigned to it concerning matters of economic diplomacy;
 - k) Exercise the functions of National Authorising Officer;

- l) Establish Cooperation mechanisms with foreign missions established in the country;
 - m) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies with responsibility for related areas of activity;
 - n) Organise, promote or participate in any activities necessary for establishing and operating a platform for cooperation and integrated sub-regional economic development between Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Australia.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation:
 - a) The Timor-Leste Cooperation Agency (ACTL);
 - b) The Institute for Diplomatic Studies (IED).
3. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation are those defined in its organic law.

Article 18
Ministry of Justice

1. The Ministry of Justice is the government department responsible for designing, implementing, coordinating and evaluating the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the area of justice, law and human rights and land and property, and is responsible to:
 - a) Propose policy and draft legislation and regulations necessary for its areas of responsibility;
 - b) Propose measures on the definition of traditional justice regulation mechanisms and their interaction with the formal system;
 - c) Propose and implement measures to extend the judicial map;
 - d) Propose the definition of criminal policy and ensure its implementation and the proper administration of justice;
 - e) Regulate and manage the Legal and Judicial Training Centre and promote the training of human resources for the different areas of activity in the justice sector;
 - f) Promote coordination and dialogue between all judicial actors and ensure their participation in the discussion and drafting of proposed legislation and regulations in the judicial sector;
 - g) Regulate and manage the prison system, the execution of sentences and probation services;
 - h) Ensure adequate mechanisms for access to law and courts, in particular for the most disadvantaged citizens, in the areas of legal information and consultation and legal aid, including through the Public Defender's Office and other justice entities and structures;

- i) Create and ensure adequate mechanisms to guarantee citizens' rights and promote the dissemination of laws and regulations in force;
 - j) Organise the mapping and cadastre of land and buildings and the registration of real state property;
 - k) Ensure, as a measure to promote access to law for citizens, a legal translation service responsible for the use of official languages in the areas of law and justice;
 - l) Manage and supervise the system of registry and notary services;
 - m) Administer and carry out the day-to-day management of the State's real estate assets;
 - n) Promote and guide the legal training of judicial and other civil servants;
 - o) Ensure international relations in the area of justice policy, in particular with other governments and international organisations, without prejudice to the competences of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
 - p) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies responsible for related areas.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Justice:
- a) The Centre for Legal and Judicial Training (CFJJ);
 - b) The Land and Property Commission;
 - c) The Criminal Investigation Scientific Police (PCIC);
 - d) The Public Defender's Office;
 - e) The Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CLCTP).
- 3 The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Justice are those defined in its organic law.

Article 19

Ministry of State Administration

1. The Ministry of State Administration is the government department responsible for designing, implementing, coordinating and evaluating the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for local government, administrative decentralisation, support for community organisations, promotion of local development, organisation and implementation of electoral and referendum processes, promotion of hygiene and urban organisation, and classification and conservation of official documents with historical value, and is responsible to:
- a) Promote and lead the process of administrative decentralisation and the establishment of Local Government bodies and services;
 - b) Propose and implement the local government law, the municipal electoral law and the municipal finance, assets and procurement law and other legal and

regulatory norms necessary for administrative decentralisation and the installation of the representative bodies of local government;

- c) Support training and ongoing assistance leading to the process of administrative deconcentration and decentralisation in coordination with Ministries and other relevant entities;
 - d) Promote the conclusion of cooperation agreements with local authorities in other States, to deepen the decentralisation process, in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
 - e) Coordinate and supervise the activities of the ministry's peripheral services;
 - f) Establish and operationalise mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Public Administration bodies with responsibility for related areas;
 - g) Propose public policies and legislative initiatives relating to its areas of responsibility;
 - h) Propose and implement legislation for the promotion of urban hygiene and public order without prejudice to the competences of the Local Administration;
 - i) Propose and apply the legal rules on toponymy without prejudice to the competences of the Local Government bodies;
 - j) Ensure technical support to electoral and referendum processes;
 - k) Promote local development policies for the reduction of economic and social inequalities in Cooperation with other government bodies for their implementation;
 - l) Establish and operationalise mechanisms for collaboration and technical support to community leaders;
 - m) Ensure the coordination and implementation of the Municipal Integrated Development Planning;
 - n) Ensure the coordination and implementation of the National Juice Development Programme;
 - o) Develop and implement policies and mechanisms to support community and Sucos development;
 - p) Propose and develop standards and technical instructions for the classification, processing and archiving of historical documents and State documents;
 - q) Promote the recovery, preservation and proper safekeeping of historical and State documents.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of State Administration:
- a) The Multi-purpose Reception Centres;
 - b) The Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE);
 - c) The National Archives of Timor-Leste (ANTL);
 - d) The National Institute of Public Administration (INAP);

- e) The Special Development Fund for Ataúro (FEDA).
3. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of State Administration are those defined in its organic law.

