



**Key Talking Points for
S.E. EMILIA PIRES, MINISTER OF FINANCE
Timor-Leste Annual Development Partners Meeting (TLDPM)
Opening Remarks**

**Dili, Timor-Leste
Thursday, 7 April 2010**

President of the National Parliament,
President of the Court of Appeals,
Prime Minister and all members of Government,
Honorable Members of Parliament,
SRSG Ms Haq
Vice President of ADB Mr Lawrance Greenwood
World Bank Country Manager,
Ambassadors of Timor-Leste,
Ambassadors and Heads of Delegations,
Heads of Agencies,
Representatives of the Church and Civil Society,
Representatives of the Private Sector,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

Welcome all, to the Annual Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting (TLDPM) for 2010.

This is a very exciting time for us. Not only are we hosting this Annual Development Partners meeting, Timor-Leste's eighth TLDPM, but we are also engaged in two more events in the following days: the g-7 Plus Country Partners meeting and the 2 days International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, sponsored by OECD.

I must say from the outset, how proud and honoured I am to be part of such events and even more proud that I am leading a very enthusiastic and dedicated team of workers who, I have to say, have demonstrated that there is no limit to what they can achieve.

When I left here last night around midnight there was still an electric atmosphere. Everyone wanted to achieve the best work that could be done. **And why?**

Because everyone wants to demonstrate how far we have come in these two and half years.

Everyday in cities around the world conferences like this happens as a norm. For us, it was an extraordinary step, a physical manifestation of what we can achieve together in the name of statebuilding.

To rehabilitate this venue in 54 days is short of a miracle. **This is planning, this is implementation, this is what can be achieved when we work together.**

From the paintings on the wall to the pavement on the ground, to the flags that are proudly hang out on every pole on the front of this building, from the documents on your desk, the food that you will eat, the plants and flowers alongside the corridors, it is all part of an incredible machine that is taken for granted in most places but for us it is a moment of glory. **This is collaboration ladies and gentlemen! Collaboration between the public sector, the private sector, good citizenry, and the desire for every person to show that everyone in this country can be exceptional in their own endeavors.**

We are going from fragility to agility and this, ladies and gentlemen, is an example of how to fast track development.

I dedicate this day to all the Timorese who have committed themselves to say goodbye conflict and welcome development. This my friends, does not happen when there is conflict. **This only happens when we have peace and stability and work hard.**

And don't underestimate what everyone of you sitting here today has contributed to these shared principles and values. In order to explore our possibilities and potentials, we **must firmly look at the realities through our eyes**, which is often difficult for us to express and for you to understand. But, if there is ever a time and a place, it is here, TODAY with you, our Development Partners.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I now introduce you to our Prime Minister Kay Xanana Gusmao who will give us a snapshot from where we have come, and a **vision of the journey to which TOGETHER we will WORK towards.**

Prime Minister, you have the floor!