

Australia, Timor urge progress on Greater Sunrise gas field

SYDNEY, Jan 28 (Reuters) - Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his East Timor counterpart, Xanana Gusmao, on Wednesday said the Greater Sunrise gas project should be developed "as soon as possible", with Australia pledging a third of its state revenue to its small neighbour.

Albanese, [on his first visit as leader](#) to Australia's northern neighbour, struck a new partnership agreement with Gusmao on Wednesday covering deeper defence ties between the two nations, border security and economic development.

The visit comes as the tiny Catholic nation, which is being courted by China, continues its push to build [a liquefied natural gas plant](#) on its south coast instead of piping the gas to a plant in the Australian city of Darwin.

After decades of delays, Australia's Woodside Energy and East Timor agreed in December to study a 5 million metric ton project for the Greater Sunrise fields, an area containing an estimated 5.1 trillion cubic feet of gas that Australia has been discussing, initially with Indonesia, since the 1980s.

A joint statement from the two leaders, distributed by Australia, said the two countries "share an ambition for Greater Sunrise to be developed as soon as possible for the benefit of both states."

Australia said it will establish an infrastructure fund in East Timor, allocating 10% of total state revenue from the project, "funded entirely from Australia's share of future revenue."

"This commitment will see at least a third of Australia's revenue from the project being provided to Timor-Leste via the Infrastructure Fund," the statement said.

The statement noted East Timor's preference for the onshore processing of gas.

"Australia will support any commercially viable solution to develop Greater Sunrise proposed by the Sunrise Joint Venture consistent with the Maritime Boundary Treaty," the statement said.

The national oil company Timor Gap owns more than 56% of the field, located about 140 km (87 miles) south of East Timor and more than 400 km from Darwin.

The governments will accelerate negotiations for the project and they urged the Sunrise Joint Venture to present a development concept as soon as possible, the statement said.

Reporting by Kirsty Needham in Sydney; Editing by Thomas Derpinghaus

Australia and Timor-Leste Push to Fast-Track Giant Offshore Gas Project

Oilprice.com Jan 28, 2026. By Tsvetana Paraskova

Australia and Timor-Leste call for the Greater Sunrise offshore gas project to be developed as soon as possible, the two countries [said](#) in a joint declaration on Wednesday, as Australia looks to boost its domestic gas supply.

The Greater Sunrise fields, [operated](#) by Australia's Woodside Energy, are located north-west of Darwin, Australia, but are closer to the south of Timor-Leste.

After years of delays and negotiations, Australia and Timor-Leste signed in 2019 a new maritime boundary treaty, paving the way for negotiations between the governments and the Sunrise Joint Venture on a new Greater Sunrise production sharing contract.

In today's declaration of a new partnership for a new era, Australia committed to transferring at least a third of Australia's revenue from the project to Timor-Leste via an Infrastructure Fund it would establish.

"Australia and Timor-Leste commit to working closely together and with the Sunrise Joint Venture in good faith to develop an ambitious timeline to conclude the Petroleum Mining Code, Greater Sunrise Production Sharing Contract, and fiscal regime framework required under the Maritime Boundary Treaty, thus enabling concrete progress towards development of the resource," the countries said.

Australia and Timor-Leste encouraged the Sunrise Joint Venture to make use of a 2024 independent study and present to the states as soon as possible a Development Concept proposal for Greater Sunrise that can satisfy the requirements of the Maritime Boundary Treaty.

"We also commit to supporting the Sunrise Joint Venture to progress the project swiftly upon the States' approval of a single Development Concept," Australia and Timor-Leste said.

At the end of last year, Woodside Energy noted a [significant milestone](#) in unlocking the value of the Greater Sunrise gas fields after signing a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Timor-Leste to carry out studies and activities to mature a Timor-based LNG concept (TLNG).

Woodside will carry out commercial and technical maturation activities for a greenfield Timor-based approximately 5 million tonne per annum LNG concept with a domestic gas facility and a helium extraction plant.

"These activities will run in parallel to the ongoing negotiation of the fiscal, regulatory, and legal frameworks to support the upstream development of the Greater Sunrise fields between the Sunrise Joint Venture, Timor-Leste, and Australian governments," Woodside said in November.

The West Australian

Australia, East Timor promise to supercharge stalled gas project

Katina Curtis Wed, 28 January 2026 8:00AM



📷 Anthony Albanese is driven in a mini-moke by Timor-Leste's President Jose Ramos Horta. Credit: MICK TSIKAS/ AAPIMAGE

[Australia](#) and East Timor have pledged to develop a long-stalled gas project as soon as possible under a new agreement that further cements Australia's position as the Pacific's preferred security partner.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his counterpart Xanana Gusmao announced the "new partnership for a new era" – or *Partnersia Foun ba Era Foun* – in Dili on Wednesday afternoon after being greeted by hundreds of children.

The comprehensive agreement commits both sides to ongoing cooperation, consultation and mutual respect for sovereignty while strengthening defence, policing and economic ties.

"A new partnership for a new era, elevating the friendship between Timor-Leste and Australia to a new level, the first of its kind between our two nations," Mr Albanese said.

"We live in uncertain times with a lot of turbulence around the world. We are reliable partners and we can cooperate in the development of the vision that we both share for a peaceful, stable and prosperous region."

In a joint statement, the leaders said their countries “share an ambition for Greater Sunrise to be developed as soon as possible”, after the negotiations over the gas fields have dragged on for years.

A maritime boundary treaty was finally struck in 2019 but the companies involved in the project have stalled over where to process the gas.

“Guided by the same spirit of friendship and cooperation in which we agreed the treaty and facilitated the Sunrise Joint Venture’s carrying out of the historic independent concept study in 2024, Australia and Timor-Leste commit to working closely together and with the Sunrise Joint Venture in good faith to develop an ambitious timeline,” the leaders said.

For years, East Timor has pushed for gas from the project in the Timor Sea to be processed on the country’s south coast. But the companies behind the development have, until recently, insisted it would be cheaper to process in Australia.

After their talks on Wednesday, the two leaders said in their statement that “Australia acknowledges Timor-Leste’s commitment to onshore processing” and would support “any commercially viable solution to develop Greater Sunrise proposed by the Sunrise Joint Venture”.

Mr Gusmao told reporters that he’d impressed on Mr Albanese the importance of gas from the project being processed onshore in East Timor.

“This is essential for our national development . . . (the) development of Greater Sunrise will provide jobs and opportunities for young Timorese to gain skills and participate in emerging industries,” he said.

Negotiations over the maritime boundary treaty were marred after it emerged that Australian spy agencies had bugged Timorese government offices in 2004 to gain an upper hand in talks.

Under the new partnership, the number of Timorese working in Australia will increase from 5000 to 10,000 over the next two years.

Australia will also increase to \$20 million the funding it is providing East Timor for technical support and building the capability underpinning it becoming ASEAN’s newest member nation.

The leaders have also agreed to stronger cooperation between defence, policing, border security and cybersecurity agencies.

Two new programs, one private sector and one humanitarian development, will improve the quality and reach of health, education and disability services in East Timor.

Dili and Canberra accelerate talks on Greater Sunrise Development



Timor-Leste's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese sign the New Partnership for a New Era between the two countries at the Government Palace in Dili on wednesday, january 28, 2026

DILI, 28 january 2026 (TATOLI) – Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese’s two-day visit to Timor-Leste has resulted in a renewed commitment by both governments to accelerate the development of the Greater Sunrise gas field under a new bilateral partnership.

On wednesday, january 28, Timor-Leste’s Prime Minister, Xanana Gusmão, and his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, signed the New Partnership for a New Era at the Government Palace in Dili, marking a new chapter in bilateral relations between the two countries.

According to the joint declaration establishing a “New Partnership for a New Era” under Pillar Two: Prosperity and Resilience, Australia and Timor-Leste share an ambition for Greater Sunrise to be developed as soon as possible for the benefit of both States as envisioned by the historic Maritime Boundary Treaty.

“I bring good news on the Greater Sunrise Project. The agreement we signed today recognises how important this project is for both our nations, and particularly for Timor-Leste’s economic development,” said Prime Minister Albanese during the joint press conference in Dili today.

Australia and Timor-Leste “commit to working closely together and with the Sunrise Joint Venture in good faith to develop an ambitious timeline to conclude the Petroleum Mining Code, Greater Sunrise Production Sharing Contract, and fiscal regime framework required under the Maritime Boundary Treaty, thus enabling concrete progress towards development of the resource.

“We are very pleased that today we agreed to accelerate our negotiations to finalise the Petroleum Mining Code, the Production Sharing Contract and the Fiscal regime expeditiously,” Prime Minister Gusmão said during the joint press conference.

He reaffirmed Timor-Leste's position that natural gas from the Greater Sunrise field must be piped and developed onshore in Timor-Leste.

"Timor-Leste's position on Greater Sunrise has always been clear – the natural gas from Greater Sunrise must be processed onshore in Timor-Leste," Gusmão said.

He highlighted that the development of Greater Sunrise is crucial for Timor-Leste's national development and long-term economic strength.

"I reinforced with the Australian Prime Minister that Timor-Leste is committed to progressing Greater Sunrise in a manner that is commercially sound, technically robust and aligned with the interests of our people," Gusmão stressed.

Australia's Minister for Resources and Timor-Leste's Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources further commit to close bilateral engagement, over the coming months, to directly oversee accelerated negotiations to finalise the above documents expeditiously.

Both governments encouraged the Sunrise Joint Venture to make use of Study and present to the States as soon as possible a Development Concept proposal for Greater Sunrise that can satisfy the requirements of the Maritime Boundary Treaty.

"We also commit to supporting the Sunrise Joint Venture to progress the project swiftly upon the States' approval of a single Development Concept," read the declaration. "Australia acknowledges Timor-Leste's commitment to onshore processing and to the south coast Tasi Mane project."

Australia will support any commercially viable solution to develop Greater Sunrise proposed by the Sunrise Joint Venture consistent with the Maritime Boundary Treaty.

The declaration stressed that a stable, independent and prosperous Timor-Leste will be a beacon for other States in the region and is important to Australia. "This is critical to advance our shared goal of ensuring the project supports economic diversification in Timor-Leste and delivers long-term sustainable socio-economic benefits for its people. Development of Greater Sunrise should support the economic, political and social stability of Timor-Leste, to which Australia is strongly committed."

Canberra pledged technical assistance and a financial mechanism linked to future revenues.

"Australia would also establish an Infrastructure Fund to be used in Timor-Leste and allocate to it a fixed 10% share of total States' upstream revenue from the Greater Sunrise project, funded entirely from Australia's share of future revenue," read the statement.

Australia would establish the Fund once any commercially viable solution proposed by the commercial parties is agreed by the States consistent with the requirements of the Maritime Boundary Treaty. "This commitment will see at least a third of Australia's revenue from the project being provided to Timor-Leste via the Infrastructure Fund," the statement added.

The proposed fund would be created once a commercially viable solution is agreed, and would be co-designed "in the spirit of partnership, with respect for Timor-Leste's sovereignty.

The new partnership marked a significant outcome of Albanese's visit, signalling renewed momentum for Greater Sunrise and a strengthened economic partnership between the two neighbours.

Australia and Timor-Leste establish new partnership to promote cooperation.

Unofficial translation from Lusa January 28, 2026

The Prime Ministers of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmão, and Australia, Anthony Albanese, announced today the establishment of a new partnership to promote cooperation, create jobs and develop the Greater Sunrise gas field.

