



PRIME MINISTER

Díli, September 26th, 2017

Prime Minister appreciates Australia's willingness to strengthen ties with Timor-Leste

On September 19th, Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri sent a letter to his Australian counterpart, Mr. Malcolm Turnbull, thanking the Chief Executive of Australia for his message congratulating the new Timor-Leste Executive, and where he ensured the commitment of his Government in strengthening the special bond that unites both countries.

In his letter, sent on September 25th, the Head of the Seventh Constitutional Government highlighted that this bilateral relationship is particularly evident in special moments and circumstances. He recalls that their "shared history since World War II illustrates how both peoples came together in difficult times to help each other," stressing that this is a responsibility that leaders must continue to take on.

Mari Alkatiri, also thanked Malcolm Turnbull's commitment in the recently achieved agreement, through the Conciliation Commission in Copenhagen.

In his letter of September 19th, the Australian Prime Minister considers this "a historic opportunity" to strengthen existing ties and "start a new chapter in the relationship" between Timor-Leste and Australia. He committed to promote the existing partnership between the two countries and to work together on the development of resources shared throughout the maritime border. He further highlights that Timor-Leste is "an important regional partner, neighbour and friend" to his country and guarantees his Government's support to Timor-Leste in its objective to diversify the economy and create sustainable opportunities for the people.

Mari Alkatiri expressed his hope that the agreement "will not only strengthen the already strong relationship between both countries, but will also show the world how international law assists neighbouring countries to solve their problems".

The Prime Minister concluded his letter assuring the Government's commitment "to work with important partners such as Australia, in the development of Timor-Leste and of peace and stability of our region."

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