Article 20
Ministry of Health

1. The Ministry of Health is the government department responsible for designing, implementing, coordinating and evaluating the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for health and pharmaceutical activities and is responsible to:
- a) Propose policy and draft regulations necessary for their areas of responsibility;
 - b) Ensure access to healthcare for all citizens;
 - c) Coordinate activities related to epidemiological control;
 - d) Provide technical support to healthcare in municipalities and regions, either directly or through the Local Administration;
 - e) Carry out sanitary control of products with influence on human health;
 - f) Promote the training of health professionals;
 - g) Contribute to success in humanitarian assistance, promotion of peace, security and socio-economic development through coordination and collaboration mechanisms with other Government bodies with responsibility for related areas;
 - h) Promote and strengthen the national blood bank;
 - i) To implement the medicine policy, regulate the pharmaceutical activity and supervise it in articulation with the Authority for Inspection and Supervision of Economic, Health and Food Activity, I.P.;
 - j) Promote the academic training, qualification and professional specialisation of health professionals;
 - k) Fostering ethics among health professionals;
 - l) Develop and promote the complementary use of traditional medicine.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Health:
- a) National Health Service Hospitals;
 - b) The Autonomous Service for Medicines and Medical Equipment (SAMES);
 - c) The National Institute of Public Health (INSP-TL);
 - d) The National Ambulance and Medical Emergency Service, I.P. (SNAEM);
 - e) The National Health Laboratory.
- 3 The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Health are those defined in its organic law.

Article 21
Ministry of Education

1. The Ministry of Education is the government department responsible for the policy's design, implementation, coordination and evaluation, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for education and qualification of all levels of education, excluding the higher level, consolidation and promotion of official languages. It is responsible, in particular, to:
 - a) Propose and ensure policies concerning preschool and school education, comprising primary and secondary education and integrating special education modalities, for the promotion of recurrent education and lifelong learning;
 - b) Participate in the definition and implementation of qualification and vocational training policies;
 - c) Guarantee the right to education and ensure compulsory schooling to promote inclusion and equal opportunities;
 - d) Strengthen teaching and learning conditions, contributing to the integral development of the student, to the improvement of school success and the qualification of the population, with a view to greater employability;
 - e) Define the national curriculum at the various levels of education and the assessment regime for pupils and approve the teaching programmes as well as the guidelines for their implementation;
 - f) Ensure and promote quality teaching of official languages, including strengthening learning outcomes in Portuguese and consolidating and regularising the Tetum language;
 - g) Promote the valorisation and development of national languages;
 - h) Managing technical agricultural education;
 - i) Promote the creation of a body responsible for the consolidation, standardisation and promotion of the Tetum language;
 - j) Promote and manage the school estate of public preschool, primary and secondary education establishments and strengthen their capacity to respond to population needs, as well as support initiatives in the area of private and cooperative education, including community education;
 - k) Promote effective and quality school management and administration and ensure the evaluation and accreditation of the preschool education system and the school education system;
 - l) Establish cooperation policies with UNESCO, without prejudice to liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
 - m) Promote the training and evaluation of education professionals and ensure the implementation of the legislation on teaching careers;
 - n) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies with responsibility for related areas in the implementation of the national education policy;

- o) Promote active inclusion policies in the areas of education, primarily through inclusive education measures and the participation of people with special needs;
 - p) Ensure and promote gender equality within the areas of its competence in coordination with relevant public entities;
 - q) Plan and implement an analysis and monitoring system to evaluate the outcomes and impact of education policies.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Education:
- a) The National Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation of Timor-Leste (UNESCO) - CNU;
 - b) The National Training Institute for Teachers and Education Professionals (INFORDEPE);
 - c) The Comité Orientador (Steering Committee) 25.
3. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Education are those defined in its organic law.

Article 22

Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture is the government department responsible for the policy's design, implementation, coordination and evaluation, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for higher education and qualification, as well as for science, technology. It is responsible, in particular, to:

- a) Design policy measures in the areas of higher education, science and technology, as well as their organisation, financing, implementation and evaluation;
- b) Promote equal opportunities in access to higher education and science and technology;
- c) Promote the development, modernisation, quality, competitiveness and international recognition of higher education and scientific and technological systems;
- d) Promote the link between higher education and scientific and technological institutions and between them and the productive system;
- e) Promote the permanent evaluation and inspection of higher education, scientific and technological establishments;
- f) Promote the evaluation of higher education professionals;
- g) Plan an analysis and monitoring system to evaluate the outcomes and impacts of higher education policies;

- h) Ensure the proper preservation of official and historical documents within the remit.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Culture:
- a) The National University of Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL);
 - b) The Polytechnic Institute of Betano (IPB);
 - c) The National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT);
 - d) The National Agency for Academic Assessment and Accreditation, I.P. (ANAAA).
3. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture are those defined in its organic law.

Article 23
Ministry of National Liberation Combatants' Affairs

1. The Ministry of National Liberation Combatants' Affairs is the government department responsible for the policy's design, implementation, coordination and evaluation defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the affairs of former National Liberation Combatants. It is responsible, in particular, to:
- a) Design policy measures, legislation and regulations for National Liberation Combatants' Affairs, as well as their financing, implementation and evaluation;
 - b) Coordinate and plan government policies in the area of National Liberation Combatants affairs;
 - c) Promote the registration of National Liberation Combatants in accordance with the law;
 - d) Implement the programmes for granting pensions and other financial benefits to National Liberation Combatants and families in accordance with the law;
 - e) Provide for the accompaniment and inclusion in society of veterans and National Liberation Combatants;
 - f) Promote, in coordination with the Presidency of the Republic and the Council of National Liberation Combatants, the holding of ceremonies for the valorisation, demobilisation and public recognition of National Liberation Combatants, namely through official decorations, the erection of memorials to martyrs and other relevant actions;
 - g) Maintain a research, archiving and dissemination service for the history of the national liberation struggle;
 - h) Promote a thorough review of the National Liberation Combatants registration database;
 - i) Maintain a database for recording, processing, analysing and monitoring to support their activities;

