



PRIME
MINISTER

**ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSING
OF THE TIMOR-LESTE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS MEETING**

**20 June 2013
Dili**

Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the closing of this meeting with our Development Partners, I have to thank you again for joining us and for your valuable contributions. Together we are guided by the Strategic Development Plan and working to fight poverty and provide better living conditions for every Timorese citizen.

After the last two and a half days of work, we can conclude that we have enormous challenges ahead of us, but that these challenges also entail important opportunities for growing and developing Timor-Leste.

The various speeches delivered here can be summarised in an important message for our country: the problems Timor-Leste still faces are now viewed as challenges; the obstacles to our development can be overcome if we work together with responsibility and commitment.

The Government and other State institutions, our civil society, the private sector and our development partners have achieved an important landmark at this meeting. From now on, there is a strong and shared commitment to implementing the Strategic Development Plan.

We have never known the real circumstances of the country as thoroughly as we do today.

After overcoming initial difficulties in the State building process, including regular crises that threatened our national project, we have finally managed to find the path towards peace and stability, which are essential prerequisites for development.

The last few years have been characterised by structural reforms and while they may not have led to easily quantifiable outcomes they have set the foundation that allows us to be here today discussing the steps to be taken to provide the tangible results for our people for which they have waited so long.

I believe that we all considered this TLDPM to be different. We did not need to debate the policies required to put Timor-Leste on the right track, as it is clear that we already share a common vision.

Instead, we reflected together on how to do it well and in good time!

Timor-Leste took responsibility for analysing the state of the Nation. This exercise was undertaken and the results were set out in the Strategic Development Plan.

We have now taken another step, by establishing a mechanism that will enable the effective implementation of the Strategic Development Plan. The Development Policy Coordination Mechanism seeks to facilitate coordination among ministries, enable better

communication with the development partners and improve the systems for monitoring and evaluating the impact of development policies.

In short, we now possess the instrument that will allow us to implement our collective vision.

We want to make our vision a reality through a staged and operational program because we understand that to build a united and fair Nation requires small acts of change to be taken every single day.

And to do this, we must also have confidence!

This project requires the participation of all parts of our society, which is why I would like to acknowledge the active and conscientious role played by civil society organisations, which are promoting a culture of accountability and which are strengthening our decision making processes.

Concerns that have been raised have already been addressed in our work agenda. This includes the critical need to empower women in our society, the need to protect our most vulnerable, the promotion of a culture of transparency and accountability in public management, the need to give priority to health and education, the importance of regional balance, the modernisation of agriculture, the importance of inclusive development and the need to promote justice.

All these legitimate expectations are, and must be, addressed with an integrated and whole of government approach. Indeed, the priorities listed in the planning process are but part of an interdependent whole, like the strands in a taitai.

As such, this project requires us to work with the determination that we have always shown, knowing that it is by everyone and for everyone!

And so, I ask you not to limit yourself to a superficial or limited understanding of each individual goal and appreciate that they all contribute to realising our total vision. We know that the task ahead of us is immense and that there are no shortcuts that we can take. Even so, while we have a long way ahead of us, we believe that we are on the right track.

And we know that Timor-Leste is not the only country to have experienced an eventful last few years. The world itself has changed, raising new concerns about the development framework. We will need to be able to respond to these concerns.

Some of our major partners are themselves facing difficulties as a result of world economic conditions. I hope that this fact will make us even more responsible in pursuing our goals.

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

I am pleased that this meeting has come to an agreed compact on the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan. This compact has four important components. First we will be benchmarking progress on a quarterly basis linking the Strategic Development Plan with the New Deal and the Millennium Development Goals. Second, we are committed to strengthening coordination of the four sectors which are economic, social, infrastructure development and governance and institution building. Third, in 2014 we will establish a joint review mechanism. And the last commitment is to undertake a 2015 mid-term progress review, informed by the joint review mechanism, to hold ourselves accountable and report on our achievements.

After approving the consolidated matrices for putting the Strategic Development Plan into practice, we have reached another key moment for Timor-Leste, a new stage in which we need to work hard to achieve effective results.

Once again, and in conclusion, we know that we are not alone. Indeed, it would be arrogant of us to believe that we could deliver everything we are setting out to achieve without the ongoing assistance of our partners.

Our relationship is already a long one and becomes stronger with each step we take together in our nation building process. Let us honour the commitment we have made here together, so that we may ensure a brighter future for the Timorese people.

Thank you very much.

20 June 2013
Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão