



120 DAYS

of Commitments by the Ninth Constitutional Government

1 July to 28 October 2023

“Let’s save the Democratic Rule of Law”





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120 DAYS of Commitments by the Ninth Constitutional Government

*“Let’s Save the
Democratic Rule of Law”*

In compliance with the mandate granted to it by the Timorese people, the Ninth Consti-

tutional Government outlined a programme with short, medium, and long-term measures, with a focus on the commitments made for the first 120 days of governance. While 120 days, approximately four months, is a short period to achieve significant results, it is, however, the necessary time to lay the foundation for a structural and transformative programme for the country.

Thus, after the Government’s inauguration on 1 July 2023, all government departments dedicated themselves in these initial days of their term to understand their administrative staff, the existing assets and records, ongoing work, and to analyse and assess this work, seeking to



identify the shortcomings and successes inherited from the previous governance.

All members of the Government understood the need to strive to correct the irregularities committed during this long period of stagnation, where there was a systematic violation of good governance and transparency rules required for the development and consolidation of the Democratic Rule of Law.

And while the entire Executive knows that its mission is to contribute to “*a nation where society is prosperous and healthy, educated and skilled, innovative and dynamic, with widespread access to essential goods and services, and where production and employment in all productive sectors correspond to that of an emerging economy*” – by implementing the goals and priorities set out in the National Development Strategic Plan 2011-2030 and resuming Timor-Leste’s roadmap to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda of the United Nations – it also knows that this commitment is unattainable without peace, stability, justice and effective, responsible, and inclusive institutions to guide this path of sustainable development.

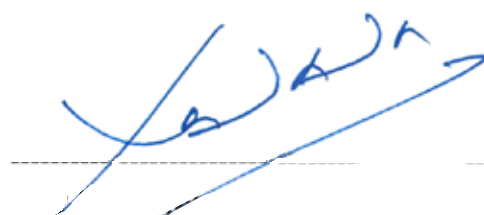
Consequently, the Ninth Constitutional Government assumes the duty and responsibility to make the necessary corrections to the identified weaknesses and implement public policies for reforming the system to enhance financial and administrative transparency and accountability. An efficient government is one that can implement structural reforms to expedite the necessary transformation, especially in areas that are not meeting the expectations of society and the population.

In short, over the first 120 days government teams have focused on a comprehensive review of all the corrections that need to be made across processes, systems and methodologies that are hindering economic growth and sustainable development. This included preparing the organisational structure of each ministerial line, renewing the legal-administrative framework of national structures and policies, and setting goals and priorities for the next 5 years.

It may seem like a small step, but the construction of a solid and enduring building starts with its foundations, and structuring and planning are not easy tasks, especially in a country with so many priorities and needs. For each Minister and Secretary of State, for each leader of public institutions, the challenge was to provide better services, greater efficiency, higher standards of transparency, integrity and professionalism to improve the living conditions of the Timorese people and, above all, to create conditions for the Timorese citizens to develop themselves in a true democratic and participatory spirit.

I am pleased to say that during these initial months of governance I have felt that the entire government is excited and committed to fulfilling this mission. We are strong and united to serve the Timorese people and set the country on the path to development.

28 October 2023



His Excellency the Prime Minister of the
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

The Commitments

“Making the necessary corrections, doing more and doing better is the common platform for the formation of this new Government. Our actions will be guided by the principles of good governance, inclusivity, and the principle that everyone must obey the law.

Our vision is of a nation where society is prosperous and healthy, educated and skilled, innovative and dynamic, with widespread access to essential goods and services, and where production and employment in all productive sectors correspond to that of an emerging economy.”

To meet the expectations of the Timorese people and society, the Ninth Government committed, in the first 120 days of governance, to a series of initiatives and measures, which are the focus of this report.