- j) Promote and plan support programmes for National Liberation Combatants, namely in the areas of health, education and technical-vocational training, employment, access to credit and income-generating activities;
 - k) Develop assistance and aid programmes for National Liberation Combatants;
 - l) Promote demobilisation, retirement and pension programmes for National Liberation Combatants;
 - m) Provide accompaniment and inclusion in the society of veterans and National Liberation Combatants;
 - n) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies with responsibility for related areas;
 - o) Perform such other duties as may be conferred on them by law.
2. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of National Liberation Combatants' Affairs are those defined in its organic law.

Article 24

Ministry of Public Works

1. The Ministry of Public Works is the government department responsible for the design, execution, coordination and evaluation of the policy, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for public works, housing, supply, distribution and management of water, sanitation and electricity and the execution of urban planning and housing. It is responsible, in particular, to:
- a) Propose and implement the Ministry's policy lines in the areas of public works, housing, water distribution, water management, sanitation and electricity;
 - b) Execute land use plans (spatial planning) and national housing policy in coordination with the Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment;
 - c) Ensure the implementation and enforcement of the legal and regulatory framework for the ministry's activities;
 - d) Create and implement the legal and regulatory framework for construction activity and research on construction materials;
 - e) Study, plan and execute the construction works necessary for the protection, conservation and repair of bridges, roads, rivers and sea coasts, in particular with a view to flood control;
 - f) Promote the study and execution of new infrastructure network systems for water distribution and water resources, as well as basic sanitation, and supervise their operation and exploitation, without prejudice to the attributions entrusted in these areas to other bodies;
 - g) Establish coordination and promote the quality of physical projects implemented by the State;
 - h) Promote the realisation of construction, conservation and repair works of public buildings, monuments and special facilities in cases where this is legally committed;

- i) Licence and inspect all urban buildings, whether private or public, following the applicable legislation;
 - j) Promote the adoption of technical and regulatory standards for materials used in construction, as well as develop laboratory tests to ensure the safety of buildings;
 - k) Operate and maintain electricity generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure, and promote the planning and expansion of the national electricity grid;
 - l) Maintain and develop a national information and surveillance system on the state of construction works and building materials, including the effects of floods on infrastructure;
 - m) Ensure the coordination of the renewable energy sector and stimulate complementarity between its various modes, as well as their competitiveness, to improve user satisfaction;
 - n) Regulate in coordination with other ministries, operators in the area of electricity generation;
 - o) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies responsible for related areas.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Public Works:
- a) The Institute for Equipment Management and Infrastructure Development Support (IGIADI);
 - b) The Electricity of Timor-Leste E.P. (EDTL, E.P.);
 - c) The Bee Timor-Leste, E.P. (BTL, E.P.);
 - d) The National Laboratory for Infrastructure Quality Assurance.
- 3 The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Public Works are those defined in its organic law.

Article 25

Ministry of Transport and Communications

1. The Ministry of Transport and Communications is the government department responsible for designing, implementing, coordinating and evaluating the policy, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for transport and communications and is responsible to:
- a) Propose and implement the Ministry's policy lines in the areas of transport and communications;

- b) Formulate, develop and ensure the implementation and enforcement of the legal and regulatory framework for the transport and communications sectors;
 - c) Developing and regulating transport and communications activity, as well as optimising means of communication;
 - d) Ensure the coordination of the transport sector and stimulate complementarity between its various modes, as well as their competitiveness, in order to improve user satisfaction;
 - e) Promote the management, as well as the adoption of technical and regulatory standards regarding the public use of communications services;
 - f) Ensure the provision of public telecommunications services and the use of radio space through public undertakings or the concession of public service provision to private entities;
 - g) Maintain and develop the national meteorological and seismological information and surveillance systems, including the construction and maintenance of their infrastructure;
 - h) Promote and coordinate scientific research and technological development in the areas of civilian land, air and maritime transport;
 - i) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies responsible for related areas.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Transport and Communications:
- a) The Administration of Ports of Timor-Leste (APORTIL);
 - b) The Administration of Airports and Air Navigation of Timor-Leste, E.P. (ANATL E.P.);
 - c) The Civil Aviation Authority of Timor-Leste (AACTL);
 - d) The National Communications Authority (ANC);
 - e) The Information and Communication Technologies Agency, I.P. - TIC TIMOR.
- 3 The bodies and services comprising the Ministry of Transport and Communications are defined in its organic law.