"We have agreed to establish a new partnership for a new era, one that reflects the maturity of our relationship and our shared future," said the Timorese head of government in a joint statement to the press.

Xanana Gusmão explained that the bilateral meeting focused on promoting development and job creation, but also on the Greater Sunrise natural gas exploration project.

"We reaffirm our shared commitment to the development of Greater Sunrise," stressed the Timorese Prime Minister, reiterating Timor-Leste's position on natural gas processing off the country's southern coast.

"This is essential for our national development and for the long-term strength of our country. The development of Greater Sunrise will provide jobs and opportunities for young Timorese to acquire skills and participate in emerging sectors," said Xanana Gusmão.

The Prime Minister also said that it was agreed to "accelerate negotiations to finalize, as soon as possible, the Oil Mining Code, the Production Sharing Contract and the tax regime".

The Australian Prime Minister, who began a 24-hour official visit to the country today, highlighted that the "new partnership for a new era," signed today, elevates the "friendship between Timor-Leste and Australia to a new level, the first of its kind" between the two countries.

"This partnership consolidates our cooperation in the areas of economic security, development and people-to-people relations, across all domains. This is a very comprehensive agreement, recognizing mutual respect for national sovereignty and our shared commitment to continue cooperating and consulting with each other, not only between our two countries, but also in joint work with other partners," said Anthony Albanese.

The Australian Prime Minister said he wants to increase the number of Timorese workers in Australia to 10,000 and increase funding for technical assistance and capacity building for civil servants, as part of Timor-Leste's accession to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Anthony Albanese also announced two new cooperation programs, namely a private sector development initiative and a human development initiative to improve the quality and reach of essential health, education, and disability support services.

After landing at the international airport in the Timorese capital, Anthony Albanese was greeted on his way to the Presidential Palace by thousands of Timorese children and driven by the Head of State, José Ramos-Horta, in a Mini Moke.

Regarding the visit, the Timorese head of state emphasized that Timor-Leste and Australia are like family.

"Our shared history, our common values, and our commitment to peace and prosperity unite us. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to walk side by side towards a future of security, opportunity, and lasting friendship," added José Ramos-Horta.

The Australian Prime Minister will participate today in a formal session in the National Parliament and an official dinner at Lahane Palace in Dili, returning to Australia on Thursday morning.

Australia to hand Timor-Leste billions in gas revenue, countering Chinese government

Australian Financial Review, 28 Jan 2026. By Michael Read, Angela Macdonald-Smith

Australia will donate at least a third of the revenue it would receive from the Greater Sunrise gas development to Timor-Leste as part of a new partnership with the South-East Asian nation, as the government looks to counter China's influence in the region.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese made the announcement alongside his Timor-Leste counterpart Xanana Gusmao as the pair signed a joint declaration committing to further economic, defence and cultural ties.

The Albanese government has tried to strengthen Australia's links with its South-East Asian and Pacific neighbours after the Solomon Islands stunned the region in 2022 by striking a secretive defence pact with Beijing. The Australian government has since inked far-reaching security agreements with Tuvalu, Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

China and Timor-Leste signed a comprehensive partnership in 2023. The Timor-Leste government previously warned it would not upgrade its security relationship with Australia without progress on Greater Sunrise.

The partnership with Timor-Leste, while not a security agreement, includes measures to deepen co-operation, including a commitment that the gas from Greater Sunrise would be processed in the country.

Australia will also establish an infrastructure fund for Timor-Leste, funded from Australia's share of the revenue, meaning at least a third of Australia's earnings from the project will be provided to the nation.

Sunrise lies partly in waters jointly administered by the two nations, requiring a framework to be agreed by the governments and the gas venture on fiscal and regulatory terms for development that is still under negotiation.

A Woodside spokeswoman welcomed the commitment of the two governments to support the acceleration of the administrative regime for Sunrise but pointed to the work still outstanding before the venture could move forward, including "fiscal, regulatory and legal frameworks".

The Greater Sunrise complex, which would cost several billion dollars based on similar projects, would involve a 5 million tonne-per-year LNG plant, a domestic gas facility and a helium extraction unit. Now called TLNG, production could start as early as 2032-35, subject to approvals and economics.

The 5.1 trillion cubic feet Sunrise and Troubadour fields, which lie about 450 kilometres north-west of Darwin and 150 kilometres south of Timor-Leste, have remained untapped since they were discovered in the mid-1970s.

Woodside Energy struck a deal with the Timor-Leste petroleum ministry in November to progress the project, after the company in early 2023 dropped its insistence that gas from the Timor Sea field be developed through an existing LNG hub in Darwin. However, no agreement has been reached on how the field would be developed.

The Timor-Leste government, which owns a majority stake in Sunrise after buying out Shell and ConocoPhillips in 2018, has long held the view the gas must be piped to a plant on its southern coast, generating jobs and economic activity for the impoverished nation.

Development concepts considered over the years have included floating LNG, though that was deemed too risky by Timor-Leste, which lost its main source of revenue earlier this year when the Bayu-Undan gas field ceased production.

Albanese said there was a deep reservoir of respect, friendship and solidarity between the Timorese and Australian people.

"These connections are deeply personal, forged through shared experiences during the Second World War, the Timorese struggle for independence, and the vibrant Timorese diaspora in Australia," he said.

Albanese in Dili after Asean: Neighbourhood diplomacy in a more complicated region

Khoo Ying Hooi in Malay Mail. 29 Jan 2026

Anthony Albanese's visit to Timor-Leste on January 28–29 takes place in a regional setting that has shifted in quiet but consequential ways. Since October 26, 2025, Timor-Leste is no longer an Asean aspirant but a full member of the organisation. This does not transform the country's regional position overnight, but it does alter the diplomatic frame within which Australia now engages Dili.

The visit, therefore, is about how Australia responds to a neighbour whose regional status has changed, even if the structural asymmetries in the bilateral relationship have not entirely disappeared. The significance of Albanese's presence lies less in symbolism than in whether Australia recalibrates its assumptions about Timor-Leste's role, as a regional participant rather than solely a recipient of assistance or a peripheral strategic concern.

This recalibration is reflected in the joint declaration signed during the visit, which frames the relationship as a "New Partnership for a New Era." The language is deliberately forward-looking, emphasising mutual respect, sovereignty, and shared regional responsibility. Yet the declaration's significance lies less in its aspirational tone than in what it implicitly acknowledges, that Timor-Leste's regional standing has shifted, even if the underlying power imbalances between the two countries remain.



Australia' Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (right) reacts in an open-top car owned and driven by East Timor's President Jose Ramos-Horta upon his arrival in Dili, East Timor on January 28, 2026. — AFP pic

For Timor-Leste, Asean membership represents long-sought recognition of regional belonging, but it also exposes the country more directly to Asean's internal contradictions. Membership has not resolved the organisation's tensions between democratic norms and political practice, or between consensus and accountability. Instead, Timor-Leste's accession has brought these contradictions into sharper relief, particularly for a small state whose political identity has been shaped by resistance, post-conflict reconciliation, and an explicit commitment to democratic institutions.

Albanese's visit thus intersects not only with bilateral diplomacy, but with broader questions about Asean's evolving political character at a time of democratic regression and geopolitical strain. Timor-Leste's presence within Asean does not make the organisation more democratic by default, but it does introduce a different political vocabulary, one that occasionally sits uneasily with Asean's preference for restraint and non-interference.

Notably, the joint declaration explicitly situates Australia's engagement with Timor-Leste within this new Asean context, committing Canberra to support Dili's effective participation as Asean's newest member. This matters because it subtly shifts the diplomatic register from bilateral assistance to regional embeddedness. Australia is no longer engaging Timor-Leste only as a neighbour, but as a state whose regional voice now circulates through Asean's institutional and political structures.

Australia's relationship with Timor-Leste remains shadowed by history. From Canberra's early recognition of Indonesia's occupation, to the decisive but belated intervention in 1999, and later to the fraught maritime boundary negotiations, the relationship has oscillated between partnership and imbalance. The eventual settlement of the Timor Sea boundary marked a legal and diplomatic correction, but it did not erase accumulated mistrust. These historical episodes continue to shape how sovereignty, fairness, and power are perceived in Dili.

The declaration's renewed commitment to advancing the Greater Sunrise project, framed as a cooperative and commercially viable endeavour consistent with the maritime boundary treaty, therefore carries symbolic weight beyond economics. For Timor-Leste, energy development remains inseparable from questions of dignity, delayed justice, and economic self-determination. For Australia, support for this agenda functions as both reassurance and test; whether past corrections translate into sustained political commitment rather than episodic gestures.

Timor-Leste's Asean membership complicates this dynamic without overturning it. The country now operates within a multilateral setting that affords it greater diplomatic visibility, but not necessarily greater leverage. Albanese's visit therefore raises a subtle but important question. Will Australia engage Timor-Leste as a regional actor whose voice now resonates through Asean, or continue to approach the relationship primarily through a bilateral and developmental lens?

From Canberra's perspective, Timor-Leste's Asean membership also has implications for how Australia conceptualises its neighbourhood. Asean's geographical and political reach now extends closer to Australia's immediate strategic environment, further blurring the long-invoked distinction between Southeast Asia and Australia's "near abroad." This reinforces a familiar challenge for Australian foreign policy: translating rhetorical commitments to Asean centrality into sustained, institutionally embedded engagement.

Australia's relationship with Asean has long been pragmatic rather than transformative. While the Albanese government has shifted tone by emphasising respect, consultation, and listening, it continues to balance values-based language with strategic caution. That balance becomes more delicate when viewed through Timor-Leste's position within Asean, particularly as Canberra navigates competing priorities related to security, economic integration, and regional stability.

Timor-Leste has, since joining Asean, shown a tentative willingness to articulate normative concerns around people-centred governance and human rights. These interventions have been measured rather than confrontational, reflecting an awareness of Asean's political culture and the constraints facing a new and small member state. The question is not whether Timor-Leste will "democratise" Asean, but whether it can, over time, widen the space for normative conversation without being marginalised.

China remains an unspoken but ever-present backdrop. Timor-Leste has deepened ties with Beijing alongside its relationships with Australia, Japan, and other partners, reflecting a broader Southeast Asian pattern of strategic diversification rather than alignment. Since joining

Asean, Timor-Leste's engagement with China is increasingly mediated through regional frameworks, complicating any attempt to interpret its foreign policy through a zero-sum lens. The joint declaration's careful language on regional peace and cooperation reflects this same sensibility, avoiding overt alignment while reinforcing Timor-Leste's preference for balance and strategic autonomy.

At home, Asean membership has also raised expectations that will not be easily met. Economic diversification beyond petroleum revenues, youth employment, and sustainable development remain pressing challenges. Asean integration offers new pathways, but also exposes Timor-Leste to competitive pressures for which its institutions are still adapting. Australia's engagement should therefore be assessed less by the optics of high-level visits than by whether it supports Timor-Leste's long-term capacity to participate meaningfully within Asean.

Ultimately, Albanese's visit to Dili marks less a resolution than a recalibration shaped by Timor-Leste's new position within Asean. Membership has not elevated Timor-Leste beyond the structural limits facing small states, nor has it resolved Asean's own tensions between normative aspiration and political practice. Instead, it has inserted Australia-Timor-Leste relations into a more complex regional setting, where bilateral gestures are increasingly filtered through multilateral expectations, constraints, and silences.

In this sense, the visit tests not only Australia's neighbourhood diplomacy, but its understanding of V itself. Engaging Timor-Leste as an Asean member requires Australia to reckon with an organisation that prizes consensus over contestation, stability over accountability, and restraint over normative clarity. Whether Canberra can support Timor-Leste's cautious navigation of these contradictions without defaulting to a purely strategic or instrumental reading of Asean will shape how meaningful this "new partnership" becomes in practice.

** Khoo Ying Hooi, PhD is an associate professor at Universiti Malaya. This piece has benefited from recent conversations in Dili.*

*** This is the personal opinion of the writer or publication and does not necessarily represent the views of Malay Mail.*

Australia and Timor-Leste: A New Partnership for a New Era

With the *Parseria Foun ba Era Foun* declaration, Australia and Timor-Leste hope to build a partnership grounded in equality, shared regional interests, and respectful cooperation between neighbors.

By Grant Wyeth in The Diplomat, 20 Feb. 2026

In late-January, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Timor-Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão announced a Joint Declaration on establishing a *Parseria Foun ba Era Foun* (“new partnership for a new era”), hoping to expand the friendship between the two countries, and move past recent diplomatic friction – over the maritime boundary and Australia’s [alleged espionage](#) – that has prevented greater cooperation.

The declaration identifies three pillars for the relationship: peace and regional integration, prosperity and resilience, and people-to-people and institutional links. It commits the two countries to deepening cooperation on security, economic development, labor mobility, disaster response, and institutional exchange, while acknowledging mutual respect for sovereignty and support for international law.

Central to the declaration is the enhancement of economic and [development cooperation](#). The agreement focuses on boosting Timor-Leste’s development capacity, recognizing Australia’s role in providing technical assistance, trade partnerships, and investment. Timor-Leste, in turn, stands to gain vital expertise and resources, which will empower the nation to become more self-sufficient. The expansion of educational exchanges and collaborative research initiatives is also anticipated, strengthening the ties between the two countries’ future generations.

Alongside this, Australia and Timor-Leste have committed to strengthening their [defense relations](#). The partnership addresses shared concerns over regional security challenges, including natural disasters, maritime security, and the rise of new geopolitical dynamics. Through joint training exercises, intelligence sharing, and coordination in multilateral forums, the partnership aims not just to enhance Timor-Leste’s own defense capabilities, but to foster trust and mutual understanding. Ultimately, this will contribute to broader regional stability.

These security challenges are extended to environmental sustainability and climate action. The declaration emphasized collaboration on sustainable development practices, resource management, and disaster risk reduction. Timor-Leste is heavily reliant on its natural resources, and Australia’s expertise in environmental management can be vital to advancing and maintaining Timor-Leste’s agriculture and fisheries sectors.

Central to the declaration is forging stronger [people-to-people links](#). There is a significant Timorese diaspora in Australia of around 20,000 people, many of whom arrived following Indonesia’s invasion of Timor-Leste in 1975. However, the declaration highlights the need for greater mobility and engagement between citizens of each country. Increased cultural exchange programs, tourism, and enhanced education opportunities are key areas of focus.

The declaration highlights the importance of Community Friendship Groups, the [Australian Volunteers Program](#), the [Australian NGO Cooperation Program](#), and [Australia Awards scholarships](#) in enhancing these links. It also states the objective of boosting labor mobility through Australia's [Pacific Australia Labor Mobility](#) (PALM) scheme, which Timor-Leste participates in alongside Pacific countries. The goal is to see 10,000 Timorese workers in Australia by 2027-28.

The declaration's emphasis on mutual respect is an attempt by Australia to shift public perceptions in Timor-Leste, which have been shaped by past disputes. Although the maritime boundary was resolved in 2018, following a U.N.-led conciliation process, there remains some dispute over the Greater Sunrise oil and gas fields that lie upon it. While royalty ownership has been decided, discussions remain ongoing about how the gas should be transported, and whether it should be piped to Timor-Leste or to an Australian facility.

Timor-Leste sees the development of industry and capabilities as essential to its future, and therefore wishes to build processing facilities on-shore. Australia argues that pumping oil and gas to facilities in Darwin would mean Timor-Leste would be able to have an immediate cash injection from royalties. The dispute has [created a stalemate](#), with the companies negotiating to exploit the field far keener on processing its resources in Darwin.

As part of the new declaration, Australia will create an infrastructure fund for Timor-Leste that will be financed from 10 percent of Australia's share of the revenue from the Greater Sunrise Project. The caveat is that this money will only appear once the companies involved agree on a viable plan for developing the project.

The Parseria Foun ba Era Foun declaration is more than a diplomatic communiqué; it's a blueprint for a bilateral relationship that hopes [to build a partnership](#) grounded in equality, shared regional interests, and respectful cooperation between neighbors. Of course, this relies on the Greater Sunrise Project moving forward, where Dili has bet much of its future.

OPINION

Australia's friendship with Timor-Leste has always come second to its hunger for oil and gas

Suhailah Ali



Australia is entering a "New Partnership for a New Era" with Timor-Leste. It should not be a "New Era" for fossil fuels.

Fri 30 Jan 2026 15:00



Photo: AAP Image/Mick Tsikas

During his first state visit to Timor-Leste, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese affirmed his government's commitment to Greater Sunrise – a contentious undeveloped gas project in the Timor Sea. Albanese described how the actions of previous Australian governments "did not honour, and were not worthy, of the close friendship between our nations". This diplomatic platitude belies the grim reality: that friendship with Timor-Leste has always come second to **Australia's hunger for oil and gas**.

The history is unsettling. Australia's pursuit of oil and gas reserves in the Timor Sea informed the Whitlam government's decision to support Indonesia's 1975 invasion and occupation of Timor-Leste: disputed maritime boundaries between Australia and Indonesia were viewed as being more favourably resolved without an independent Timor. This was clearly spelled out in a **cable** from Australia's then-ambassador to Indonesia, who noted he was "recommending a pragmatic rather than a principled stand but this is what national interest and foreign policy is all about".

Australia's national interest (read: fossil fuel interests) continued to shape its engagement over the subsequent years. In 1989, the [Timor Gap Treaty](#) was signed, with Indonesia conceding almost 80% of Greater Sunrise to Australia. In the lead up to Timor-Leste's independence in 2002, Australia lobbied the UN Transitional Administration to accept the terms of the Timor Gap Treaty. During subsequent maritime boundary negotiations between Australia and the newly formed Timor-Leste, Australia was accused of negotiating in bad faith, famously going so far as to [spy](#) on the Timorese negotiating team.

Albanese's rhetoric suggests he is trying to right these historic wrongs, committing at least a third of Australia's future revenue from Greater Sunrise to an infrastructure fund for Timor-Leste, and acknowledging Timor-Leste's commitment to onshore processing. The latter has been a sticking point for the joint venture partners, who argue it would be cheaper and more feasible to process the gas in Darwin.

This week's [Joint Declaration](#) establishing a *Partnership for a New Era* (a New Partnership for a New Era) states that "Australia will support any commercially viable solution to develop Greater Sunrise", claiming the project will support economic diversification in Timor-Leste and deliver long-term sustainable socioeconomic benefits for its people. But is this massive gas project truly the best option for Timor's development?

Timor-Leste's government budget has relied on its sovereign wealth Petroleum Fund, which in 2023 equalled [88% of the country's GDP](#). The country's most valuable oil and gas field, Bayu-Undan, has now been depleted, with the Petroleum Fund correspondingly on track for depletion. The Timorese Government looks to Greater Sunrise as its new key source of revenue, claiming that onshore processing will power industrialisation and diversification of the country's economy.

As outlined in a [paper](#) from Timorese civil society research organization La'o Hamutuk, Timor-Leste had hoped to avoid the "resource curse" typical with other countries dependent on natural resource extraction, which experience higher poverty rates and less stable democracies than countries without large resource reserves. A notable impact of oil and gas money is the tendency to import goods and services rather than source them domestically, resulting in the neglect of other economic sectors which could create more long-lasting revenue and jobs. The Petroleum Fund is viewed as an inexhaustible resource, with the view that undeveloped petroleum resources, of which Greater Sunrise is the only large verified reserve, will provide money "even when geology, research, corporate reports to regulators, and potential investors say otherwise".

The life of Bayu-Undan was prolonged by its Australian operator, Santos, who also operates its processing plant Darwin LNG – a plant found to have spent years [secretly leaking methane](#). Extending Bayu-Undan's production was not done for the sake of the Timorese economy, but to keep the LNG plant active until new supply from the Barossa gas field came online. Santos is now planning to turn Bayu-Undan into a [carbon-capture and storage project](#) to offset its emissions from Barossa; this dumping of Australian carbon pollution in Timorese waters has been labelled "carbon colonialism" by Timorese civil society.

Fossil fuel companies operate in the interests of profits, not people. Petroleum extraction and processing has involved hardly any Timorese workers or subcontractors, with major components fabricated overseas and few permanent positions for medium- and low-skilled workers. Using the readily available money from the Petroleum Fund, it is easier for the Timorese government to hire foreign companies for large infrastructure projects than developing local capacity to meet community needs, and government spending has disproportionately benefited the small upper and middle classes than the rural poor majority.

Governments cannot continue to bet on fossil fuels in an increasingly decarbonising world. Greater Sunrise holds 5.1 trillion cubic feet of gas and would take tens of billions of dollars to develop. Where would this gas go? Into an already [oversupplied Asian market](#), as we careen into an unprecedented global gas [supply glut](#)? This will drive down economic returns, while requiring new fossil gas demand which is already derailing the energy transition.

How can Australia deliver “long-term sustainable socio-economic benefits” to Timor-Leste’s people by accelerating the climate crisis and increasing the country’s [vulnerability](#) to floods, cyclones, crop failures and sea level rise? This is in addition to the direct harms caused by offshore gas projects to the marine environment, coastal community livelihoods and cultures.

Timor-Leste [signed onto the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) in 2023. President José Ramos-Horta described how blame for climate change is not shared equally among nations, with Timor-Leste and fellow developing nations contributing the least yet bearing the brunt of the impacts. Developing countries urgently need finance and support from the wealthy nations that have reaped the rewards of fossil fuel industrialisation, in order to manage their energy transitions and climate impacts.

Ramos-Horta has [described](#) this as a crisis of inequality, stating that he “would be happy to leave [Greater Sunrise] in the ground, but if we did, we would forego our sovereign development benefits. What if, instead, high-income countries began to finance a transition so we could build a sustainable society based on renewable energy?”

This point was put to DFAT during [senate estimates](#) in December, with a question around whether the Australian government has engaged with Timor-Leste on renewable energy, which they had to take on notice.

Australia could support Timor-Leste in developing sustainable industries, powered by renewable energy and led by communities. For example, [coffee](#) is the country’s largest non-fossil fuel export, and 38% of households rely on it as key source of income. The Australian government is already supporting the establishment of [solar-powered coffee processing hubs](#), with the aim of reducing emissions and improving the productivity of the coffee sector. Processing sites are being established as multi-functional hubs offering energy services for local households, contributing to long-term sustainability and economic growth.

Colombia, another country with a fossil fuel-dependent economy, is in April due to host the [First International Conference on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels](#), “to explore viable, fair, and equitable pathways for transitioning to sustainable, diversified, and accessible energy”. This was formally announced at COP30, accompanied by the launch of the “Belém Declaration on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels”, which Australia signed on to.

