



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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
AT THE 5TH TIMOR-LESTE ENERGY, MINING AND BUSINESS FORUM
2025**

JL World Hotel, Dili
24 November 2025



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

Dear friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to this Fifth Timor-Leste Energy, Mining and Business Forum.

This Forum is Timor-Leste's premier annual platform for updates and discussions on our energy and mining sector and the opportunities available to businesses and investors.

It is an opportunity for participants to understand the opportunities Timor-Leste offers and our favourable investment environment.

Timor-Leste has made extraordinary progress given we started with nothing just over two decades ago. We built the country from ashes. We have established a peaceful and democratic State with an open society governed by the rule of law.

We have an open and growing economy and a Government focused on sustainable development and long-term national interests.

It was with great pride that Timor-Leste joined the World Trade Organisation last year. WTO membership has strengthened our economic governance and provided clear rules for the private sector, building confidence in trade and investment in Timor-Leste.

And last month, Timor-Leste fulfilled a long-held national aspiration to become the eleventh member of ASEAN – one of the fastest-growing regions in the world.

Our ASEAN membership positions Timor-Leste to become a key energy and mining hub in Southeast Asia.

We are rich in geological resources, both onshore and offshore, and we are committed to developing them in a predictable, transparent and responsible way.

Our *Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030* guides our national development. The plan sets out a long-term vision for economic diversification, human development and infrastructure to build a prosperous, well-educated and healthy nation.

It identified three strategic industries to support jobs and investment: tourism, agriculture and energy and minerals.

The latter is known as the Tasi Mane Project which includes the Suai Supply Base, the Natarbora Integrated Petroleum Development Hub with LNG and helium plants, a refinery and a marine facility, and power plant in Betano and associated infrastructure including new towns, roads and bridges.

We have already constructed an airport to support the Tasi Mane Project and a major highway. We have allocated significant budget support for further infrastructure and the studies and plans needed to develop the industry.

The Tasi Mane project will be anchored by the development of Greater Sunrise – one of the most valuable undeveloped gas fields in our region.

Independent studies confirm that Greater Sunrise offers substantial financial returns to investors over several decades.

The development of Greater Sunrise will also generate national benefits, including jobs, long-term revenue and the establishment of an industrial base along our south coast.

The Government's position on Greater Sunrise has always been clear.

The natural gas from Greater Sunrise must be processed onshore in Timor-Leste.

This is essential for national development. It will provide new opportunities for young Timorese to gain skills, participate in emerging industries and contribute to the long-term strength of our country.

It will ensure we avoid the resource curse – onshore processing will ensure that the value generated by Greater Sunrise remains in Timor-Leste and supports nation building.

It will reinforce our energy security, support industry and create thousands of jobs for our young people.

The technical basis for our position is strong. Expert assessments confirm that a deepwater pipeline from the field to our south coast is feasible and consistent with international engineering standards.

Timor-Leste will provide the necessary supporting infrastructure, including the Suai Supply Base and the planned facilities in Natarbora.

We remain fully committed to progressing Greater Sunrise in a manner that is commercially sound, technically robust and aligned with the interests of our people.

Dear friends,

Timor-Leste is also seeing new opportunities in mining and critical minerals, including gold, copper, magnesium and other resources.

The development of our onshore minerals will support economic diversification, build technical skills and create new jobs, especially in rural communities.

We have established clear rules and a strong legal framework to govern mineral development and to give investors certainty and confidence.

During this Forum, we will hear from regulators and investors about the opportunities available in mining and critical minerals and the role they can play in supporting national development.

The Timorese suffered greatly in our struggle for self-determination. After independence, we worked hard to build a peaceful, stable and democratic nation.

Now we face a new challenge: to develop a strong and sustainable economy able to support the well-being of our people.

The development of Greater Sunrise and the growth of our minerals sector are central to this effort. These projects will strengthen our economy, provide essential revenue for the State and create opportunities for our young population.

The Government will do all that it can to realise this vision.

And so, I urge you all to participate fully in this Forum. To learn about the possibilities that Timor-Leste offers, to engage with government representatives and policy makers, to connect with industry leaders and explore new partnerships and investment opportunities.

In ASEAN we say, together we rise. Here I can say, together we do. And, together, we can help build a strong Timor-Leste that offers a better future for our people and reinforces the sovereignty of our State.

I now declare the Fifth Timor-Leste Energy, Mining and Business Forum open.

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão