



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

**GENERAL STATEMENT ADDRESS BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER  
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

**IN THE OCCASION OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN – AUSTRALIA  
SUMMIT**

Vientiane, Lao PDR

10 October 2024

Thank you, Chair, Your Excellency Sonexay SIPHANDONE

Your Majesty,

Honourable ASEAN Leaders,

The Honourable Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia

Your Excellency Secretary General of ASEAN,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I extend my gratitude to the Chair for this opportunity to observe this year's ASEAN Summit with Australia and to make these brief remarks.

Australia is a key partner of ASEAN and a close neighbour and friend of Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste supports the efforts of ASEAN and Australia to foster a strong and dynamic partnership. We saw this work in action during the recent and successful ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Melbourne.

We acknowledge the significant progress made in strengthening the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership which will help to enhance cooperation in trade, investment, the digital economy, and public health.

Timor-Leste welcomes Australia's financial commitment to addressing regional challenges and promoting sustainable development, trade and investment, and food security.

These fundamental issues are critical to the well-being of people in our region and require our collective action.

Timor-Leste and Australia share a long history with strong people to people links and cooperation across a wide range of areas.

Australia is also an important development partner that provides assistance to support our social and economic development.

We welcome Australia's commitment to enhancing economic, trade and investment cooperation with our region. We know that Australia can play an important

role in strengthening our economic resilience and our ability to address current and emerging challenges.

We also look forward to Australia's support in developing key strategic industries that will underpin the social and economic development of our country.

Timor-Leste and Australia share a commitment to peace and development, sustainable economic growth and a common prosperity for the benefit of our people and our region.

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão