



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF TIMOR-LESTE
AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS MEETING

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Your Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I close this important meeting with the Development Partners of Timor-Leste, I would like to thank you for your presence and your valuable inputs, which only increase and enhance our cooperation as Partners in this great mission that is the development of Timor-Leste.

I have said it before and I will say it again today: the successes of Timor-Leste are and will always be the successes of our Development Partners!

By working together, in a true spirit of cooperation and openness, we will be able to proclaim for many years the story of how Timor-Leste lifted its People from poverty, with the help of the international community, by way of bold sustainable development programs and actions.

For this very reason, at this morning's opening session I spoke from the heart, with absolute straightforwardness and honesty. Indeed, straightforwardness and honesty are the things we expect and value from true friends and partners in a journey.

And, ladies and gentlemen, this is undoubtedly one of the more demanding journeys that can be undertaken by the community of nations in today's world: the search for successful solutions, or better yet arriving at solutions, so as to reduce poverty in Timor-Leste (and ultimately in the world).

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Government of Timor-Leste is halfway through its mandate and, having achieved one of the main goals of this mandate, that is to integrate the Vision of an entire people into a medium and long term strategic plan, we must not waste this opportunity to say that the best way for Partners to assist us in this development process is to understand us better.

The history of all countries is one of light and of shadows, and if we exist as a country it is because we are determined, and fully committed, when our dignity is in question.

And presently our dignity depends upon lifting our People from poverty, maintaining the stability and safety we have achieved and consolidating our institutions, as well as promoting true democratic participation in this process.

We need to make up for the time we lost with wars and sacrifices, and we need to build on the prosperity we have already achieved. I, therefore, call upon all stakeholders, both Timorese and partner countries, so that we may improve both the extent and the quality of our work.

And if I say Timorese and development partners, it is because I take this partnership very seriously!

We are aware of our weaknesses, our errors, our differences and the obstacles in our path, but we are united with undefeatable will to leave conflict behind so that we may welcome development!

And this was the reflection I proposed to you this morning. This is what I ask of you again: let us not forget the actual circumstances of Timor-Leste – what we were, what we are and what we want to be – and let us also not forget all the problems and difficulties that other brother and sister peoples are enduring throughout the world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year, this very month, a new chapter is beginning in the story of our future as a country. This is another challenge we must take on as we accept the collective responsibility of forging a better future.

The Strategic Development Plan reflects the choices of all Timorese citizens, and they will be the first to review, criticise and welcome its policies, before we move on to approval by the National Parliament and then to the stage of implementation.

The implementation process will be another difficult challenge for Timor-Leste, and even more so for our Development Partners, as they will have to align their priorities and channel their assistance according to the vision of the Timorese.

This is another challenge for international cooperation: the achievement of synergies, the coming together of doctrines and cultures and the alignment of resources. Still, despite the fundamental importance of technical assistance, this is not everything that we require. Moral support, ladies and gentlemen, often makes all the difference!

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I conclude my speech, I would like to thank all those that who have made this meeting possible: the World Bank, the United Nations, the Government members and staff, in particular those of the Ministry of Finance, for the organisation and success of this event.

Finally, I would like to convey my gratitude to the Development Partners for their cooperation and assistance to Timor-Leste, and even more so for their commitment and the consensus shown at today's meeting.

I believe that, with a spirit of even greater solidarity, honesty, communication and mutual respect, we can make this journey one of hope for a better future for all Timorese.

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

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