As Timor Leste’s largest development partner, Australia can only truly support Timorese people and our shared region by embarking together on a New Fossil Free Era.

Dr Suhailah Ali is the Director of Climate Justice at Jubilee Australia Research Centre. She is originally from Fiji and currently based on unceded Bidjigal country.

Joint declaration on establishing a *Parseria Foun Ba Era Foun* (New Partnership for a New Era) between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Government of Australia

Joint statement

Wednesday 28 January 2026

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP Prime Minister of Australia
His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão Prime Minister of Timor-Leste

1. Timor-Leste and Australia are partners and neighbours with a shared history, values, region and future. Recognising the strength of the partnership, His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia decide to establish a *Parseria Foun ba Era Foun* ("*Parseria*"), which is Tetum for a *New Partnership for a New Era*. In declaring the *Parseria*, both Governments commit to ongoing cooperation, consultation and mutual respect for national sovereignty.

Pillar One: Peace and Regional Integration

2. As close friends and neighbours, relations between Timor-Leste and Australia are underpinned by a common interest in each other's success. We share a vision for a region that is peaceful, stable and prosperous. We will work together to uphold international law, protect human rights and prevent conflict.
3. Peace, security and stability are necessary preconditions for economic and social development in Australia, Timor-Leste and our shared region. We commit to regular communication, consultation and collaboration on our common security interests, including maritime security, efforts to prevent human trafficking, people smuggling, transnational crime and critical infrastructure.
4. Australia recognises that Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership is an historic achievement, and a significant milestone for Timor-Leste's long-standing commitment to regional integration. Australia is proud to have supported Timor-Leste's ASEAN journey from the beginning and will continue to support Timor-Leste's priorities as an ASEAN Member State, so that ASEAN membership delivers direct benefits for the Timorese people and contributes positively to regional peace, stability and prosperity. We reaffirm our shared commitment to ASEAN centrality and the importance of ASEAN-led regional architecture that is open, transparent, rules-based and inclusive.
5. Our police, border security and immigration agencies will continue to work together to reinforce our shared security. We will further strengthen the Timor-Leste Police Development Program and cooperation under the Memorandum of Understanding on Migration and Border Management. We will continue to facilitate business and leisure travel between our countries, including through access for Timorese citizens to Australia's 10-year Frequent Traveller Stream visa.
6. Recognising the importance of uplifting regional resilience to cyber risks, we will work closely to build cyber security skills and capabilities, enhance public awareness of cyber risks and strengthen cyber-related information sharing between law enforcement agencies.
7. Australia and Timor-Leste share a history of deep defence cooperation. We affirm our commitment to continuing to develop a modern defence relationship based on partnership, sovereignty and the interests of our two countries. Through the Defence Cooperation Program, we will further strengthen the mutually beneficial and longstanding collaboration between our defence forces to collectively contribute to national, regional and international stability and security.
8. As demonstrated by the 2018 *Treaty Between Australia and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Establishing Their Maritime Boundaries in the Timor Sea* (the Maritime Boundary Treaty), we reaffirm the value and importance of international rules and institutions, and resolving disputes peacefully in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We reaffirm the universal and unified character of UNCLOS which sets out the comprehensive legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.
9. Recognising that climate change will exacerbate the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, we commit to offering to assist each other following significant disasters and to building mechanisms for improved coordination. Australia commits to strengthen support for locally-led disaster preparedness and recovery efforts, including through professional development. We express our support for international efforts, including through the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, to assist countries and communities that are experiencing and particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. We further commit to cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including through supporting the development and transfer of appropriate and accessible technologies and related capacity-building to support resilience and climate-responsive development.

Pillar Two: Prosperity and Resilience

10. Australia and Timor-Leste share an ambition for Greater Sunrise to be developed as soon as possible for the benefit of both States as envisioned by the historic Maritime Boundary Treaty. Guided by the same spirit of friendship and cooperation in which we agreed the Treaty and facilitated the Sunrise Joint Venture's carrying out of the historic independent Concept Study in 2024, Australia and Timor-Leste commit to working closely together and with the Sunrise Joint Venture in good faith to develop an ambitious timeline to conclude the Petroleum Mining Code, Greater Sunrise Production Sharing Contract, and fiscal regime framework required under the Maritime Boundary Treaty, thus enabling concrete progress towards development of the resource. Australia's Minister for Resources and Timor-Leste's Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources further commit to close bilateral engagement, over the coming months, to directly oversee accelerated negotiations to finalise the above documents expeditiously.
11. Noting the Concept Study and the importance of Timor-Leste's economic resilience, Australia and Timor-Leste encourage the Sunrise Joint Venture to make use of the Study and present to the States as soon as possible a Development Concept proposal for Greater Sunrise that can satisfy the requirements of the Maritime Boundary Treaty. We also commit to supporting the Sunrise Joint Venture to progress the project swiftly upon the States' approval of a single Development Concept.
12. Australia acknowledges Timor-Leste's commitment to onshore processing and to the south coast Tasi Mane project. Australia will support any commercially viable solution to develop Greater Sunrise proposed by the Sunrise Joint Venture consistent with the Maritime Boundary Treaty. This is critical to advance our shared goal of ensuring the project supports economic diversification in Timor-Leste and delivers long-term sustainable socio-economic benefits for its people. Development of Greater Sunrise should support the economic, political and social stability of Timor-Leste, to which Australia is strongly committed. A stable, independent and prosperous Timor-Leste will be a beacon for other States in the region and is important to Australia.
13. As with past experience during management of the Joint Petroleum Development Area, Australia will assist Timor-Leste by sharing, through its relevant departments and regulatory agencies, technical and regulatory knowledge on health, safety, environmental and other relevant subjects. Australia would also establish an Infrastructure Fund to be used in Timor-Leste and allocate to it a fixed ten per cent share of total States' upstream revenue from the Greater Sunrise project, funded entirely from Australia's share of future revenue. Australia would establish the Fund once any commercially viable solution proposed by the commercial parties is agreed by the States consistent with the requirements of the Maritime Boundary Treaty. This commitment will see at least a third of Australia's revenue from the project being provided to Timor-Leste via the Infrastructure Fund. The Fund would be established and co-designed in the spirit of partnership, with respect for Timor-Leste's sovereignty and the importance of an established and mutually-endorsed LNG operator for Greater Sunrise.
14. We will continue our strong partnership to ensure Australia's labour mobility programs are mutually beneficial and deliver positive economic and social outcomes for workers, their families and businesses in both countries. We will also work together to boost technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for Timorese youth. Through this partnership, Timor-Leste and Australia will work together towards enabling 10,000 Timorese workers to take up employment opportunities in Australia by 2027-28, including through the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme.
15. Timor-Leste and Australia will ensure our development cooperation promotes Timor-Leste's prosperity and resilience. Through locally-led development, we will support quality services; inclusive and sustainable economic growth; and efforts to ensure all Timorese people can equally thrive and prosper.
16. Timor-Leste and Australia are committed to working together in support of the implementation of Timor-Leste's *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030*, with a focus on economic diversification, job creation and the sustainable development of strategic sectors including petroleum, agriculture and tourism.
17. We commit to identifying and actioning opportunities to enhance private sector development, including through boosting two-way trade and investment as part of *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*. We will also partner to enable the delivery of infrastructure which generates sustainable economic growth and local employment in Timor-Leste, including through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP). These efforts will have a particular focus on semi-skilled positions.
18. As a fellow maritime state, Australia respects Timor-Leste's deep connections to the ocean. We will pursue opportunities to enhance our Blue Economy cooperation, including supporting the Policy and Action Plan for the Promotion of a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy in Timor-Leste (2025-2035) and through exchanging lessons on marine ecotourism and the management of Marine Protected Areas.

Pillar Three: People-to-People and Institutional Linkages

19. We commit to deepening the friendships, collaborations and solidarity between the Timorese and Australian people. These links are built on common values, including a deep respect in both countries for democracy and human rights.
20. We will continue to strengthen the education, cultural, social and religious connections between our communities, including through Community Friendship Groups, the Australian Volunteers Program, the Australian NGO Cooperation Program and Australia Awards scholarships.
21. We recognise the enduring bonds between Timorese and Australian veterans, maintained through Timor-Leste's Council of Combatants of National Liberation. We will continue to strengthen the Anzac Day commemorations in Dili, and foster collaboration on historical and commemorative tourism to honour and preserve our shared history.
22. We will work to deepen institutional links by supporting twinning arrangements between government agencies and parliaments, and encourage twinning between civil society and media organisations.
23. We recognise that our youth are our future. We will work closely and invest in creating new education, training, employment and leadership development opportunities for Timorese youth, including for PALM scheme workers returning to Timor-Leste. We will also establish initiatives for emerging leaders in both countries to engage and build lifelong connections.

Joint Plan of Action

24. We task our Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Minister for Foreign Affairs respectively to coordinate the formulation of a Joint Plan of Action to realise the Parseria. Both countries will review implementation, including through annual Senior Officials' Talks.
25. The Foreign Ministers of Timor-Leste and Australia will endeavour to meet in-person at least once a year to discuss priorities for further enhancing relations between the two countries.



Press conference - Dili, Timor-Leste

Transcript

Wednesday 28 January 2026



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP | Prime Minister of Australia



His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão | Prime Minister of Timor-Leste

KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO, PRIME MINISTER OF TIMOR-LESTE: It is my great honour to welcome Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese MP to Timor-Leste for this official visit. Prime Minister Albanese's visit is an important moment in the relationship between our two countries and reflects the depth of friendship, trust and partnership between Timor-Leste and Australia. Our discussions today were warm, open and productive. We agreed to establish a new partnership for the new era that reflects the maturity of our relationship and our shared future. Our relationship has been shaped by solidarity in times of conflict and by partnership in peace. Today, we reaffirmed our shared commitment to a peaceful and prosperous region. Australia has been a strong supporter of Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN, and I thank the Prime Minister for his support. We reaffirmed the importance of international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Our 2018 Maritime Boundary Treaty remains a powerful example of how disputes can be resolved peacefully and fairly through dialogue and law. Our talks today also focus on promoting development and creating jobs, and Australia's continued partnership in supporting these priorities.

We reaffirmed our shared commitment to the development of Greater Sunrise. Timor-Leste's position on Greater Sunrise has always, always been real. The natural gas fields of Greater Sunrise must be processed on shore in Timor-Leste. This is essential for our national development and for the long-term strength of our family. Development of Greater Sunrise will provide jobs and opportunities for young Timorese to gain skills and participate in emerging industries. I reinforced with the Australian Prime Minister that Timor-Leste is committed to progressing Greater Sunrise in a manner that is commercially sound, technically appropriate and aligned with the interests of our people. I am very pleased that today we agreed to accelerate our negotiation to finalise the Petroleum Mining Code, the Production Sharing Contract and the Fiscal Regime expeditiously. We also discussed Australia's labour mobility programs which continue to deliver real benefits for Timorese workers and their families. We agree to work together to increase the number of Timorese that can work in Australia. People to people links remain at the heart of our relationship. It was Australians like Prime Minister Albanese that actively supported our struggle for independence. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen the bonds within our peoples, including civil society, church and friendship group, school groups and veterans.