Article 26

Ministry of Tourism and Environment

1. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment is the government department responsible for the design, implementation, coordination and evaluation of policies, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for tourism and environment and is responsible, in particular, to:
- a) Propose policies and draft legislation and regulations necessary for their areas of responsibility;
 - b) Design, implement and evaluate tourism and environment policies;

- c) Support the implementation of the "Blue Economy" development strategy;
- d) To appraise and licence projects for the installation and operation of tourism enterprises;
- e) Inspect and supervise tourism activities and enterprises in accordance with the law;
- f) Maintain and manage an information and documentation centre on tourism businesses;
- g) Contribute to the dynamization of the tourism sector and propose measures and public policies relevant to its development;
- h) Establish collaboration and cooperation mechanisms with national and international bodies whose action targets the Ministry's areas of activity, namely with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Timor-Leste (CCI-TL), World Tourism Organisation and "*Pacific Asia* Tourism Organisation";
- i) Support the activities of economic agents in the tourism sector, promoting the necessary steps to enhance solutions that make the procedural process of the respective licensing simpler and faster;
- j) To give an opinion on requests for prior information for the establishment of tourism businesses;
- k) To appraise and licence the projects of facilities and supervise the operation of tourist enterprises in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works, as well as to qualify and classify them;
- l) Oversee, inspect and supervise social and amusement games, gaming machines and traditional games;
- m) Propose draft legislation and regulations necessary for the exercise of casino activity;
- n) Maintain and manage an information and documentation centre on businesses and activities in the tourism sector;
- o) Suspend and revoke the licence to carry out tourism activities, following the law;
- p) Prepare the annual plan of promotional activities for tourism development with the respective cost estimate;
- q) Implement and enforce legislation on the installation, licensing and verification of the operating conditions of tourist facilities;
- r) Establish mechanisms for collaboration with other services and governmental organisations with responsibility for related areas, in particular the services responsible for the planning and physical development of the territory, to promote strategic areas for tourism, commercial or industrial development;
- s) Collaborate with competent public organisations and institutes in the promotion and dissemination of Timor-Leste to investors and tour operators, ensuring the dissemination of the necessary information;

- t) Promote and implement environmental policy, provide the protection and conservation of nature and biodiversity, supervise activities potentially harmful to flora and fauna and ensure national development in an environmentally sustainable manner;
 - u) Implement the environmental policy and evaluate the results achieved;
 - v) Promote, monitor and support strategies to integrate the environment into sectoral policies;
 - w) Carry out a strategic environmental assessment of policies, plans, programmes and legislation and coordinate environmental impact assessment processes for projects at the national level;
 - x) Ensure, in general terms and in the context of environmental licensing, the adoption and supervision of integrated pollution prevention and control measures by the facilities it covers.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Tourism and Environment:
- a) The Tourism Authority of Timor-Leste, I.P. (ATTL, I.P.);
 - b) The Tourism and Tourist Information Centres;
 - c) The Catering Centres / *Food Courts*;
 - d) The Inns;
 - e) The National Environmental Licensing Authority, I.P. (ANLA);
 - f) The National Designated Authority for Combating Climate Change, I.P. (AND).

The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Tourism and Environment are those defined in its organic law.

Article 27

Ministry of Trade and Industry

1. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is the government department responsible for the design, implementation, coordination and evaluation of policies defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for commercial and industrial economic activities. It is responsible, in particular, to:
 - a) Propose policies and draft legislation and regulations necessary for their areas of responsibility;

- b) Design, implement and evaluate trade and industry policies;
- c) Contribute to the dynamization of economic activity, including national and international competitiveness;
- d) Support the activities of economic agents, promoting the necessary steps to valorise solutions that make procedural processing simpler and faster;
- e) Appraise and licence projects for the installation and operation of commercial and industrial enterprises;
- f) Inspect and supervise commercial and industrial activities and undertakings in accordance with the law;
- g) Maintain and administer an information and documentation centre on commercial and industrial enterprises;
- h) Propose the qualification and classification of industrial undertakings in accordance with the applicable legislation;
- i) Organise and administer the industrial property register;
- j) Promote internal and international rules of standardisation, metrology and quality control, standards of measurement of units and physical magnitude;
- k) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and cooperation with national and international bodies whose action targets the areas of activity of the ministry, namely with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Timor-Leste (CCI-TL) and the World Trade Organisation;
- l) Establish mechanisms for collaboration with other government departments and organisations with responsibility for related areas, in particular the departments responsible for the planning and physical development of the territory, with a view to promoting strategic areas for commercial or industrial development.

The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Trade and Industry are those defined in its organic law.

Article 28

Ministry of Rural Development and Community Housing

1. The Ministry of Rural Development and Community Housing is the government department responsible for the design, implementation, coordination and evaluation of policies defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for areas related to the improvement of living conditions, opportunities and accessibility in rural areas, development of initiatives promoting the diversification of activities, job creation in rural areas, to consolidate their productive fabric.

2. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Rural Development and Community Housing are those defined in its organic law.

