



PRIME MINISTER

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO, PRIME
MINISTER OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
FOLLOWING THE BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE HONOURABLE ANTHONY
ALBANESE MP, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA**

Dili, 28 January 2026



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

It is my great honour to welcome Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to Timor-Leste for this Official Visit.

Prime Minister Albanese's visit is an important moment in the relationship between our two countries and reflects the depth of friendship, trust and partnership between Timor-Leste and Australia.

Our discussions today were warm, open and productive. We agreed to establish a new partnership for a new era that reflects the maturity of our relationship and our shared future.

Our relationship has been shaped by solidarity in times of conflict and by partnership in peace.

Today, we reaffirmed our shared commitment to a peaceful and prosperous region.

Australia has been a strong supporter of Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN and I thank the Prime Minister for this support.

We reaffirmed the importance of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Our 2018 Maritime Boundary Treaty remains a powerful example of how disputes can be resolved peacefully and fairly through dialogue and law.

Our talks today also focused on promoting development and creating jobs - and Australia's continued partnership in supporting these priorities.

We reaffirmed our shared commitment to the development of Greater Sunrise.

Timor-Leste'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 our national development and for the long-term strength of our country. Development of Greater Sunrise will provide jobs and opportunities for young Timorese to gain skills and participate in emerging industries.



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I reinforced with the Australian Prime Minister that Timor-Leste is committed to progressing Greater Sunrise in a manner that is commercially sound, technically robust and aligned with the interests of our people.

We are very pleased that today we agreed to accelerate our negotiations to finalise the Petroleum Mining Code, the Production Sharing Contract and the Fiscal regime expeditiously.

We also discussed Australia's labour mobility programs which continue to deliver real benefits for Timorese workers and their families.

We agreed to work together to increase the number of Timorese that can work in Australia.

People-to-people links remain at the heart of our relationship.

It was Australians like Prime Minister Albanese that actively supported our struggle for independence.

We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the bonds between our peoples, including civil society, church and friendship groups, school groups and veterans.

I also announce today that Timor-Leste has identified a parcel of land in Dili, next to our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, which we will grant to Australia for the construction of a new Embassy.

This grant of land allows us to reciprocate after Australia provided land to Timor-Leste, which allowed us to build our Embassy in Canberra.

We are pleased that Australia is planning to build a new and larger Embassy, which reflects its strong and long-term commitment to Timor-Leste.

At a time of global change and uncertainty, Timor-Leste highly values our partnership with Australia.

We share a vision for a world that is peaceful, where development is inclusive, where international law provides the basis for preventing conflict and where human rights are upheld.

I thank Prime Minister Albanese for his visit, for Australia's friendship and for the progress that we have made today to work together for the benefit of our peoples.

I now invite Prime Minister Albanese to say a few words.