

## **Summary of the Program of the IX Constitutional Government**

The IX Constitutional Government presented its Government Program to the National Parliament on July 13, 2023.

The Program of the IX Constitutional Government summarizes the main public policies to be adopted during the mandate with the aim of strengthening and optimizing the sectors of governance and their resources, shortening the path traced to transform the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Plan Development Strategy 2011-2030 into reality.

The Program consists of six main areas which are the reaffirmation of the democratic rule of law, the development of social capital, the development of infrastructures, the development of the economy, the consolidation of government and good governance and the fight against corruption.

The IX Constitutional Government of Timor-Leste during its mandate will give priority to the consolidation of the Democratic Rule of Law and to the resumption of the previously defined roadmap to fulfill the 'Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development'. The Government intends to carry out institutional strengthening and promote the country's economic and social development. Economic diversification, job creation and infrastructure improvement are also priorities, as well as the guarantee of territorial sovereignty and the implementation of the Maritime Borders Treaty with Australia. The Government emphasizes the importance of the participation of civil society and all the living forces of society in the construction of the State and in the search for the progress and well-being of all Timorese.

The development of social capital, which encompasses the health, education and quality of life of the population, is a fundamental priority for achieving a just and developed society. Investment in human capital will not only drive sustainable development, but also promote the inclusion, well-being and dignity of all Timorese people.

In this sense, the Government is committed to removing barriers to access to education, ensuring that all children and young people have access to quality education, regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. Education is seen as a fundamental right, being an essential tool for social and economic development, as well as for the creation of a healthy and prosperous society.

In its Program, the IX Government reaffirms the commitment to guarantee the right to health and medical assistance for all citizens, as established in the Constitution of the Republic. In this sense, the State will continue to promote the implementation of the National Health Policy and the National Strategic Plan for the Health Sector 2011-2030, with the aim of achieving a "healthy Timor-Leste" and fighting poverty through global development.

The Government's initiatives for the Health sector will be aimed at improving the provision of services, guaranteeing widespread access to quality health care and promoting efficiency, transparency and professionalism in the management of resources and infrastructure. The National Health System will be strengthened, with the training of health institutions, professionals in the area, medicine and equipment supply systems, as well as medical emergency systems. General objectives include improving the delivery of health care across the country, especially in remote areas and to disadvantaged populations. It also aims to improve resource management, decentralize health services, promote intersectoral coordination, review and improve the structure of the National Health System and establish partnerships with civil society, the private sector and development partners to improve public health and promote healthy habits throughout the country.

Recognizing that education, training and employment opportunities are fundamental instruments for escaping poverty, the State assumes the responsibility of guaranteeing access to the basic needs and well-being of National Liberation Combatants, women, children, poor families, seniors and people with disabilities. The IX Constitutional Government will continue to support these sections of the population, while developing policies and strategies aimed at reducing dependence on the State. Measures will be implemented to consolidate the National Social Protection Strategy, the General Social Security Regime Law and the National Social Security Institute. Social cohesion actions will also be promoted, the participation of women in decision-making positions, the protection and assistance of children in danger, as well as measures to support the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Recognizing the importance of youth in the consolidation of national unity, in the reconstruction, defense and development of the country and given that more than 50% of the national population is under 20 years old, the Government highlights the need to provide education, health and professional training to young people, in order to qualify them to become future leaders and contribute to the sustainable development of the country. To this end, the Government intends to implement the National Youth Policy and action plans that promote the development and autonomy of young people. The National Youth Development Council will be strengthened in order to ensure better coordination between public and private entities, encourage initiatives for young people and facilitate their insertion in the labor market. The establishment of youth associations, the construction of a National Youth Center in Dili and the improvement of existing Youth Centers will also be promoted, as well as the construction of Multifunctional Youth Centers in all municipalities. In addition, leadership training camps will be held and Youth Days will be promoted, covering areas such as languages, technology, art, music, sports and civic education.

The Government has as one of its main priorities the development and maintenance of productive infrastructures, recognizing the importance of these structures for the economic and social growth of the country. Thus, a detailed survey will be carried out of all infrastructures and projects in progress, with a view to carrying out an audit, reassessment, correction and restructuring of the infrastructure plan. Transparency, adequate planning, supervision and the quality of constructions will be valued aspects, as well as sustainability and the reduction of existing asymmetries in the country.