Article 29

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry is the government department responsible for the policy's design, implementation, coordination and evaluation, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock. It is responsible, in particular, to:
 - a) Propose policy and prepare draft legislation and regulations necessary for its areas of responsibility;
 - b) Ensure the implementation and continuity of agricultural development programmes in coordination with other government departments with rural development responsibilities;
 - c) Create technical support centres for farmers;
 - d) Promote agricultural research and optimisation of agricultural land;
 - e) Control the use of land for agricultural production purposes;
 - f) Promote and supervise animal production and health;
 - g) Promote the farming and fishing industry;
 - h) Promote and oversee food production, including seed production;
 - i) Manage Quarantine Services;
 - j) Promote in coordination with the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, rural development by implementing a cooperative system for the production and marketing of agricultural output;
 - k) Carry out feasibility studies for the installation of irrigation and water storage systems, as well as the construction of the respective facilities;
 - l) Manage forest resources and river basins in coordination with the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and Environment and Ministry of Public Works;
 - m) Promote the production of industrial plants, particularly for coffee growing;
 - n) Managing water resources for agricultural purposes;
 - o) Promote and monitor the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
 - p) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies with responsibility for related areas;
 - q) Manage National Parks, Protected Areas and Botanical Gardens;
 - r) Ensure the protection and conservation of nature and biodiversity, supervising the implementation of the policy and supervising activities harmful to the integrity of the national fauna and flora in collaboration with related entities.

2. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry are those defined in its organic law.

Article 30 **Ministry of Defence**

1. The Ministry of Defence is the government department responsible for designing, implementing, coordinating and evaluating the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for national defence and military cooperation and is responsible to:
 - a) Propose and implement policy on the military component of national defence;
 - b) Prepare draft legislation and regulations necessary for the defence area;
 - c) Promote military-strategic diplomacy, coordinating and guiding activities arising from military commitments assumed under instruments of international law and bilateral and multilateral agreements, as well as relations with States and international organisations of a military nature, without prejudice to the duties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
 - d) Ensure the maintenance of relations in the area of Defence policy with other countries and international organisations, without prejudice to the duties of other sovereign bodies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, within the scope of the objectives set for Timorese foreign policy;
 - e) Coordinate and monitor in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, cooperation actions developed by international organisations, States or defence forces of other countries in support of the development of their areas of responsibility within the scope of the international agreements referred to in the previous paragraph;
 - f) Administer and oversee the Timor-Leste Defence Forces;
 - g) Promote the suitability of military equipment, resources and assets and monitor and inspect their use;
 - h) Monitor maritime and air navigation for military purposes;
 - i) Exercise oversight, administer and supervise the Maritime Authority;
 - j) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies responsible for related areas.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Defence:
 - a) The National Defence Institute (IDN);
 - b) The National Maritime Authority.
3. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Defence are those defined in the respective organic law.

Article 31

Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources

1. The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources is the government department responsible for the design and implementation of energy policy and management of mineral resources, including petroleum and natural gas as defined in the applicable legislation, approved by the Council of Ministers, as well as the licensing and regulation of extractive activities, industrial activity for the beneficiation of petroleum and natural gas, and minerals, including petrochemicals and refining, and is responsible to:
 - a) Develop and propose policy and draft legislation for the sector;
 - b) Establish the sectoral administration and management system and regulate the activities of the industry;
 - c) Ensure maximum participation of Timor-Leste in the activities of the petroleum, natural gas and mineral resources sector through appropriate legal, administrative and technical instruments;
 - d) Promote national opportunities in the industry to attract and retain foreign investment;
 - e) Authorise the opening of public tenders for the conclusion of petroleum contracts, approve the terms thereof, and approve the final report of the Evaluation Committee, as established in Decree-Law no. 7/2005, of 19 October;
 - f) Monitor the implementation of the relevant International Treaties, namely the "Treaty Between the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and Australia Establishing their Maritime Boundaries in the Timor Sea", and follow up on the sectoral implementation of the relevant instruments;
 - g) Support the Prime Minister in conducting the negotiation process regarding the development model of the *Greater Sunrise* field or other matters related to the exercise of jurisdiction in the Timor Sea, as well as in the area of the "*Greater Sunrise* Special Regime" under the "Treaty Between the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and Australia Establishing the Respective Boundaries in the Timor Sea";
 - h) Appoint, after approval by the Council of Ministers, Timor-Leste's representatives to the *Greater Sunrise* Oversight Board and allocate the necessary means and resources to support these representatives;
 - i) Advise the Government on petroleum and mining issues related to the delimitation of the maritime and land boundaries of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and appoint representatives and consultants to join their technical teams;
 - j) Support the Prime Minister in coordinating and leading the implementation of the Tasi Mane project, setting up the legal and institutional structures, determining the allocation of resources deemed necessary or appropriate for it, and licensing and monitoring the activities carried out in areas territorially dedicated to the Tasi Mane project;