I also announce today that Timor-Leste has identified a parcel of land in Dili, next to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, which we will grant Australia for the construction of a new embassy. This grant of land allows us to reciprocate after Australia provided land to Timor-Leste which allowed us to build our embassy in Canberra. We are pleased that Australia is planning to build a new and larger embassy which reflects its strong and long-term commitment to Timor-Leste. At a time of global change and uncertainty, Timor-Leste highly values our partnership with Australia. We share a vision for a world that is peaceful, where development is inclusive, where international law provides the basis for preventing conflict and where human rights are upheld. I thank Prime Minister Albanese for his visit, for Australia's friendship, and for the progress that we have made today to work together for the benefit of our peoples.

ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA: Well, good afternoon and I want to begin by thanking Prime Minister Gusmão for the invitation for me to visit for the first time as Prime Minister, my second visit here to Dili. I must say the warm welcome that I received from literally thousands of children was overwhelming, as well as from the people on the side of the route that we took this morning. It was indeed a real sign of the affection and warmth between our two peoples. And I thank the Prime Minister for that. I also thank the President for driving the car for us as well, so successfully, because some of those children were running in front of the car as we went along. I'm also joined by my friend Luke Gosling, who has such a strong relationship with Timor-Leste. He served here as an Officer in the Australian Defence Force and came back to assist the development here in Timor-Leste as well. Timor-Leste is of course, our neighbour from Australia. You don't get to choose your neighbours, but you do get to choose your friends. And Timor-Leste is a friend and has a friend in Australia as we go forward.

Today, we've reflected the strength of that friendship and the relationship by signing the Parseria; 'A New Partnership for a New

Era', elevating the friendship between Timor-Leste and Australia to a new level, the first of its kind between our two nations. The partnership cements our cooperation across economic security, development and people to people relations right across the board. It is a very comprehensive agreement. It acknowledges the mutual respect for national sovereignty and our shared commitment to continuing cooperation and consultation, not just between our two countries, but also, we've spoken about working together. As the Prime Minister has said, we live in uncertain times with a lot of turbulence around the world. We are reliable partners and we can cooperate in the development of the vision that we both share for a peaceful, stable and prosperous region. Australia is honoured to be Timor-Leste's largest development partner. Through this new partnership, we'll continue to work with Timor-Leste on nation building priorities that matter to the people of both of our nations. We've also discussed our interest today in building economic resilience and providing opportunities for all people of Timor-Leste. There's now over 5,000 Timorese are working in Australia. We want to build that up to 10,000, which is in the interest of both of our nations.

Last year, Timor-Leste became ASEAN's eleventh member and Australia was very supportive of that. And I want to acknowledge the Prime Minister's role and leadership on this. To further support Timor-Leste's ASEAN accession, I'm announcing today that Australia will boost the funding that we've provided for technical assistance and capacity building package so that the total will be up to \$20 million, an increase of \$8.2 million. Supporting our partners along the journey of economic development and resilience is so important for securing opportunities for the entire region.

I'm also pleased to announce two new programs, the Private Sector Development Program and a Human Development Initiative to improve the quality and reach of critical health services, education and disability support. These are all areas where Australia is proud to support Timor-Leste's aspirations, the growth and wellbeing of Timorese people.

Australia and Timor-Leste share a common history. We fought side by side in the pursuit of peace during the World War II and our veterans, including my mentor Tom Uren and others, Bluey Rutherford and others, who were captured and became prisoners of war at the Japanese. In Tom Uren's case, in 1941, they remembered for the rest of their life the debt of gratitude that Australia owes to the Timorese people who provided such extraordinary support at our darkest hour. We supported the 1999 independence referendum process and we helped secure peace again in 2006. Australia has engaged consistently in providing support for Timor-Leste and now together we've taken the next step, which this agreement today represents. I do want to thank the Prime Minister for his friendship and his hospitality. And I want to acknowledge as well my friendship with President Ramos-Horta that goes back literally to last century when we first met in Australia. I look forward to continuing to work together under our new partnership, furthering a region that is secure, stable and flourishing.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, what news do you bring on the Greater Sunrise project? If it is not settled are you concerned that Timor-Leste might seek partnership with China?

PRIME MINISTER ALBANESE: I think that I bring good news on the Greater Sunrise project. I think that the agreement that we've signed today, that you will see, acknowledges how important it is for both of our nations, but particularly important for economic development in Timor-Leste. We have appointed Dr Katrina Cooper, who is one of our most experienced international diplomats, to be the Sherpa that is to push things along between the commercial partners to make sure that we achieve an outcome that is very important. The most recent negotiations occurred in Canberra in December 2025 and so this is a shared resource between Australian Timor-Leste. Of course agreement need to be consistent with the criteria that was set out in the 2018 Maritime Boundary Treaty. I'm very optimistic and positive and I know this is such an important project for Prime Minister Gusmão and I share his enthusiasm for it.

JOURNALIST: When will there be a deal with Timor-Leste?

PRIME MINISTER ALBANESE: For Greater Sunrise? We are hoping, we're working these issues through. Of course there are commercial partners involved with it, but today's and the Sunrise joint venture of course is Woodside, TIMOR GAP, Osaka Gas, as well they will put forward a proposed development plan for Greater Sunrise. And today's agreement that we have signed, the Parseria, acknowledges how important this project is.

JOURNALIST: Timor-Leste has expressed its preference for the Greater Sunrise Pipeline to be developed towards Timor-Leste. Could you share your perspective on this matter?

PRIME MINISTER ALBANESE: You're getting off easily here, Prime Minister. You'll want me to come here more often I suspect. Look, we will work through these issues in a constructive way. We acknowledge that there is commercial issues involved so we will allow that process to occur. But it will occur as well with oversight from my government and I'm absolutely certain that Prime Minister Gusmão will be providing oversight as well.

JOURNALIST: The Chinese Ambassador to Australia today said that Beijing would act to protect Landbridge's interest if the Australian government were to try to take back the Port of Darwin. Are you prepared to stand up to the Ambassador and to Xi Jinping and take back the port by the end of the year?

PRIME MINISTER ALBANESE: We've made it very clear that we want the Port of Darwin, that was sold to non-Australian interests with a financial incentive from the former coalition government to the Northern Territory government, that that wasn't something that we supported at the time. And we are committed to making sure that that Port goes back into Australian hands because that is in our national interest. Thanks.



PRIME
MINISTER

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY KAY RALA
XANANA GUSMÃO, PRIME MINISTER OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
FOLLOWING THE BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE
HONOURABLE ANTHONY ALBANESE MP, PRIME MINISTER
OF AUSTRALIA**

Dili, 28 January 2026



Palácio do Governo,
Avenida Presidente Nicolau Lobato,
Dili, Timor-Leste

It is my great honour to welcome Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to Timor-Leste for this Official Visit.

Prime Minister Albanese's visit is an important moment in the relationship between our two countries and reflects the depth of friendship, trust and partnership between Timor-Leste and Australia.

Our discussions today were warm, open and productive. We agreed to establish a new partnership for a new era that reflects the maturity of our relationship and our shared future.

Our relationship has been shaped by solidarity in times of conflict and by partnership in peace.

Today, we reaffirmed our shared commitment to a peaceful and prosperous region.

Australia has been a strong supporter of Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN and I thank the Prime Minister for this support.

We reaffirmed the importance of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Our 2018 Maritime Boundary Treaty remains a powerful example of how disputes can be resolved peacefully and fairly through dialogue and law.

Our talks today also focused on promoting development and creating jobs - and Australia's continued partnership in supporting these priorities.

We reaffirmed our shared commitment to the development of Greater Sunrise.

Timor-Leste's position on Greater Sunrise has always been clear - the natural gas from Greater Sunrise must be processed onshore in Timor-Leste.

This is essential for our national development and for the long-term strength of our country. Development of Greater Sunrise will provide jobs and opportunities for young Timorese to gain skills and participate in emerging industries.

I reinforced with the Australian Prime Minister that Timor-Leste is committed to progressing Greater Sunrise in a manner that is commercially sound, technically robust and aligned with the interests of our people.

We are very pleased that today we agreed to accelerate our negotiations to finalise the Petroleum Mining Code, the Production Sharing Contract and the Fiscal regime expeditiously.

We also discussed Australia's labour mobility programs which continue to deliver real benefits for Timorese workers and their families.

We agreed to work together to increase the number of Timorese that can work in Australia.

People-to-people links remain at the heart of our relationship.

It was Australians like Prime Minister Albanese that actively supported our struggle for independence.

We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the bonds between our peoples, including civil society, church and friendship groups, school groups and veterans.

I also announce today that Timor-Leste has identified a parcel of land in Dili, next to our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, which we will grant to Australia for the construction of a new Embassy.

This grant of land allows us to reciprocate after Australia provided land to Timor-Leste, which allowed us to build our Embassy in Canberra.

We are pleased that Australia is planning to build a new and larger Embassy, which reflects its strong and long-term commitment to Timor-Leste.

At a time of global change and uncertainty, Timor-Leste highly values our partnership with Australia.

We share a vision for a world that is peaceful, where development is inclusive, where international law provides the basis for preventing conflict and where human rights are upheld.

I thank Prime Minister Albanese for his visit, for Australia's friendship and for the progress that we have made today to work together for the benefit of our peoples.

I now invite Prime Minister Albanese to say a few words.



Strengthening our partnership with Timor-Leste

Media release Thursday 29 January 2026

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has concluded his first visit to Timor-Leste as Prime Minister.

In Dili, he met His Excellency President Dr José Ramos-Horta and His Excellency Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão.

The Prime Minister also addressed the Parliament of Timor-Leste, a great honour for Australia.

Prime Minister Albanese and Prime Minister Gusmão signed a joint declaration establishing *Parseria Foun ba Era Foun*, which is Tetum for a New Partnership for a New Era.

The declaration is the first of its kind between our two nations and cements our growing economic, security and development partnerships.

Parseria is a demonstration of our shared commitment to:

- an open, stable and prosperous region;
- cooperation, consultation and mutual respect for national sovereignty;
- support Timor-Leste's nation building priorities; and
- strengthen community links.

Prime Minister Albanese announced an Economic Cooperation Package for Timor-Leste, which includes a further \$8.2 million to support its participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the World Trade Organization.

The package also includes an \$80 million Private Sector Development Program to support Timor-Leste's economic diversification and private sector growth through access to credit, business services and marketing support.

In addition, the Prime Minister announced a new \$220 million Human Development Initiative to support the delivery of inclusive and high-quality health, education and disability services across Timor-Leste.

The Australian Government committed to allocate ten per cent of Australia and Timor-Leste's combined future upstream revenue from the Greater Sunrise project, once finalised, to the Timor-Leste Infrastructure Fund.

Timor-Leste President Ramos-Horta presented the Prime Minister with the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste in recognition of his contribution to strengthening ties between Australia and Timor-Leste and commitment to the prosperity of the Timorese people.

Quotes attributable to Prime Minister Albanese:

"This marks a new era of cooperation between our nations.

"It reflects our longstanding friendship and sets out our shared vision for the future.

"It was an honour to visit Timor-Leste at this important moment in its history following its accession to ASEAN.

"Australia will continue to work with Timor-Leste to ensure this delivers peace, stability, and prosperity for the Timorese people and our shared region."

PM Anthony Albanese impresionadu ba amizade TL-Austrália

DILI, 29 Janeiru 2026 (TATOLI)—Primeiru-Ministru, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, hateten bainhira konversa ho Primeiru-Ministru Australia Anthony Albanese ne'e, nia impresionadu tebes ba amizade ne'ebé Timor-Leste ho Austrália hodi mantein ba oin atu serbisu hamutuk nafatin.

