



**SPEECH BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER  
OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**AGIO PEREIRA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR THE  
CHEGA! NATIONAL CENTRE I.P. CENTRE ARCHIVE BUILDING**

**“Archival Policies as a Source of Memory and Hope”**

**Chega! National Centre  
June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



Palácio do Governo  
Avenida Marginal  
Dili, Timor-Leste

Your Excellency, Prime Minister,

Your Excellencies, Members of the National Parliament,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Government,

Distinguished representatives of the diplomatic corps and development partners,

Representatives of State institutions,

Members of civil society,

Executive Director of the Chega! National Centre,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I participate today in the official inauguration of the new Archives Centre of the National Centre Chega! I.P., a facility that strengthens the nation's capacity to preserve, protect, and pass on Timor-Leste's historical memory to present and future generations.

We also celebrate International Archives Day, an occasion that reminds us that archives are much more than repositories of documents.

In a country like Timor-Leste, whose history has been marked by decades of conflict, resistance, and the struggle for self-determination, the preservation of memory assumes particular significance.

For this reason, public archives play a key role in promoting peace and reconciliation.

In this context, it is important to recall the unique role of the Chega! National Centre.

Established to implement the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation and the Commission for Truth and Friendship, the Chega! Centre has played a vital role in preserving the nation's collective memory, promoting human rights, advancing peace education, and strengthening reconciliation.

The institution's own motto—"From Memory to Hope"—perfectly encapsulates this mission.

Memory is not just a look back on the past. It is also a tool for building the future.

It is particularly symbolic that this new archive centre is being inaugurated right here, at the former Balide Prison/*Comarca* site.

A place deeply marked by the history of Timor-Leste, where, during the occupation, these facilities were associated with the repression of many Timorese fighting for freedom, self-determination, and the dignity of their people.

Today, this same space has taken on a new meaning.

It is a deeply symbolic and powerful transformation.

This inauguration also occurs at a particularly significant moment in our history.

Just a few weeks ago, on May 20<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the 24th anniversary of the Restoration of Independence.

A figure that corresponds to the 24 years of Indonesian occupation, from 1975 to 1999.

This historical coincidence gives us pause for thought.

Over the past 24 years of independence, we have built democratic institutions, consolidated peace, strengthened our international presence, and continued to develop the state.

But this journey can only be fully understood if we preserve the memory of the 24 years preceding the Restoration of Independence and of the sacrifices that made the freedom, we enjoy today possible.

Archives make this connection between the past and the future possible. They allow us to understand where we came from so that we can better decide where we want to go.

The new Archives Centre also marks an important step towards modernising records management in Timor-Leste.

For this reason, I welcome the seminar that will take place after this ceremony, which is dedicated to archival policies and cybersecurity.

The 9th Constitutional Government fully recognises this reality.

Therefore, the government is currently developing a set of legislative measures to strengthen the national framework for cybersecurity, information-system protection, and digital resilience.

The preservation of historical memory and the protection of digital information are now two inseparable aspects.

Ensuring the security of digital archives also means safeguarding the nation's memory so it remains protected and accessible to future generations.

Before concluding, I would like to express the Government's gratitude to UNESCO, KOICA, and all the partners who contributed to this project's success, as well as to the Executive Director and the team at the Chega! National Centre for their ongoing work to preserve our nation's historical memory.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This new Archives Centre is much more than just a building.

It is a commitment to the truth.

It is a commitment to remembrance.

It is a commitment to future generations.

It is a commitment to hope.

We do this to honour the memory of those who fought for our freedom and to ensure their legacy continues to inspire the generations who will carry on building Timor-Leste.

Thank you very much.