- k) Determine, following general legal conditions, the specific contractual terms for the exploration and exploitation of petroleum resources and mining licences and contracts;
- l) Ensure mandatory minimum fuel stocks and their regular supply to the market and public power generation units;
- m) Regulate, authorise and supervise the activities of the *downstream* petroleum sector, as defined in Decree-Law no. 1/2012, of February 1st, and complementary regulations, namely, processing, import, export, transport, storage, distribution and marketing, wholesale or retail, of fuels and other petroleum products, as well as the import of crude oil and natural gas and other raw materials for refining and other petrochemical activities;
- n) Secure natural gas resources for domestic consumption in Timor-Leste, for residential and industrial purposes, and promote and develop the projects and approve the legislation and regulations necessary for their efficient and safe distribution and use;
- o) Coordinate, supervise and licence any natural gas regasification projects and other similar or associated projects;
- p) Coordinate, supervise, regulate and license any projects in the area of decarbonisation, including hydrogen and carbon capture and utilisation (CCUS) projects in geological reservoirs and saline cavities;
- q) Promote and develop initiatives for the training and qualification of Timorese workers for the supervised activities in coordination with the ministries and other relevant public or private entities;
- r) Authorise and license, downstream of extraction, manufacturing industry projects relating to the processing, upgrading, treatment, conversion or transformation of crude oil and natural gas and their derivatives and minerals, namely refineries, gas liquefaction or petrochemical plants, and mineral processing plants as defined in the Mining Code;
- s) Considering the complexity and technical speciality, conduct the environmental licensing procedures for the oil and gas and mineral resources sector mentioned in this paragraph, and approve the corresponding environmental licences;
- t) Exercise the powers of superintendence and supervision over the indirect administration of the State, both institutional and corporate, operating in the sector, including private law subsidiaries of public companies and private companies created by the State to operate in the industry;
- u) Develop and promote the development of knowledge and research into the geological structure of soils and subsoils and national hydrogeological resources;
- v) Propose to the Council of Ministers the enumeration and classification of strategic minerals under the terms set out in the Mining Code;
- w) Propose to the Council of Ministers the approval of the terms of reference applicable to each public tender and approve the allocation of Mining Rights;
- x) Propose to the Council of Ministers the approval of the model Mining Contract;

- y) Proceed, following the law, with the conclusion of Mining Contracts, the issuance of Prospecting, Exploration and Production Licences and the issuance of authorisations to extend existing Mineral Rights to cover other Minerals, as well as to approve all studies, reports and projects within its competence;
 - z) Determine the cancellation or redemption of Mining Rights under the terms legally and contractually established;
 - aa) Authorise the assignment or transfer of mining rights, as well as the change of control in a company that holds mining rights;
 - bb) Act as the beneficiary of the expropriation and conduct the expropriation process, under the terms of Law no. 8/2017, of 26 April, concerning expropriation for public utility and the constitution of administrative easements necessary for the performance of the activities of its competence or subject to its supervision or tutelage;
 - cc) Any other duties that may be assigned to it by specific legislation applicable to the sector.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources:
- a) The National Petroleum and Minerals Authority, I.P. (ANPM);
 - b) The Institute of Petroleum and Geology, I.P. (IPG);
 - c) TIMOR GAP (Timor Gas & Petroleum), E.P.;
 - d) Companhia Mineira de Timor-Leste, S.A. (Murak Rai).
3. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources are those defined in its organic law.

Article 32

Ministry of the Interior

1. The Ministry of the Interior is the government department responsible for designing, implementing, coordinating and evaluating policies defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for internal security, migration and asylum, border control, civil protection, road safety and police cooperation. It is responsible, in particular, to:
- a) Propose, coordinate and implement policies on internal security, migration and asylum, border control, civil protection and road safety;
 - b) Participate in defining, coordinating and implementing national security policy;
 - c) Prepare draft legislation and regulations necessary for their areas of responsibility;
 - d) Exercise superintendence and guardianship over Timor-Leste's security forces and services;
 - e) Exercise powers of direction, superintendence and supervision of the Civil Protection Authority, including the Fire Brigade;

- f) Ensure and maintain public order and tranquillity;
 - g) Ensure the protection of liberty and security of persons and their property;
 - h) Ensure the safety of the State's real estate and furniture;
 - i) Prevent and suppress crime;
 - j) Control the movement of persons at borders, the entry, stay and residence, exit and removal of foreigners from national territory;
 - k) Control the import, manufacture, marketing, licensing, possession and use of arms, ammunition and explosives without prejudice to the competences of other government bodies;
 - l) Regulate, supervise and control the exercise of private security activities;
 - m) To prevent disasters and major accidents and to provide protection and assistance to victims in the event of fires, floods, landslides, earthquakes and in all situations that put them at risk;
 - n) Propose and develop policies and strategies in disaster risk management;
 - o) Develop and implement programmes in disaster risk management, namely in civic education, prevention, mitigation, emergency response and post-disaster recovery in coordination with other relevant entities;
 - p) Coordinate and monitor the Municipal Security Councils;
 - q) Promote the development of the strategy of prevention, mediation and resolution of community conflicts;
 - r) Promote the adequacy of police resources, monitor and inspect their use;
 - s) Ensure the maintenance of relations in the area of internal security policy with other countries and international organisations, without prejudice to the duties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, within the scope of the objectives set for Timorese foreign policy;
 - t) Negotiate, under the leadership of the Prime Minister and in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, international agreements on internal security, criminal investigation, migration and border control and civil protection;
 - u) Coordinate and monitor in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, cooperation actions developed by international organisations, States or security forces and services of other countries, in support of the development of their areas of responsibility, within the scope of the international agreements referred to in the previous paragraph;
 - v) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies responsible for related areas.
2. The Civil Protection Authority shall be subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of the Interior.
 3. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of the Interior are those defined in its organic law.

