



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

**DINNER REMARKS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE PRIME
MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA
THE HONOURABLE ANTHONY ALBANESE MP**

Dili, 28 January 2026



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

His Excellency, President of the Republic, Dr José Ramos-Horta
The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Prime Minister, we are honoured to welcome you to Timor-Leste.

Your visit is a special occasion for our country. It allows us to celebrate the deep friendship between our peoples and to make a clear commitment to our shared future.

Our countries enjoy a long history of friendship and solidarity.

Our peoples first came together in World War II when courageous Timorese supported the brave Australian commandos operating across our country.

During the occupation, the Australian people stood with us in our struggle for independence. Many Australians became our fiercest advocates and we will always remember those activists and supporters who selflessly took on our cause.

After our historic vote for independence, Australia led INTERFET in protecting our people and helping to lay the foundations for peace.

Following independence, Australia has stood with us as partners in peace building and State building.

And the ties between our peoples remain one of the strongest parts of the relationship: between church groups and NGOs, friendship groups and schools, and between our veterans' communities.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In our relationship, history matters, but so does what we choose to do next.

At a time of profound global disruption, and when international law is under grave threat, Timor-Leste knows it can stand with Australia in solidarity.

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

We know that Australia plays a critical role in world affairs and we share the same values in advancing fairness and a more just international order.

Prime Minister Albanese, you have long supported our people and our country. We recognise your leadership in standing for democracy, for multilateral cooperation and for equality, inclusion and the protection of the vulnerable.

Prime Minister, we hope that you have enjoyed your time in our country. You will always be warmly welcomed as a true friend of Timor-Leste.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, please rise and join me in a toast:

“To His Majesty, The King and the people of Australia, and to the enduring friendship between Australia and Timor-Leste.”

Thank you very much.