

Tetum iha pajina tuir mai.

Press Release

Meeting of the Council of Ministers on February 4th 2026

The Council of Ministers met at the Government Palace in Dili and approved the draft National Parliament Resolution Proposal presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Bendito dos Santos Freitas, and the Vice Minister for ASEAN Affairs, Milena Maria da Costa Rangel. The proposal aims to **approve Timor-Leste's accession to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption**.

The ASEAN Visa Exemption Framework Agreement, signed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on July 25, 2006, establishes a framework to facilitate travel within the region by exempting citizens of Member States from visa requirements for stays of up to 14 days. This measure aims to promote regional mobility, tourism, people-to-people exchanges, and the strengthening of relations among the region's peoples. The Agreement also provides that each Member State may grant visa exemptions for periods longer than 14 days, in accordance with its national legislation and/or bilateral agreements, thereby ensuring flexibility in defining its migration policies.

The Council of Ministers also approved the draft Government Resolution, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Bendito dos Santos Freitas, and the Vice Minister for ASEAN Affairs, Milena Maria da Costa Rangel, establishing the **National Council for the Organisation of the ASEAN Chairmanship of Timor-Leste in 2029**.

The National Council is the central inter-ministerial coordination body responsible for strategic guidance, planning, monitoring, and supervision of preparatory work and the implementation of the ASEAN Chairmanship, ensuring effective coordination among the relevant government entities, ASEAN mechanisms, and national and international partners.

The resolution establishes a three-tier governance structure comprising the National Council, its Executive Committee, and the ASEAN National Secretariat as a permanent operational coordination mechanism. The Executive Committee, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, as appointed by the Prime Minister, is responsible for the operational management and implementation of the National Council's decisions.

To ensure effective strategic coordination, five Sector Coordinators are also planned, who report to the Executive Committee and assume responsibility for infrastructure and facilities, human resources and institutional capacity building, security and public order, diplomacy and communication, and finance and operations, under the leadership of the respective competent ministries.

The Vice Minister for ASEAN Affairs, Milena Maria da Costa Rangel, also gave a **presentation to the Council of Ministers on Timor-Leste's participation in the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting**, held on January 27th and 28th, 2026, and the **ASEAN Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting**, which took place on January 29th, 2026, in Cebu, Philippines.

The presentation focused on the key discussions and decisions adopted, as well as on subsequent measures relevant to Timor-Leste in the context of the process of full integration into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including institutional and operational preparations, the national framework for the organisation's rotating presidency, scheduled for 2029, and the status of implementation of the Roadmap for Full Membership.

Komunikadu Imprensa

Sorumutu Konsellu Ministrus loron 4 fulan-fevereiru tinan 2026

Konsellu Ministrus hala'o sorumutu iha Palásiu Governu, Dili, no aprova projetu Proposta Rezolusaun Parlamentu Nasionál, ne'ebé apresenta husi Ministru Negósius Estranjeirus no Kooperasaun, Bendito dos Santos Freitas, no Vise-Ministra ba Asuntus ASEAN, Milena Maria da Costa Rangel, ne'ebé ho objetivu atu **aprova adezaun Timor-Leste nian ba Akordu-Kuadru ASEAN kona-ba izensaun vistu.**

Akordu-Kuadru ASEAN kona-ba Izensaun Vistu ne'e, asina iha Kuala Lumpur, Malázia, iha loron 25 fulan-jullu tinan 2006, estabelese baze hodi fasilita viajen iha rejiaun laran, liuhosi izensaun vistu ba estadia to'o loron 14 ba sidadaun Estadu-Membru sira. Medida ida-ne'e ho intensaun atu promove mobilidade rejionál, turizmu, interkámbiu umanu no hametin relasoins entre povu sira iha rejiaun ne'e. Akordu ne'e mós prevee katak Estadu-Membru ida-idak bele fó izensaun vistus ba períodu sira ne'ebé liu loron 14, tuir ninia lejizlasaun nasionál no/ka akordu bilateál sira, hodi garante fleksibilidade iha definisaun ninia polítika migratória.

Konsellu Ministru aprova mós projetu Rezolusaun Governu nian, ne'ebé apresenta husi Ministru Negósius Estranjeirus no Kooperasaun, Bendito dos Santos Freitas, no husi Vise-Ministra ba Asuntu ASEAN, Milena Maria da Costa Rangel, ne'ebé kria **Konsellu Nasionál ba Organizasaun Timor-Leste ninia Prezidénsia ASEAN iha tinan 2029.**

Konsellu Nasionál ne'e hanesan órgaun koordenasaun interministeriál sentráal ne'ebé responsavel ba orientasaun estratéjika, planeamentu, akompañamentu, no supervizaun ba serbisu preparatóriu hotu-hotu no realizasaun Prezidénsia ASEAN nian, garante artikulasan ne'ebé efikás entre entidade governamentál kompetente sira, mekanizmu ASEAN nian, no parseiru nasionál no internasionál sira ne'ebé envolve.

Rezolusaun ne'e define estrutura governasaun organizada iha nível tolu, ne'ebé kompostu husi Konsellu Nasionál, ninia Komité Ezekutivu, no Sekretariadu Nasionál ASEAN nian, hanesan mekanizmu permanente ba koordenasaun operasionál. Komité Ezekutivu ne'e, lidera hosi Ministru Negósius Estranjeirus no Kooperasaun, liuhusi dezignasaun Primeiru-Ministru, ne'ebé responsavel ba jestaun operasionál no implementasaun desizaun sira Konsellu Nasionál nian.

Atu garante koordenasaun estratéjika ne'ebé efikás, prevee mós Koordinadór Setoriál na'in lima, ne'ebé relata ba Komité Ezekutivu no asume responsabilidade iha área infraestrutura no instalasaun sira, rekursu umanu no kapasitasaun institusionál, seguransa no orden públika, diplomasia no komunikasaun, nune'emós finansas no operasaun sira, iha lideransa hosi sira nia ministériu kompetente ida-idak.

Vise-Ministra ba Asuntus ASEAN, Milena Maria da Costa Rangel, halo mós **aprezentasaun ida ba Konsellu Ministrus kona-ba partisipasaun Timor-Leste iha Sorumutu Funsionáriu Altu ASEAN nian (Senior Officials' Meeting), ne'ebé hala'o iha loronn 27 no 28 fulan-janeiru, 2026,** no iha **Sorumutu Ministrus Negósius Esntranjeirus ASEAN nian,** ne'ebé realiza iha loron 29 fulan-janeiru tinan 2026, iha Cebu, Filipina.

Aprezentasaun ne'e foka liu ba diskusaun no desizaun prinsipál sira ne'ebé adota ona, nune'e mós medida sira tuirmai ne'ebé relevante ba Timor-Leste iha ámbitu prosesu integrasaun plena iha Asosiasaun Nasoins Sudeste Aziátiku, inklui preparasaun institusionál no operasionál, enkuadruamentu nasionál iha prezidénsia rotativa organizasaun nian, ne'ebé prevee ba tinan 2029, no estadu implementasaun Roteiru ba Adezaun Plena.