



PRIME
MINISTER

SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CEREMONY MARKING THE 12TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCIENTIFIC POLICE AND CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION SERVICE

GMN Multipurpose Hall
Dili, Timor-Leste
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Palácio do Governo
Avenida Marginal
Dili, Timor-Leste

**Excellency, the President of the Court of Appeal,
Excellency, the Prosecutor-General of the Republic,
Excellency, Minister of Justice,
Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Excellencies, Members of the Judiciary and the Public
Prosecution Service,
National Director of the Scientific Police and Criminal
Investigation Service,
Commander-General of the National Police of Timor-Leste,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is with great honour that I take part in the ceremony celebrating the 12th Anniversary of the Scientific Police and Criminal Investigation Service (PCIC).

Allow me to begin by extending my warm greetings to the National Director of the PCIC and to all the professionals who serve within this police force and who, every day, contribute to the mission entrusted by law to the Scientific Police and Criminal Investigation Service.

By carrying out your duties with professionalism, dedication, and impartiality, you are contributing not only to the strengthening of the PCIC, but also to the consolidation of the justice sector, and in

doing so ensuring that citizens' rights are safeguarded and that civic duties and social responsibilities are fulfilled.

When we speak of duties and responsibilities, we cannot ignore the duty incumbent upon the State to ensure that justice fulfils its purpose and guaranteeing full respect for citizens' fundamental rights and for the democratic rule of law.

As such, the Scientific Police and Criminal Investigation Service, together with the other police forces and criminal investigation bodies, and alongside the judicial authorities, plays a decisive role in the process of building the rule of law and consolidating its institutions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This month of May is a month of important celebrations. Not only because of the date we commemorate today, but also because, as you know, on 20 May we will celebrate another anniversary of the restoration of our independence.

Twenty-four years have passed since 20 May 2002, when the world witnessed the raising of our flag, the symbol of our sovereign, independent and democratic State.

It is not the celebration of a decade, nor of a quarter-century, but it remains a celebration of particular symbolism.

We are about to celebrate 24 years of independence — the same length of time during which we fought to become independent.

For 24 years, women, men, young people and children gave their lives so that every Timorese could live with dignity in an independent country.

Now that we have also been independent for 24 years, it is urgent that we pause, look back, and reflect. Reflect on what independence represents in the life of every Timorese citizen, reflect on what we have achieved and what should make us proud, reflect on the areas in which we failed or did not achieve what was necessary, and, above all, define the vision required for the future.

From the ashes, we built a peaceful and stable country, established public institutions, and organised a free and democratic society in which every citizen has the opportunity to participate and contribute to the building of the State.

But the process of State-building is not limited to raising the flag or creating institutions with a given mission!

These moments are just the beginning and the first steps of a long process, one that will always face challenges — both the internal challenges inherent to every country and the challenges imposed by the global context.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Scientific Police and Criminal Investigation Service is part of this journey and this process.

Its creation was an essential step for the development of the justice sector, and we should be proud of the path travelled so far.

It is public knowledge, but I would nevertheless like to highlight here the hard work and high level of competence demonstrated by the PCIC in recent times, which has made it possible to identify criminal activities capable of jeopardising national security and social peace in our country.

On behalf of the Government, I also cannot fail to express my recognition and gratitude for the support provided over the years to the PCIC by our international partners — the Government of Australia and the Australian Federal Police, the Republic of Indonesia through the vital cooperation with POLRI, the commitment of the United States of America, the People's Republic of China, and the European Union, and finally Portugal and its Judicial Police.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you know, the justice sector continues to face major challenges, particularly in terms of human resource training.

Justice reform is one of the priorities of the Ninth Constitutional Government, which has been investing especially in the training of personnel for the sector.

Reforms, however, cannot be imposed by decree or by law. Their success requires the commitment and dedication of the people who make up the institutions.

The challenges facing the world — legal, technological, environmental, and political — are many and complex, and every country and its respective police forces must prepare themselves accordingly.

These are challenges that require swift and appropriate responses, which can only be ensured through hard work, investment in continuous training, and international cooperation.

I would therefore like, in conclusion, to invite the PCIC to reflect upon its still relatively short existence, and upon what can be improved not only so that this force may succeed “in defending society, fully upholding democratic legality, and respecting citizens’ rights”, but also in strengthening the justice sector and advancing the development of our country.

I am certain that the PCIC, with the guidance and full support of the Minister of Justice, will rise to these challenges.

I conclude by reiterating my congratulations to the National Director of the PCIC and to all its members.

I hereby declare open the ceremony celebrating the 12th Anniversary of the Scientific Police and Criminal Investigation Service.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão