



REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE

Press Statement

On the occasion of the 2009 TLDPM

4th April 2009

**“Despite the global financial crisis,
Timor-Leste is firmly fixed upon
The radar of Development Partners.”**

- The 2009 Timor-Leste development Partners Conference, themed “Goodbye Conflict-Welcome Development” concluded today in Dili. Presented at this conference was a forward looking, achievable plan of action allowing Government and Development Partners alike to walk forward together (*lao ba oin hamutuk*) with the aim of supporting Timor-Leste on its path towards development.
- The **Government wishes to express thanks** to the **45 Country and Multilateral Delegations**, along with representatives of the **UN family** and **representatives of Timor-Leste’s vibrant and active private sector and civil society**. The Government also wishes to **express its appreciation to the 24 delegations who took the floor yesterday to express their commitment and support to this nation while reaffirming their eagerness to align their programs with the Government’s medium to long-term development strategy**, in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, to be released later this year.
- It is clear that the global financial crisis will continue to impact upon the world’s economies, affecting both developed and developing countries alike. **Timor-Leste can no longer consider itself as invulnerable to the repercussions of such a crisis – however it is also clear that Timor-Leste is still firmly fixed on the radar of Development Partners.** The attendance of over 350 people from 31

countries with **US\$ 221 million confirmed funding** from Development Partners at this meeting stands as testament to this fact.

- All were in agreement that **Timor-Leste's development agenda must be firmly fixed to the lives of those residing in rural and remote regions of the country, a population which represents 76% of Timor –Leste's poor.** Rural infrastructure development, increased investment in human resources and rural job creation are the three pillars which will support much of what the Government wishes to achieve in 2009 in supporting Timor-Leste's rural population.
- The **Government pledges to ensure conditions for stability and political harmony are in place** so that the benefits of development may continue to be experienced by the people of Timor-Leste.
- The efforts of this Government in maintaining the peaceful, stable environment witnessed throughout the past year will continue with intensive reforms within the security and justice sectors to ensure this nation does not falter in its progress toward ensuring peace and security for its citizens.
- The TLDPM provided a forum for the **official launch of the Go TL's National Priorities for 2009 which are:**
 1. Agriculture & Food Security
 2. Rural Development
 3. Human Resources Development
 4. Social Protection & Social Services
 5. Security & Public Safety
 6. Clean & Effective Government
 7. Access to Justice
- The prime Minister also presented the **Second Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report for Timor-Leste which was jointly produced with the UN in time for the TLDPM.** The Government is committed to achieving the MDGs, despite the existing challenges and will integrate them in to its medium to long-term strategic development plan.
- **Gender is being mainstreamed in the 2009 National priorities** more systematically than last year, in recognition of the fact that rural women are important agents for development in the priority areas identified by the Government-END

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Media Unit