

[Timor-Leste Ministry of Finance](https://www.mof.gov.tl/government-of-timor-leste-presents-the-2021-state-budget-and-the-national-vaccine-deployment-plan-to-the-...)

Government of Timor-Leste Presents the 2021 State Budget and the National Vaccine Deployment Plan to the Development Partners

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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão Auditorium, Ministry of Finance, Dili – The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health, on Friday morning, 19 of February 2021, presented the 2021 General State Budget and the National Vaccine Deployment Plan to the Development Partners at the Quarterly Development Partners Meeting (QDPM). It was the first Quarterly Meeting to be held in 2021.

This half-day QDPM kicked off with the presentation from the Minister of Finance, H.E. Rui Augusto Gomes and the Director General for Planning and Budgeting, Jose Alexander Carvalho on the Government’s policies on the economic recovery for both medium-term and long-term and the current status of the 2021 General State Budget.

In his opening remarks, Minister Gomes said, “This first 2021 Quarterly Development Partners Meeting is a very special moment for the Government and the Development Partners to share our views and commitments. We want to reactivate this Quarterly Meeting and make this a platform for constructive dialogue, building on the spirit and initiatives of partnership to move forward the economic recovery agenda.”

Minister also stated that the year 2020 was particularly the most challenging one. After two consecutive years of negative growth, the recovery in 2019 was not enough to create productive and decent jobs, raise incomes, and reduce inequalities. Despite these challenges, Timor-Leste will have to recover its economy and return to its growth path toward a more inclusive development, with people at the centre, where no one is left behind. “I believe that this can be realized, because partnerships between the Government and the Development Partners have produced results,” he added.

During the day, the Ministry of Health presented the Government Health Sector COVID-19 Responses and the National Vaccine Deployment Plan. The presentation was followed by a joint presentation from the Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, H.E. Peter Roberts the representative of the World Health Organization, Dr. Arvind

Mathur on the COVID-19 health response efforts and the development partners' activities related to the vaccine rollout plan, thus provided a full picture of the shared efforts towards an effective vaccine rollout and the potential areas for additional support.

On the same occasion, the Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Timor-Leste also presented the role of the Commission for Coordination and Monitoring of Institutional Reforms. This Commission was established in August last year to streamline the VIII Constitutional Government's commitment to continue the previous government's major reforms, namely the Fiscal and Public Financial Management Reforms and the State Asset Management Reform.



The meeting was concluded with the Development Partners Tour de Table where each participants provided high-level updates on their existing activities and congratulated the Government of Timor-Leste for organizing the QDPM and success in managing COVID-19 transmission in the country. Furthermore, the Development Partners expressed their steadfast commitment in continuing to support the Government in accessing COVID-19 vaccines for Timor-Leste and to the implementation of the economic recovery plan.

In her closing remarks, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, H.E. Dra. Adaljiza Magno expressed her appreciation for the continued support and commitment from the Development Partners in assisting the Government of Timor-Leste. Those support and commitment have been in the forms of response to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically on the access to vaccines for Timorese citizens, and advancing the economic recovery plan. Additionally, Minister Magno also expressed her wishes that the Development Partners meeting can further reinforce and strengthens cooperation and coordination between the Government and the Development Partners.

This QDPM meeting was Chaired by the Minister of Finance, H.E. Rui Augusto Gomes and co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, H.E. Dra. Adaljiza Magno. The meeting was participated by the representatives from the relevant members of the Government, Diplomatic Corps, Development Partners, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations and the Media.

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