The infrastructure plan aims to fight extreme poverty in the country, providing better health conditions, education and access to basic infrastructure. Emphasis will be placed on access to primary, secondary and tertiary health care, improving the physical environment and providing clean and adequate housing. In addition, access to education, professional training, culture, water, basic sanitation, electricity and information and communication technologies will be promoted. Investment in basic public infrastructure for people with special needs will also be a priority, as will the creation of conditions for private investment, economic growth and job creation. The infrastructure construction process will be an opportunity to improve the skills and specialization of the local workforce.

For the IX Government, it is also urgent to strengthen investment in access to drinking water and basic sanitation, given that the lack of these infrastructures causes serious consequences for public health and the quality of life of people, resulting in the spread of diseases, mortality and negative impact on child development.

In terms of energy, the Government recognizes that access to a regular and reliable supply of electricity is a basic right and the foundation for economic growth in Timor-Leste, which is why the Government is committed to investing in the modernization and expansion of energy systems, including renewable energies, with the aim of benefiting urban and rural areas. It is also intended to explore national natural gas reserves in the Timor Sea, seeking partnerships with oil

companies for the development of the Greater Sunrise field and building gas processing facilities on the south coast of the country, aiming to use natural gas as a source of cheaper and more environmentally friendly energy for electricity production.

In transport, the IX Government's priority is to create conditions for economic growth, with the improvement of land, sea and air transport systems, and with investment in infrastructure and training of human resources. Measures will be implemented to improve the safety and efficiency of transport, including the development of regional ports, the expansion and modernization of port facilities, the revision of the Highway Code, and the creation of a weather forecast system to ensure safety on the road. air circulation. The aim is to promote economic and social development in rural and urban areas, strengthen the tourism sector and facilitate trade in people and goods.

In telecommunications, the Government will guarantee a reliable, quality and secure telecommunications network, promoting the digital economy, good governance and the socio-economic development of the population, with emphasis on the development of broadband networks and services and global connectivity.

In the economic sector, the Government intends to achieve economic diversification, boosting the productive sectors of agriculture, tourism and oil. It also intends to increase job creation, promote entrepreneurship and stimulate creativity, innovation and diversification of the national economy. In addition, the Government wants to capitalize on maritime resources in a sustainable way, adopting the Blue Economy as a new approach for the future of the country. This includes implementing a strategy for developing the Blue Economy, preserving ocean resources and promoting environmental, economic and social sustainability.

The Government will define a vision and a strategy, as well as determine the national value in terms of the Blue Economy, with the promotion of sustainable development, boosting economic growth and job creation, balancing economic activity with the capacity of ocean ecosystems and favoring the protection of the seas and oceans.

Agriculture is considered by the Government as the basis of the country's economic and social development. The improvement of this sector, associated with the improvement of the fishing and animal production sector, will have the short-term result of improving the quality and well-being of all Timorese. Thus, the Government's goal is to improve national food security, reduce rural poverty, support the transition from a subsistence culture to the entrepreneurial production of agricultural, livestock, fisheries and forestry products, promote environmental sustainability and the conservation of natural resources in Timor-Leste.

One of the pillars of Timor-Leste's future economic development is the oil and mineral resources sector. The Tasi Mane project, which aims to create two industrial hubs on the south coast, will boost economic growth, create jobs and generate direct and indirect economic benefits across the country. Investment in this project will have multiplier effects on the economy, stimulating other industrial sectors and benefiting local businesses.

In tourism, the Government will, in a planned and organized manner, develop a national strategy, without intending to compete with mass tourism in Southeast Asia, but being able to create synergies with other locations in the region, such as Flores, Moluccas and Kupang, in order to create and develop tour packages that attract visitors from Indonesia, Australia and other countries in Asia and the Pacific. In a global market that seeks new and authentic tourist offers, Timor-Leste can position itself with great competitiveness, especially in the region, guided by difference. For this reason, the Government intends to develop an effective tourist attraction strategy, where promotion and marketing will be fundamental to assert this competitiveness. In a first approach, investment will be made in promoting Community and Ecological Tourism, Adventure Tourism (including mountaineering, diving and snorkeling and other extreme sports),

Religious Tourism, Historical, Cultural and Ethnographic Tourism, Leisure and Bathing Tourism and Thermal Tourism.

The Government is committed to developing trade policies that promote the flow of products nationally and internationally, in order to increase exports and boost industrial growth. Regulatory measures and market expansion policies will be implemented, including marketing and public relations strategies to promote Timor-Leste and its products in the region and the world. In addition, the Government intends to strengthen the private sector, reinforce national logistics, build commercial infrastructure, develop mechanisms for certification and promotion of national products, and achieve full membership of the World Trade Organization and ASEAN.

