



OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Ms. Santana Jose Rodrigues Ferreira Viegas Cardoso
Minister of Finance, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

On the occasion of the
2026 Timor-Leste and Development Partners' Meeting (TLDPM)
Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao Auditorium, Ministry of Finance
Aitarak Laran, Dili
25 May 2026

Distinguished Excellencies,
Honourable Members of Government,
Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and Development Partners,
Colleagues in Public Service,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Bom dia and a very warm good morning to you all.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Timor-Leste and Development Partners' Meeting. It is an honour for the Ministry of Finance to host you once again in this important forum of dialogue and partnership.

Just a few days ago, our nation marked the 24th anniversary of the Restoration of Independence, a reminder of the long and difficult journey that brought us to where we are today.

Timor-Leste's story has always been not only of resilience but also one of solidarity. And we remember with gratitude the support of the international community throughout our struggle and our state-building efforts.

Since then, Timor-Leste has travelled far.

From a post-conflict country with almost no administrative capacity, we have steadily built systems of public financial management, strengthened key State institutions, and nurtured a more open and democratic society.

Today, as a proud member of ASEAN and the broader international community, Timor-Leste is entering a new phase in its development journey, with higher expectations from our citizens and our partners alike.

We are also conscious that this progress has taken place in a world that is rapidly changing. Global and regional uncertainties, climate-related risks, and economic pressures require us all to adapt and to plan with greater care and coordination.

In this context, our partnership with you remains essential.

Over the years, development partners have contributed not only resources, but also ideas, technical expertise, and patient support to our reform efforts, and for this I wish to express our sincere appreciation.

The IX Constitutional Government has set out its vision to deliver a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Timor-Leste, in line with our Strategic Development Plan and our long-term aspirations for our people. Achieving this vision will require us to mobilize our domestic efforts and to work in close alignment with all of you.

We therefore see this meeting as an opportunity to once again listen to one another, to strengthen mutual understanding, and to ensure that our collective efforts are better coordinated in support of national priorities.

Over the next two days, you will hear more on our current direction and priorities from the Prime Minister and colleagues across Government. They will elaborate on our Government's agenda and the key areas where we believe our partnership can have the greatest impact.

For my part this morning, I simply wish to underline that Timor-Leste remains committed to open dialogue, to transparent management of public resources, and to working constructively with all partners for the benefit of the Timorese people.

Allow me to close by once again thanking you for your presence and your continued support to Timor-Leste.

And I hope that our discussions over these two days will be frank, focused, and solution-oriented, and that they will further deepen the trust that underpins our cooperation.

Thank you.