Article 33
Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion

1. The Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion is the government department responsible for the policy's design, implementation, coordination and evaluation, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for social security, social assistance and community reintegration. It is responsible, in particular, to:
 - a) Design and implement social security systems for workers and the rest of the population;
 - b) Develop social assistance programmes;
 - c) Promote humanitarian aid to the most disadvantaged;
 - d) Propose and develop policies and strategies in disaster risk management with a social impact;
 - e) Develop and implement social assistance programmes in disaster risk management, including emergency response and post-disaster recovery in coordination with relevant institutions;
 - f) Provide accompaniment, protection and community reintegration of vulnerable groups, including people with special needs and disabilities (PWDs);
 - g) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies responsible for related areas.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion:
 - a) The National Social Security Institute (INSS);
 - b) The Social Security Reserve Fund (SSRF);
 - c) The National Rehabilitation Centre (CNR).
3. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion are those defined in its organic law.

Article 34
Ministry of Youth, Sports, Art and Culture

1. The Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture is the government department responsible for the policy's design, implementation, coordination and evaluation, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for youth, sport, arts and culture. It is responsible, in particular, to:
 - a) Design youth and sport policy measures, their organisation, financing, implementation and evaluation, promoting integration with education initiatives;
 - b) Promote activities aimed at the practice of sport and physical education in general, as well as the practice of high-level sports as a factor of sports development and representation of the country in international competitions;

- c) Ensure the implementation of the legal and regulatory framework for activities related to sport and high competition;
 - d) Establish collaboration mechanisms with civil society organisations active in the area of sport;
 - e) Create mechanisms to support and finance projects for the practice of physical education and sport;
 - f) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with other Government bodies with responsibility for related areas in the implementation of the national policy on youth and sport and art and culture;
 - g) Promote active inclusion policies in the areas of youth and sport, primarily through inclusive education measures and the participation of persons with disabilities;
 - h) Ensure and promote gender equality within the areas of its competence in coordination with relevant public entities;
 - i) Plan and implement an analysis and monitoring system to evaluate the results and impact of education, youth and sports policies;
 - j) Draw up policies and regulations for the conservation, protection and preservation of cultural, historical heritage;
 - k) Propose policies for the definition and development of arts and culture;
 - l) Promote the creation of cultural centres at the municipal level, in conjunction with local government and to foster national cohesion;
 - m) Establish cultural cooperation and exchange policies with CPLP countries and cultural organisations and countries in the region;
 - n) Develop programmes in coordination with the Ministry of Education, for the introduction of arts and culture education in Timor-Leste;
 - o) Promote the creative industries and artistic creation in Timor-Leste in its various areas;
 - p) Ensure the proper preservation of official and historical documents within the remit;
 - q) Protect rights relating to artistic and literary creation.
2. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Youth, Sports, Art and Culture:
 - a) The National Museum of Timor-Leste, I.P.;
 - b) The National Library of Timor-Leste (BN).
 3. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Art and Culture are those defined in its organic law.

Article 35
Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment

1. The Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment is the government department responsible for designing, coordinating and evaluating the policy, defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for promoting the country's economic and social development through strategic and integrated planning and rationalisation of available financial resources, assuming specific responsibilities for the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan, especially concerning:
 - a) Infrastructure and Urban Planning;
 - b) Spatial Planning and Organisation.
2. The Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment is responsible for planning, proposing and coordinating the implementation of strategic infrastructure.
3. The Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment is also responsible for overseeing the quality of work and activities in the implementation of physical projects promoted, developed or financed by:
 - a) Infrastructure Fund or others whose purpose or remit is to finance multi-annual strategic projects;
 - b) National Directorate of Public-Private Partnerships of the Ministry of Finance.
4. The Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment, following the preceding paragraphs and based on the statistical and cadastral data made available by the competent services, has, in particular, the following specific duties:
 - a) Evaluate capital development projects based on careful analysis of project feasibility and cost-effectiveness;
 - b) Supervising, monitoring and certifying the implementation and execution of projects, contributing to the rationalisation of available financial resources and economic development and economic activity at national, municipal and local levels;
 - c) Plan and control the costs and quality of capital development projects;
 - d) Promote transparency and quality through the provision of procurement services for capital development projects;
 - e) Develop technical and sectoral studies, opinions and analyses to assess the impact and economic viability of development projects;
 - f) Analyse and select investment proposals for the country;
 - g) Study, plan and propose sectoral development policies;
 - h) Study, plan and propose the national land-use planning policy in coordination with the relevant government departments;
 - i) Help promote the adoption of technical and regulatory standards for materials used in construction and develop laboratory tests to ensure the safety of buildings;
 - j) Support the development of the legal and regulatory framework for activities related to renewable energy resources;

- k) Support studies on renewable energy resources and alternative energy capacity;
 - l) Maintain an archive of information on operations and renewable energy resources;
 - m) Contribute to developing national transport and communications policy;
 - n) Help prepare and design, in Cooperation with other public services, the implementation of the road plan for the national territory;
 - o) Support the coordination and promotion of a management and maintenance system and the modernisation of airport, air navigation, road, highway, port infrastructure and related services;
 - p) Promote the establishment of the National Development Bank in coordination with the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs and the Minister of Finance;
 - q) Study, plan, and implement land use planning and national housing policy in coordination with the relevant Ministries.
5. The following institutions and bodies are subject to the supervision and tutelage of the Minister of Planning and Strategic Investment:
- a) The National Development Agency, I.P.(ADN);
 - b) The Major Projects Secretariat;
 - c) The National Procurement Commission (CNA);
 - d) The Technical Secretariat of the Human Capital Development Fund.
6. The bodies and services that comprise the Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment are those defined in the respective organic law.

