

TZDPM W Bank

*Honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Xanana Gusmão,
Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Zacarias Albano da Costa,
Honorable Minister of Finance, Ms. Emilia Pires,
Honorable Ministers and representatives of the Government of Timor-Leste,
Members of the National Parliament,
Distinguished Guests,
Colleagues*

I would like to thank you for the invitation to take part in this development partners meeting. This is my first visit to Timor-Leste, and I feel privileged to be here with you today. Timor-Leste's history and prominence on the international scene far outweighs its size. This is to the credit of its leadership and its people and a testimony to the great work they are doing in the pursuit of freedom and development.

Mr. PM. Timor-Leste has a bright future ahead of it. It has a historic opportunity provided by the Petroleum Fund. Managing the pressing needs of today, "the fierce urgency of now", and investing in the pressing requirements of tomorrow will be crucial elements of this bright future we are all looking forward to. With the dedication shown by the Government, parliament, civil society and the support from the development partners, Timor is in an extremely good position to succeed.

This meeting is a gathering of partners of good will. What we want, what we are striving for, is true and full partnership. We view your development programs and priorities as ours and your vision for the future of this country will impact our own dialogue with your government and your people.

Looking ahead, investments in human development are of the utmost importance. Timor-Leste's youth are the real gold of this country. Investing in them, in their health and in their education will prove to be the best return on the dollar that this government can make. A healthy and educated young population can enter the labor market and launch the country into a new and rewarding path. These are long-term investments, with secured high rates of return. These are investments that need to be made now!

Mr. Prime Minister, colleagues, Timor-Leste will be hosting the first International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding this week. It is a timely reminder of the commitments we collectively made in Accra a year and a half ago. It is in the spirit of those commitments – constructive dialogue, mutual accountability, effective partnerships – that the Bank will participate in the Dialogue and support Timor-Leste's efforts to transition from a period of stabilization to a period of sustained growth and development.