“Ita hotu hatene horisehik PM Austrália nia vizita Timor-Leste, nia impresionadu tebes ho ita-nia amizade ne'ebé iha liuliu iha kedas tempu rezisténsia nian mós sai nu'udar ativista hodi apoiu ita-nia independénsia,” PM Xanana hateten ba jornalista sira iha Palásiu Prezidensiál Nicolau Lobato, Bairru Pite, ohin.

Nia dehan, Primeiru-Ministru Albanese ema-ne'ebé koñese Timor-Leste di'ak no hakarak tebes iha kooperasaun ne'ebé di'ak.

“Nia kontente tebes, ohin dadeer ami ba despede nia, nia iha interese tebes atu serbisu hamutuk ho ita hodi hametin kooperasaun ne'ebé di'ak,” nia dehan.

Nia hatutan, Albanese hanesan ema ida-ne'ebé iha tempu pasadu defende tebes Timor-Leste nia direitu ba ukun rasik-an ho nia pozisaun hanesan ativista.

“Ho nia pasadu sira hotu mak horihseik atribui medalla orden Timor-Leste ba nia, ida-ne'e tanba nia pasadu, la'ós de'it nu'udar Primeiru-Ministru,” Xanana dehan.

TL-Austrália reafirma kompromisu bilaterál iha área oioin



*Primeiru-Ministru Austrália, Anthony Albanese no Primeiru Ministru Xanana Gusmao iha komferensia hamutuk imprensa ba jornalista sira hafoin halao enkontru bilateral iha Palacio governu Dili.
Foto TATOLI/Antonio Daciparu*

DILI, 28 Janeiru 2026 (TATOLI)—Primeiru-Ministru, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, konvoka enkontru bilaterál ho Primeiru-Ministru Austrália, Anthony Albanese iha âmbito vizita ofisiál durante loron rua iha Timor-Leste, hodi reafirma kompromisu kooperasaun bilaterál iha áre oioin hanesan ekonómia, seguransa no desenvolvimentu relasaun amizade.

Xanana hateten, ho onra boot tebes ba Primeiru-Ministru Austrália, António Albanese, ba vizita ofisial ne'e tanba vizita ne'e mak momentu importante iha relasaun entre nasaun rua hodi refleta amizade, konfiansa no partisipasaun entre Timor-Leste no Austrália.

“Ami-nia diskusaun ohin loron ne'e, la'ós de'it di'ak maibé mós produtivu. Ami iha akordu atu harii partisipasaun foun ba era foun ne'ebé refleta maduru ba ami-nia relasaun no futuru ne'ebé ami partilla ba, no relasaun forma husi solidariedade iha tempu konfliktu no husi partisipasaun iha dame,” Primeiru-Ministru, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, informa ba jornlaista sira iha Palásiu Governu, ohin.

Xefe Governu ne'e dehan, sira reafirma sira-nia kompromisu partilladu ba rejiaun ne'ebé dame no prósperu, tanba Austrália mak apoiadór forte ba Timor-Leste nia adezaun ba ASEAN.

“Ami mós reafirma importánsia lei internasionál, inklui Konvensaun Nasaun Unida kona-ba Lei Tasi nian. Ami-nia tratadu fronteira marítima iha tinan 2018 sai ezemplu forte oinsá disputa sira bele rezolve dame no loos liuhusi diálogo no lei,” nia hateten.

Iha biban ne'e, nia anunsia katak Timor-Leste identifikadu rai ida iha Díli besik edifísiu Ministériu Negósiu Estranjeiru no Kooperasaun, ne'ebé Governu sei fó ba Austrália atu harii ninia embaixada foun, fó rai ne'e permíte atu retribui sira-nia territóriu ne'ebé fó ba Timor-Leste atu bele harii Timor-Leste embaixada iha Cambera.

“Ami kontente katak Austrália planeia harii embaixada foun ne'ebé boo- liu ne'ebé refleta sira-nia kompromisu forte no naruk ba Timor-Leste, no ami partilha vizaun ba mundu ne'ebé dame, ne'ebé desenvolvimentu inkluzivu,” nia hateten.

Primeiru-Ministru Austrália, Anthony Albanese, hato'o agradesementu ba ninia vizita dahuluk iha Díli, tanba povu Timor kompostu husi labarik ki'ik no ema sira-ne'ebé hela besik iha estrada ninin di'ak tebes ho haksolok simu nia bainhira halo movimentu husi aeroportu, entaun ne'e sínal ida-ne'ebé hatudu efeitu di'ak no entre nasaun rua ne'e.

“Ha'u mós agradece ba Primeiru-Ministru no mós Prezidente Repúblika, ne'ebé tula nia ho ninia karreta, entaun Timor-Leste mak vizaun Austrália nian. Tanba ne'e mak ohin loron ami refleta ami-nia forsa amizade no relasaun liuhusi asina paseria ba partisipasaun foun ida ba era foun, hodi eleva amizade entre Timor-Leste no Austrália ba nivel foun,” Primeiru-Ministru Austrália, afirma.

Nia dehan, partisipasaun ne'e konsolidasaun ba sira-nia kooperasaun iha ekonomia, seguransa, desenvolvimentu no relasaun ema ba ema iha área hotu-hotu, entaun ne'e akordu ne'ebé kompletu loos bele rekoñese respeitu ne'ebé mutua ba soberania nasional no sira-nia kompromisu partilladu ba kontinuasaun kooperasaun no konsultasaun, la'ós de'it entre nasaun rua maibé ko'alia mós atu servisu hamutuk.

“Ami diskute mós ami-nia interese ohin loron iha harii rezilénsia ekonómika no fornese oportunidade ba ema hotu-hotu iha Timor-Leste. Hanesan Primeiru-Ministru dehan, ami moris iha tempu inseru ho turbulaun barak iha mundu, ami mak parseiru ne'ebé loloos no ami bele halo kooperasaun iha desenvolvimentu vizaun ne'ebé ami partilla ba rejiaun dame, estavel no prosperu,” nia hateten.

Tamba ne'e, nia dehan, Austrália atu sai parseiru desenvolvimentu boot-liu ba Timor-Leste liuhusi partisipasaun foun ne'e, sira sei kontinua servisu ho Timor-Leste iha prioridade konstrusaun nasional ne'ebé importante ba povu nasaun rua ne'e rasik.

Jornalista : Alexandra da Costa Editor : Cancio Ximenes

Iha PM Anthony Albanese Nia Oin, Xanana Afirma Kadoras Greater Sunrise Tenke Prosesa iha Rai-Maran Timor-Leste



PM Austrália Anthony Albanese prienxe livru bainaka malok halo enkontru bilaterál ho PM Xanana Gusmão iha Palásiu Governu, Kuarta (28/01/2026). Imajen/Rafa.tl

DILI, RAFA.tl 28 Jan 2026 – Iha Primeiru-Ministru (PM) Austrália, Anthony Albanese nia oin, Xanana Gusmão, nu’udár xefe governu Timor-Leste afirma katak Timor-Leste nia pozisaun kona-bá Greater Sunrise sempre klaru tenke prosesa iha rai-maran iha Timor-Leste.

Primeiru-Ministru Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão hato’o Timor-Leste nia pozisaun ne’e iha konferensia imprensa conjunta ho Primeiru-Ministru Austrália Anthony Albanese iha Palásiu Governu, Kuarta (28/01/2026).

Xanana afirma katak Primeiru-Ministru Anthony Albanese nia vizita hanesan momentu importante ida iha relasaun entre país rua no refleto profundidade amizade, konfiansa no parseria entre Timor-Leste no Austrália.

“Iha diskusaun sira ohin nian manas, nakloke no produtivu. Ami konkorda atu estabelese parseria foun ida ba era foun ida ne’ebé refleto maturidade hosi ami nia relasaun no ami nia futuru ne’ebé fahe,” Xanana haktuir.

Austrália ho Timor-Leste nia relasaun, tuir lider karismátiku ne’e, katak hetan forma hosi solidariedade iha tempu konfliktu no hosi parseria iha dame.

“Ohin, reafirma kompromisu hamutuk ba rejiaun ida ne’ebé pasífiku no prósperu. Austrália sai nu’udár apoiante maka’as ba Timor-Leste nia adezaun ba ASEAN no agradece ba Primeiru-Ministru Albanese ba apoiu ne’e,” Xanana tenik.

Xefe Governu Timor-Leste ne’e hatutan, nia parte ho Austrália reafirma importánsia direitu internasionál nian, inklui Konvensaun Nasoins Unidas nian kona-bá Direitu Tasi nian. Tratadu Fronteira Marítima 2018 sai nafatin ezemplu forte ida kona-bá oinsá disputa sira bele rezolve ho dame no justu liuhosi diálogu no lei.

Konversasaun sira mós foka ba promosaun dezvoltimentu no kria empregu no Austrália nia parseria kontínua hodi apoia prioridade hirak ne’e. País rua reafirma kompromisu hamutuk ba dezvoltimentu Greater Sunrise nian.

“Timor-Leste nia pozisaun kona-bá Greater Sunrise sempre klaru – gás naturál husi Greater Sunrise tenke prosesas iha rai-maran iha Timor-Leste. Ida-ne’e esensíal ba ita-nia dezvoltimentu nasional no ba ita-nia nasaun nia forsa iha tempu naruk. Dezvoltimentu Greater Sunrise sei fó kampu servisu no oportunidade ba joven timoroan sira hodi hetan habilidade no partisipa iha indústria emergente sira,” Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão subliña tan.

Xanana Gusmão reforsa ho Primeiru-Ministru Austrália katak Timor-Leste komprometidu atu progresu Greater Sunrise iha maneira ne'ebé komersiálmente di'ak, téknikamente metin no aliña ho ita-nia povu nia interesse.

Parte rua konkorda atu aselera negosiasaun hodi finaliza Kódigu Mineiru Petróleu, Kontratu Fahe Produsaun no rejime Fiskál ho lalais.

Xefe Governu Austrália ho Timor-Leste mós diskute kona-ba Austrália nia programa mobilidade laborál ne'ebé kontinua fó benefísiu loloos ba traballadór timoroan sira no sira nia família.

“Ami konkorda atu servisu hamutuk hodi hasa'e númeru timoroan sira ne'ebé bele servisu iha Austrália. Ligasaun ema-ba-ema nafatin iha ami nia relasaun nia fuan. Ami reafirma ami nia kompromisu atu hametin lasu sira entre ami nia povu sira inklui sosiedade sivíl, igreja no grupu amizade sira, grupu eskola sira no veteranu sira,” Xanana hateten.

Primeiru-Ministru Austrália Anthony Albanese, konfirma katak Austrália no Timor-Leste hanesan amigu diak desde iha relasaun bilaterál ne'ebé metin no lori benefísiu ba país ne'e.

Nia hatutan Austrália iha kooperasaun ho Timor-Leste iha área oin-oin ne'ebé kobre área ekonómiku, defeza no seguransa, investimentu no ema ho ema ne'ebé komprensivu ho respeito ba soberania nasional país ida-idak nian no Austrália nafatin iha kompromisu atu iha parseria ho Timor-Leste ba dezvoltamentu nasional.

Nia hatutan, kaer ba prinsípiu sira, Austrália respeita tebes soberania nasional Timor-Leste nian no iha kompromisu atu kontinua kooperasaun saida maka governu Timor-Leste hato'ona iha enkontru bilateral entre Governu rua ne'e.