SECTION V

Other entities and institutions

Article 36

Indirect administration

1. According to Article 115(3) of the Constitution of the Republic, the Government may establish, by decree-law, public legal persons which may be endowed with administrative, financial and patrimonial autonomy under the supervision or tutelage of the member of the Government competent for the respective area, to meet collective needs, when it is found that the indirect administration modality is

the most appropriate for the pursuit of the public interest and the satisfaction of those needs.

2. The public legal persons referred to in the preceding paragraph may be public institutes or public undertakings, as defined in the respective organisational statute.
3. Public institutes may assume the form of personalised services, public establishments or public foundations by legal provisions, which shall define the scope of their administrative or managerial autonomy and financial and patrimonial autonomy.

Article 37 **Administrative deconcentration**

Whenever possible, government departments carry out their duties by delegation of the competences of central government bodies to local government bodies while respecting the principle of administrative deconcentration.

CHAPTER IV **TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

Article 38 **Delegation of competences**

1. Delegation of competences shall be from the highest ranking manager to a lower ranking manager, under the law.
2. Constitutionally determined competences cannot be delegated.
3. In other cases, delegation of competences is permitted where it is not expressly prohibited by law and must be set out in a written document stating its scope and duration.
4. The delegating body retains responsibility for acts performed in the exercise of delegated competences by the person receiving the delegation.
5. The delegation of competences shall take effect externally only after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Article 39 **Delegable competences**

1. The exercise of own competences may be delegated by:
 - a) The Prime Minister to Vice Prime Ministers or other Government members;
 - b) The Ministers to the Government members who assist them.
2. The government members may delegate the competence relating to the services, bodies, entities and activities dependent on them, to the heads of the Public Administration or those equivalent to them, with the faculty of sub-delegation,

when this is legally permitted and must be expressly referred to in the instrument of delegation.

Article 40 **Termination of services**

1. All the services, organisations and entities whose ministerial framework is amended retain the exact legal nature, with only the body exercising powers of direction or superintendence and guardianship being modified, depending on the case.
2. The changes in the organic structure resulting from this statute are accompanied by the consequent movement of staff, without any formality being required and without resulting in the loss of acquired rights.
3. The following agencies and entities are terminated:
 - a) The National Agency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (ANAPMA);
 - b) The National Authority for Water and Sanitation (ANAS, I.P.);
 - c) The National Authority for Electricity (ANE, I.P.).

Article 41 **Transition of services**

1. All the services, organisations and entities whose ministerial framework is amended retain the exact legal nature, with only the body exercising powers of direction or superintendence and guardianship being modified, depending on the case.
2. The changes in the organic structure resulting from this statute are accompanied by the consequent movement of staff, without any formality being required and without resulting in the loss of acquired rights.
3. The former Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Social Communication services are integrated into the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
4. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment absorbs all the services of the former Secretary of State for the Environment and the services related to tourism of the former Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
5. The services of the former Secretary of State for Youth and Sport are integrated into the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Art and Culture, and the services of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture relating to art and culture are also transferred to this ministry.
6. The Ministry of Planning and Territory is terminated, and all services, human resources and other rights and obligations are transferred to the Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment.

7. The Ministry of Trade and Industry succeeds the former Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry, with the services related to tourism being transferred to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.
8. The rights and obligations held by the ministries, services, bodies or entities amended under this law are automatically transferred to the new ministries, services or bodies that replace them without any formality being required.

Article 42
Transition of staff

1. Civil servants assigned to the Ministries and Secretaries of State departments that are abolished or modified by this Decree-Law and not assigned to the successor Ministry shall be transferred to the Civil Service Commission for subsequent placement in another Civil Service department.
2. The allocation referred to in the previous paragraph shall enter into force with the approval of the amendment or approval of the new organic law of each Ministry.

Article 43
Offices of the Government members

The Vice Prime Ministers and the other Government members provided for in this statute may, as long as they do not have funds allocated explicitly to the functioning of their respective office, use the funds available in the budget chapter relating to the General State Appropriation.

Article 44
Organic laws

1. The Ministries created through this statute or that have their respective attributions changed through this statute must, within 60 days of the date of entry into force of this statute, draw up or amend their respective organic law.
2. The Organic Laws of the various government departments should align the competences of their respective central bodies with the competences of the Administrations and Municipal Authorities, as defined in their normative statutes and in compliance with the principle of administrative deconcentration.
3. With the entry into force of new organisational laws, the appointments and service commissions of the holders of management or senior management positions are extinguished, and they remain in office temporarily until their reappointment or replacement.

Article 45
Repealing rule

The following legal diplomas are repealed:

- a) Decree-Law no. 14/2018, of August 17th, as well as Decree-Law no. 20/2020, of May 28th, by Decree-Law no. 27/2020, of June 19th and Decree-Law no. 46/2022, of June 8th, which amended it;
- b) Decree-Law no. 38/2020 of September 23rd;
- c) Decree-Law no. 40/2020 of September 25th;
- d) Decree-Law no. 24/2021, of November 17th, as well as Decree-Law no. 39/2023, of May 31st, which amended it.

Article 46
Entry into force

This Decree-Law shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on July 24th, 2023.

The Prime Minister,

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

Promulgated on

To be published.

The President of the Republic,
José Ramos-Horta