



## FISCAL REFORM COMMISSION

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### Press Release

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### ***New policies for fees and charges to make payments easier and fairer***

*Dili*- The Ministry of Finance and the Fiscal Reform Commission today announced the start of a process to develop a new policy framework for the collection of fees and charges.

Fees and charges are a very important revenue source for the government, accounting for 25% of total non-oil revenues in Timor-Leste in 2016. Reforming fees and charges is one of the key pillars of the fiscal reform programme and is aimed to make collections and payments more efficient and equitable.

The Minister of Finance Santina JRF Viegas Cardoso said, "This is why the government is going through a comprehensive review of fees and charges. We want to make sure the systems work properly and will also take into consideration the needs of the poor."

The Ministry of Finance and the Fiscal Reform Commission are organizing comprehensive workshops with the wide range of government agencies that collect fees and charges, as well as with the private sector to see how they can contribute to the reforms.

The first of these workshops looks at how banks can support the government to provide better payment systems. "The private sector is really important to the economy of Timor-Leste and can help support the government's vision for future growth," said Fernanda Borges, Coordinator of the Fiscal Reform Commission. "The fiscal reform programme can only work with the support and cooperation of all sectors in society, including businesses, civil society and citizens."

"Banks can really help support the government's efforts to deliver better services to the people and to businesses," said Fernando Torrao Alves, Director General of BNU Bank.

Added David Dennis, CEO of ANZ Timor-Leste, "We can provide practical and easy-to-use electronic payment systems that will make it easier for the government to collect fees and charges, and make it easier for people to pay."

#### ***About the Fiscal Reform Commission***

*The Fiscal Reform Commission is a technical body established by the Sixth Constitutional Government of Timor-Leste, Resolution no. 26/2015, and mandated with assessing all current and new forms of revenue. Reforming fees and charges is one of the three key priority areas of the Fiscal Reform Commission who will work with relevant government agencies to guide and implement the reforms.*

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