In the industrial sector, the Government aims to diversify the economy, supporting the development of agroindustry, the transformation of raw materials, investments in infrastructure, business and technical training, and the establishment of industrial parks.

In the private sector, as one of the main drivers of the national economy, the Government is committed to creating favorable conditions for investment and entrepreneurship, including entrepreneurship policies, support for new businesses, incentives for the private sector, reform of the legal framework, studies investment, among other initiatives to promote sustainable growth and create jobs.

The IX Constitutional Government is committed to implementing structural changes in the economy in order to provide employment opportunities to the national population. Economic growth, together with the development of the agricultural and private sectors and investments in education and health, will result in a more skilled and productive workforce, which will contribute to economic growth. As the economy expands, an increase in the service sector is expected, which means more job opportunities, with a special focus on women. The Government has a comprehensive employment policy, which includes implementing the National Employment Strategy 2017-2030, creating jobs for youth, adults and women, combating precarious work, expanding work abroad, establishing Employment and Vocational Guidance Centers in each municipality, improvement of mechanisms for resolving disputes at work, and increasing the qualification of workers and career counseling programs for students.

Cooperatives, in particular agricultural cooperatives, are of strategic importance for national development. The formation of cooperatives is a way to encourage the growth of the private sector in rural areas and stimulate active participation in the national economic system. The Government will continue to invest in the training of human resources and institutional capacity, at the level of cooperatives, and to grant tools and equipment, raw materials and pecuniary concessions to improve their infrastructure and increase the quality of their products, with a view to expansion of markets and increased trade activities.

In order to prevent environmental deterioration, improve environmental management and protect the environment throughout the country, the Government of Timor-Leste has as its priority objectives in the area of the environment, strengthening the institutional and legal framework for the sustainable use of natural resources, promote environmental awareness and environmental education, improve intersectoral coordination to include environmental concerns in development programs, train institutions responsible for environmental management, and strengthen national and international partnerships for better environmental management.

Another of the great priorities of the IX Government is to proceed with government consolidation, with the objective of developing a modern and diversified economy. To this end, productive sectors will be strengthened, such as agriculture, tourism, oil and minerals, and manufacturing, taking advantage of the country's natural resources and geographic location. Creating jobs and stimulating entrepreneurship are essential to increase national productivity and promote sustainable economic growth.

To achieve these objectives, the Government plans to develop a National Planning Framework that defines the characteristics of each region and the growth potential of each sector. Administrative decentralization is also crucial so that each municipality can identify its potential and objectively plan economic strategies.

The Government's macroeconomic policy aims to create job opportunities, especially for young people, and to improve the well-being of the population, through inclusive and sustainable economic growth, diversification of the economy, promotion of private sector investment and strengthening fiscal sustainability.

In the financial sector, the Government intends to promote the development of the financial industry, including the financial market, to boost economic growth and facilitate investment in productive sectors.

The creation of the Timor-Leste Development Bank (BDTL) is also planned to facilitate access to long-term financing at accessible interest rates. In addition, the Government will support the expansion of the National Bank of Commerce of Timor-Leste (BNCTL) and promote access to credit, especially for small businesses and citizens in rural areas, through microcredit institutions and credit unions.

With regard to public finances, the Government will seek to improve fiscal policy and public finance management with transparency, accountability, efficiency and sustainability, including reforms in public finance management, tax collection, public debt mobilization, management of the Petroleum Fund, budget planning and execution and management of public funds and State assets.

These measures aim to strengthen the national economy, diversify sources of income, promote the development of the private sector and improve the quality of life of the population.

Good governance and the fight against corruption are also priorities for the IX Government, given that they are fundamental for the provision of quality public services and for the implementation of development policies. Transparency, accountability and leadership are essential principles that the Government will promote through audits, risk management mechanisms and the proper use of public funds.

The reform and modernization of the Public Administration are key objectives to improve its effectiveness and efficiency, to guarantee better public services. The decentralization of Public Administration will strengthen democratic participation and economic development at municipal and rural levels. Territorial organization, the promotion of rural development and the creation of local jobs are goals to improve the quality of life of the population.

The reform of the justice sector will also be carried out, in order to guarantee the rule of law and equal access to justice, as well as the strengthening of defense and security institutions, a crucial factor for stability and peace.

In terms of foreign policy, the Government will conduct a foreign policy that encourages bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation, promoting economic, social and cultural partnerships with other countries, essential for attracting investment and training the country's institutions and human resources.