“Ami kontenti ami servisu hanesan ho parseiru komersial Greater Sunrise, ami mós iha planu dezvoltamentu ida ho Timor GAP kona-bá Greater Sunrise no ohin lora, ami ho governu Timor-Leste diskute fila-fali kona-bá saida maka ami halo ona iha tinan kotuk kona-bá prosesu ekonomiku ida-ne'e,” Anthony Albanese hateten.

Primeiru-Ministru Austrália ne'e afirma, Austrália nafatin kumpre promesa sira ne'ebé maka Governu rua ne'e halo ona, no iha esperansa Governu rua ne'e sei kumpre promesa hotu ne'ebé iha.

TL Ho Austrália Konkorda Atu Aselera Negosiasaun Hodi finaliza Kódigu Mineiru Petróleu

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neon-metin

January 28, 2026



Primeiru Ministru Anthony Albanese ho Primeiru Ministru Xanana Gusmao iha konferensia imprensa. [Foto: Zevonia]

Reportajen David da Costa

Governu Timor-Leste ho Governu Austrália konkorda ona atu aselera negosiasaun hodi finaliza Kódigu Mineiru Petróleu, Kontratu Fahe Produsaun no rejime Fiskál ho lalais.

Primeiru-Ministru Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão hatete, konversa sira ohin ne'e foka mos ba promosaun dezvoltimentu no kriasaun empregu no Austrália nia parseria kontinua hodi apoia prioridade sira ne'ebé, no mós Greater Sunrise tanba Timor-Leste nia pozisaun ba Great Sunrise sempre klaru.

"Ami reafirma ami nia kompromisu hamutuk ba dezvoltimentu Greater Sunrise nian. Tanba, Timor-Leste nia pozisaun kona-ba Greater Sunrise sempre klaru-gás natural husi Greater Sunrise tenke prosesa iha rai-maran iha Timor-Leste," dehan Primeiru Ministru Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão iha Palásiu Governu, Kuarta 28/01.

Nia afirma "Ida ne'e esensial ba ita nia dezvoltimentu nasional no ba ita nia nasaun nia forsa ba tempu naruk. Dezvoltimentu Greater Sunrise sei fo kampu servisu no oportunidade ba joven Timoroan sira hodi hetan abilidade no partisipa iha indústria enerjia sira".

Tanba ne'e, reforsa ho Primeiru-Ministru Austrália katak Timor-Leste komprometidu atu progresa Greater Sunrise iha maneira ne'ebé komersiálmente di'ak, téknikamente metin no aliña ho povu Timor nia interese.

“Ami haksolok tebes tanba ohin ami konkorda atu aselera ami nia negosiasaun hodi finaliza Kódigu Mineiru Petróleu, Kontratu Fahe Produsaun no rejime Fiskál ho lalais,” nia subliña.

Ida ne'e hanesan onra boot tanba simu Primeiru Ministru Australia Anthony Albanese mai Timor-Leste ba Vizita Ofisial ida ne'e. Primeiru-Ministru Albanese nia vizita nu'udar momentu importante iha relasaun entre nasaun rua no refleto profundida amizade, konfiansa no parseria entre Timor-Leste no Austrália.

“Ami nia diskusaun sira ohin nian manas, nakloke no produtivu. Ami konkorda atu estabese parseria foun ida ba era foun ida ne'ebé refleto maturidade hosi ami nia relasaun no ami nia futuru ne'ebé fahe. Ami nia relasaun hetan forma hosi solidariedade iha tempu konflitu no hosi parseria iha dame. Ohin, ami reafirma ami nia kompromisu hamutuk ba rejiaun ida ne'ebé pasífiku no prósperu,” nia esplika.

Tanba Austrália sai nu'udar apoiante maka'as ba Timor-Leste nia adezaun ba ASEAN, tanba ne'e agradese ba Primeiru-Ministru ba apoiu ida ne'e. No rai rua ne'e mos ko'alia kona-ba importánsia direitu internasionál nian no direitu tasi nian.

“Ami reafirma importánsia direitu internasionál nian, inklui Konvensaun Nasoins Unidas nian kona-ba Direitu Tasi nian. Ita nia Tratadu Fronteira Marítima 2018 sai nafatin ezemplu forte ida kona-ba oinsá disputa sira bele rezolve ho dame no justu liuhosi diálogo no lei,” nia dehan.

Alende ne'e mós diskute kona-ba Austrália nia programa mobilidade laborál ne'ebé kontinua fó benefísiu réal ba traballadór Timoroan sira no sira nia família. Tanba ne'e rai rua ne'e konkorda atu servisu hamutuk hodi hasa'e número timoroan sira ne'ebé bele servisu iha Austrália.

Ligasaun entre ema ba ema nafatin iha nasaun rua ne'e nia fuan. Tanba Australianu sira hanesan Primeiru Ministru Albanese maka apoia ativamente Timor-Leste nia luta ba independénsia.

“Ami reafirma ami nia kompromisu atu hametin ligasaun sira entre ami nia povu sira, inklui sosiedade sivil, igreja no grupu amizade sira, grupu eskola sira no veteranu sira,” Tenik Xanana.

Tanba ne'e, ohin mos fó sai katak Timor-Leste identifika ona parsela rai ida iha Dili, iha Ministériu Negósiu Estranjeiru no Kooperasaun nia sorin, ne'ebé sei fó ba Austrália ba konstrusaun Embaixada foun ida. Konkesaun rai ida ne'e permite Timor atu resiproka depois Australia fornese rai ba Timor-Leste, ne'ebé permite Timor atu harii nia Embaixada iha Canberra.

“Ami sente kontente tanba Austrália planeia atu harii Embaixada foun no boot liu, ne'ebé refleto ninia kompromisu forte no longu prazu ba Timor-Leste. Iha tempu mudansa no inserteza globál, Timor-Leste valoriza tebes ita-nia parseria ho Austrália,” nia haktuir.

Tanba ne'e fahe vizaun ida ba mundu ida ne'ebé hakmatek, iha ne'ebé dezvoltimentu inkluzivu, iha ne'ebé lei internasionál fornese baze atu prevene konflitu no iha ne'ebé direitus umanus hetan tane aas.

Nune'e mos Primeiru-Ministru Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão agradese ba Primeiru-Ministru Anthony Albanese nia vizita, ba Austrália nia amizade no ba progresu ne'ebé Timor halo ohin hodi servisu hamutuk ba povu Timor nia di'ak.

Prezidénsia Konsellu Ministrus
Portavós Governu Timor-Leste
IX Governu Konstitusionál

Deklarasaun konjunta kona-ba
Estabelesimentu Parseria Foun ba Era Foun
entre Governu Repúblika Demokrátika Timor-Leste no Governu Austrália

1. Timor-Leste no Austrália nu'udar parseiru no viziñu ho istória, valór, rejiaun no futuro ne'ebé hanesan. Hodi rekoñese forsa husi parseria ida-ne'e, Sua Exelénsia Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Primeiru-Ministru Timor-Leste, no Exelentísimu Anthony Albanese MP, Primeiru-Ministru Austrália nian, deside estabelese *Parseria Foun ba Era Foun* ("Parseria"). Hodi deklara Parseria, Governu rua kompromete atu mantein kooperasaun kontínua, konsultasaun no respeitu mútuu ba soberania nasional.

Pilár Ida: Dame no Integrasaun Rejionál

2. Nu'udar belun di'ak no viziñu, relasoin entre Timor-Leste no Austrália bazeia ba interesse komún ba ida-idak nia susesu. Ami iha vizaun ida ne'ebé hanesan ba rejiaun ida ne'ebé pasífiku, estavel no prósperu. Nasaun rua sei serbisu hamutuk atu defende direitu internasionál, proteje direitus umanus no prevene konfliktu.

3. Dame, seguransa no estabilidade nu'udar kondisaun importante ba desenvolvimentu ekonómiku no sosiál iha Austrália, Timor-Leste no ami-nia rejiaun ne'ebé hamutuk. Ami kompromete atu mantein komunikasaun, konsulta no kolaborasaun regulár kona-ba ami-nia interesse komún iha matéria seguransa nian, inklui seguransa marítima, esforsu sira atu prevene tráfikumu umanu, assisténsia ba imigrasaun ilegál, krime transnasionál no protesasaun ba infraestrutura importante sira.

4. Austrália rekoñese katak Timor-Leste nia adezaun ba ASEAN nu'udar konkista istória no marku signifikativu ida iha kompromisu kleur Timor-Leste nian ba integrasaun rejionál. Austrália sente orgulhu tanba apoia Timor-Leste nia perkursu ba ASEAN dezde inísiu no sei kontinua apoia Timor-Leste nia prioridade sira nu'udar Estadu-Membru ASEAN atu nune'e adezaun ida-ne'e fó benefísiu direta ba povu Timor-Leste no kontribui ho pozitivu ba dame, estabilidade no prosperidade rejionál. Ami reafirma ami-nia kompromisu hamutuk ba sentralidade ASEAN nian no importánsia hosi arkitetura rejionál ida ne'ebé lidera hosi ASEAN ne'ebé nakloke, transparente, bazeia ba regra sira no inkluzivu.

5. Ami-nia polísia, seguransa fronteira no imigrasaun sira sei kontinua serbisu hamutuk hodi hametin ami-nia seguransa hamutuk. Ami sei reforsa liután Programa Desenvolvimentu Polísia Timor-Leste no kooperasaun tuir Memorandu Entendimentu kona-ba Migrasaun no Jestaun Fronteiras. Ami kontinua fasilita viajen negósius no tempu livre nian entre nasaun rua, inklui liuhosi asesu ba sidadaun Timor-Leste nian ba vistu australianu *Frequent Traveller Stream*

6. Hodi rekoñese importánsia atu hametin reziliénsia rejionál ba risku sibernétiku, ami sei serbisu besik atu dezenvolve kompeténsia no kapasidade sira siberseguransa nian, hasa'e konxiénsia públiku kona-ba risku sibernética, no mós reforsa fahe informasaun ne'ebé relasiona ho siberespasu entre ajénsia sira aplikasaun lei nian.

7. Austrália no Timor-Leste iha istória kooperasaun ida ne'ebé kle'an iha ámbitu defeza nian. Ami reafirma ami-nia kompromisu atu kontinua dezenvolve relasaun defeza ida ne'ebé modernu bazeia ba parseria, soberania no interese ami-nia nasaun rua nian. Liuhosi Programa Kooperasaun iha Defeza, ami sei reforsa liután kolaborasaun mútua ne'ebé fó benefísiu no kleur ona entre ami-nia forsa defeza, hodi kontribui hamutuk ba estabilidade no seguransa nasionál, rejionál, no internasionál.

8. Hanesan hatudu ona husi *Tratadu entre Austrália no República Demokrátika Timor-Leste kona-ba Estabelese ida-idak nia Fronteiras Marítimas iha Tasi Timor*, ne'ebé asina iha tinan 2018 (Tratadu Fronteiras Marítimas), ami reafirma valór no importánsia husi regra no instituisaun internasionál sira, no mós rezolusaun pasífika ba disputas tuir lei internasionál, inklui Konvensaun Nasoins Unidas kona-ba Direitu Tasi nian (CNUDM, sigla iha lian portugés). Ami reafirma karater universál no unitáriu CNUDM / UNCLOS nian, ne'ebé estabelese quadru jurídiku abranjente iha ne'ebé atividade hotu-hotu iha oseau no tasi tenke hala'o.

9. Hodi rekoñese katak mudansa klimátika sei hasa'e frekuénsia no intensidade dezastre naturál sira, ami kompromete atu fornese asisténsia mútua hafoin dezastre boot sira no dezenvolve mekanizmu sira ba koordenasau ida ne'ebé di'ak liu. Austrália kompromete atu hametin apoiu esforsu preparasaun no rekuperasaun nian ba dezastre ne'ebé lidera iha nivel lokál, inklui liuhosi dezenvolvimentu profesionál. Ami hato'o ami-nia apoiu ba esforsu internasionál sira, inklui liuhosi Fundu atu Hatán ba Prejuízu no Estragu sira, ho objetivu atu apoia país sira no comunidades ne'ebé hasoru no liuliu sira ne'ebé vulneravel ba impaktu negativu hosi mudansa klimátika. Ami mós kompromete atu koopera kona-ba mitigasaun no adaptasaun ba alterasaun klimátika, inklui liuhosi apoiu ba dezenvolvimentu no transferénsia teknolojia sira ne'ebé adekuada no asesivel, no mós harii kapasidade ne'ebé iha relasaun, ho hanoin atu promove reziliénsia no dezenvolvimentu ida ne'ebé sensivel ba klima.

Pilár Rua: Prosperidade no Reziliénsia

10. Austrália no Timor-Leste iha ambisaun atu Greater Sunrise bele dezenvolve lalais liután, hodi benefisia Estadu rua, tuir saida maka prevee ona iha Tratadu Fronteira Marítima ne'ebé istóriku. Ho orientasaun hosi espíritu amizade no kooperasaun hanesan ne'ebé ami konklui Tratadu no fasilita Sunrise Joint Venture hala'o Estudu Konsetuál independente istóriku iha 2024, Austrália no Timor-Leste kompromete atu servisu hamutuk entre sira no ho Sunrise Joint Venture, ho boa-fé, hodi elabora kronograma ambisiozu ida ba konkluzau Kódigu Minerasaun Petróleu, Kontratu Fahe Produsaun Greater Sunrise no quadru rejime fiskál ne'ebé ezije hosi Tratadu Fronteiras Marítimas, nune'e permite progresu konkretu ba dezenvolvimentu rekursu ida-ne'e. Ministru Rekursus Austrália no Ministru Petróleu no Rekursus Minerais Timor-Leste nian mós kompromete atu mantein envolvimentu bilaterál ne'ebé metin iha fulan hirak tuirmai hodi supervizona direta negosiasaun ne'ebé lais ho objetivu atu finaliza lalais dokumentu sira ne'ebé temi ona iha leten.

11. Hodi konsidera Estudu Konsetuál no importánsia hosi Timor-Leste nia reziliénsia ekonómika, Austrália no Timor-Leste insentiva Sunrise Joint Venture atu utiliza Estudu ida ne'e no apresenta ba Estadu sira, lalais liután, proposta Konseitu Dezenvolvimentu ida ba Greater Sunrise ne'ebé kumpre rekizitu sira hosi Tratadu Fronteiras Marítimas. Ami mós kompromete atu apoia Sunrise Joint Venture hodi nune'e projetu bele la'o lalais hafoin Estadu sira aprova Konseitu Dezenvolvimentu ida de'it.

12. Austrália rekoñese kompromisu Timor-Leste nian ba prosesamentu iha rai-maran no projetu Tasi Mane iha kosta súl. Austrália sei apoia kualkér solusaun komersiál ne'ebé viavel ba dezvoltimentu Greater Sunrise ne'ebé propoin husi Sunrise Joint Venture, bainhira ida-ne'e kumpre Tratadu Fronteiras Marítimas. Prinsípiu ida-ne'e fundamentál atu avansa ami-nia objetivu komún hodi garante katak projetu ne'e kontribui ba diversifikasaun ekonómika Timor-Leste nian no fornese benefísiu sósiu-ekonómiku ne'ebé sustentável, ba tempu naruk, ba nia povu. Dezvoltimentu Greater Sunrise nian tenke reforsa estabilidade ekonómika, polítika no sosiál Timor-Leste nian, ne'ebé Austrália komprometidu metin. Timor-Leste ida ne'ebé estavel, independente no prósperu sei sai referénsia ida ba Estadu sira-seluk iha rejiaun ne'e no iha importánsia boot ba Austrália.

13. Hanesan iha pasadu, durante jestaun ba Área Konjunta Dezvoltimentu Petrolíferu, Austrália sei apoia Timor-Leste ho fahe koñesimentus téknikus no regulamentares kona-ba saúde, seguransa, ambiente no asuntos relevantes sira seluk, liuhosi ninia departamentus no ajénsias reguladoras ne'ebé kompetentes, Austrália mós sei estabelese Fundu Infraestrutura nian ida ne'ebé sei uza iha Timor-Leste, ne'ebé sei aloka kuota fiksa 10% hosi total reseitas montante projetu Greater Sunrise nian, ne'ebé finansia tomak hosi reseitas futuras Austrália nian rasik. Austrália sei estabelese Fundu ne'e atu nune'e kualkér solusaun komersiál ruma ne'ebé propoin hosi partes komersiais bele hetan akordu hosi Estadus, tuir rekizitus hosi Tratadu Fronteiras Marítimas. Kompromisu ida-ne'e sei garante katak pelumenus katoluk ida husi reseitas Australia nian husi projetu ne'e kanaliza ba Timor-Leste liuhosi Fundu Infraestruturas. Fundu ne'e sei kria no dezeña hamutuk iha espíritu parseria ida, hodi respeita soberania Timor-Leste nian no importánsia hosi operadór GNL ida ne'ebé estabelese ona no hetan aprovasaun hamutuk ba Greater Sunrise.

14. Ami sei kontinua ami-nia parseria forte hodi asegura katak programa mobilidade laborál Australia nian iha benefísius ba malu no fó rezultadus ekonómikus no sosiális pozitivus ba traballadór sira, sira-nia família no empresas iha nasaun rua ne'e. Ami mós sei servisu hamutuk hodi hametin edukasaun no formasaun téknika no profisionál (ETFT) ba foin-sa'e timoroan sira. Iha âmbito parseria ida-ne'e, Timor-Leste no Austrália sei servisu hamutuk hodi permite traballadór timoroan hamutuk 10.000 atu hetan asesu ba oportunidades empregu iha Austrália to'o tinan 2027-28, inklui liuhosi rejime *Pacific Australia Labor Mobility* (PALM, akrónimu iha lian inglés), programa mobilidade laborál Austrália nian.

15. Timor-Leste no Austrália sei asegura katak sira-nia kooperasaun dezvoltimentu promove prosperidade no reziliénsia Timor-Leste nian. Liuhosi abordajen dezvoltimentu ne'ebé lidera iha nivel lokál, ami sei apoia servisu qualidade, kreximentu ekonómiku ida ne'ebé inkluzivu no sustentável, no esforsus ne'ebé ho objetivu atu garante katak timoroan hotu-hotu bele buras ho forma ekuitativu.

16. Timor-Leste no Austrália kompromete atu serbisu hamutuk hodi fó apoiu ba *implementasaun Planu Estratéjiku Dezvoltimentu Timor-Leste 2011–2030 nian*, ne'ebé foka ba diversifikasaun ekonómika, kriasaun empregu no dezvoltimentu sustentável ba setór estratéjiku sira, inklui petróleu, agrikultura no turizmu.

17. Ami kompromete hodi identifika no konkretiza oportunidades atu hametin dezvoltimentu setór privadu, inklui liuhosi aumentu iha komérsiu no investimentu bilaterais, iha âmbito estratéjia *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*. Ami mós sei servisu iha parseria hodi fasilita implementasaun infraestruturas ne'ebé hamosu kreximentu ekonómiku sustentável no empregu lokál iha Timor-Leste, inklui liuhosi *Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific* (AIFFP). Esforsu sira-ne'e sei iha foku liuliu ba serbisu semi-kualifikadu sira.

18. Nu'udar Estadu parseiru marítimu, Austrália respeita Timor-Leste nia ligasaun kle'an ho oseanu. Ami sei buka oportunidades atu hametin kooperasaun iha área Ekonomia Azul, inklui liuhosi apoiu ba *Política no Planu Asaun ba Promosaun Ekonomia Tasi ida ne'ebé Reziliente no Sustentável iha Timor-Leste (2025–2035)*, no mós troka esperiéncias kona-ba ekoturizmu tasi nian no jestaun ba Áreas Mariñas Protejidas.

Pilár tolu: Ligasoins entre Povu no Ligasoins Institusionais

19. Ami komprometidu atu hametin liután amizade, kolaborasaun no solidariedade entre povu timorensen no australianu. Ligasaun sira-ne'e bazeia ba valór komún sira, inklui respeitu kle'an ida ba demokrasia no direitus umanus iha país rua ne'e.

20. Ami sei kontinua hametin ligasoins edukativas, kulturais, sosiais no relijiozas entre ami-nia comunidade sira, inklui liuhosi Grupos Komunitáriu Amizade, Programa Voluntáriu Australianus, Programa Kooperasaun ho ONG Austrália no bolsas estudu *Australia Awards nian*.

21. Ami rekoñese katak lasus ne'ebé dura entre veteranu timoroan no veteranu australianu sira, ne'ebé mantein liuhosi Konsellu Kombates Libertes Nasionál Timor-Leste nian. Ami sei kontinua hametin komemorasion Loron Anzac nian, iha Dili, no promove kooperasaun iha área turizmu istóriu no komemorativu, atu nune'e bele fó onra no prezerva ami-nia istória hamutuk.

22. Ami sei serbisu atu hagle'an ligasoins institusionais, hodi apoia inisiativas parseria entre ajénsias governmentais no parlamentus, no mós insentiva parseria entre organizasoin sociedade sivíl no mídia sira.

23. Ami rekoñese katak juventude mak nasaun nia futuru. Ami sei servisu besik no investe iha kriasaun oportunidades foun ba edukasaun, formasaun, empregu no desenvolvimentu lideransa ba juventude timoroan, inklui ba traballadór sira iha rejime PALM ne'ebé fila hikas mai Timor-Leste. Ami mós sei estabese inisiativas ne'ebé permite lider foun sira hosi país rua ne'e atu halo interasaun no harii ligasoin ne'ebé dura.

Planu Asaun Konjuntu

24. Ami fó ona knaar ba Ministru Negósius Estranjeirus no Kooperasaun Timor-Leste no Ministru Negósius Estranjeirus Austrália nian hodi koordena elaborasaun Planu Asaun Konjuntu ida atu konkretiza *Parseria*. País rua sei halo revizaun ba nia implementasaun, liu-liu liuhosi Diálogu Tinan-Tinan hosi Funsionáriu Importante sira

25. Ministru Negósius Estranjeirus no Kooperasaun Timor-Leste no Ministru Negósius Estranjeirus Austrália nian sei haka'as-an atu hasoru malu direktamente pelumenus tinan ida dala ida, atu nune'e bele diskute kona-ba prioridades hodi hametin relasoin entre país rua ne'e.

Asina iha orijinal rua, iha lian Portugés no Inglés, iha Dili, iha loron 28 fulan-janeiru tinan 2026.

url: <https://timor-leste.gov.tl?lang=tp&p=47100>