As such, in the first 120 days of governance, from 1 July to 28 October 2023, the Government dedicated itself to:

1 *Restore democratic normality by having a legitimate Parliament and a legal Government that approves the 5-year Government Programme, the Amending Budget for 2023 and the 2024 State Budget. Strive to repeal all legislation and regulations hindering the consolidation of the State.*

The Council of Ministers approved the Programme of the Ninth Constitutional Government on 12 July 2023, setting the main public policies to be adopted during the term.

The Government Programme was based on a firm and determined commitment to fulfil a development agenda for the Nation and is structured around six main areas: reaffirmation of the Democratic Rule of Law, development of social capital, infrastructure development, economic development, government consolidation, and good governance and the fight against corruption.

The Programme, which was debated in the National Parliament over two days, received unanimous support from all members of the National Parliament on 19 July 2023, with





representatives from parliamentary benches expressing their support for the Programme for the next five years.

On 9 August 2023 the Council of Ministers approved the Draft Law enacting the first amendment to Law No. 15/2022, of 21 December, regarding the 2023 General State Budget, and Law No. 2/2022, of 10 February, concerning the framework of the General State Budget and Public Financial Management, and the second amendment to Law No. 8/2008, of 30 June, the Tax Law. The Amended 2023 General State Budget, with a consolidated total value of \$1.77 billion, was approved in the final global vote by the National Parliament during the plenary session on 24 August 2023.

On 24 July 2023 the Council of Ministers approved the new Government Organic Structure, Decree-Law No. 46/202, of 28 July. The new Government structure reflects not only its actual organisation but also the philosophy of the new Government. As such, the structure represents the most suitable organisation for the execution of the Programme, including cross-cutting areas and programmes that span various government areas, addressing the demands of the legislative period.

On 2 October 2023 the Council of Ministers approved the total expenditure associated with each budget title for the 2024 General State Budget, with a projected total value of \$1.6 billion. This amount reflects an 18% reduction, equivalent to \$360 million, compared to the 2023 budget. This budget estimate will be reviewed by the Budget Review Committee between 23 October and 9 November. It is expected that the Draft Law for the 2024 General State Budget will be submitted to the National Parliament by the end of November.

2 *Repeal Law No. 3/2014, which established RAEOA and ZEEMS, in order to place the RAEOA Authority under better control by the Central Government, as the stated goal in the law for creating ZEEMS has not been outlined, even after nine long years. Conduct an immediate audit of all activities, including the process of the costly acquisition of the “Ró Haksolok” vessel.*

On 25 September the Council of Ministers approved the Draft Law enacting the third amendment to Law No. 3/2014, of 18 June, which created the Special Administrative Region of Oe-Cusse Ambeno (RAEOA) and established the Special Zone for the Social Market Economy of Oe-Cusse Ambeno and Ataúro.

This Draft Law was approved in the general assembly of the National Parliament on 24 October 2023. The approved amendments include: establishing an appropriate legal framework for the Special Zones for the Social Market Economy throughout the territory; the supervisory power over RAEOA will be exercised exclusively by the Prime Minister; the regulatory power of RAEOA will be brought in line with the Constitution and the Law; contracts entered into by RAEOA on behalf of the Special Zone for the Social Market Economy of Oe-Cusse Ambeno and Ataúro will be automatically transferred to RAEOA.

Regarding the acquisition process of “Ro-Haksolok”, the Government is conducting a detailed examination of all documents involved in the process, including the various contracts related to the construction of the ship, and is analysing the technical and financial viability of continuing with the project.





3 *Repeal the law that created the municipality of Ataúro, due to the complete lack of infrastructural and logistical conditions on the island of Ataúro, such as roads, electricity, water, port and an airport.*

The Council of Ministers approved the Draft Law for the fourth amendment to Law No. 11/2009, of 7 October, which approves the Administrative Division of the Territory. This Draft Law was approved in the general assembly of the National Parliament on 24 October 2023. As foreseen in the programme of the Ninth Constitutional Government, this amendment aims to extinguish the municipality of Ataúro and create a first-tier administrative division, called “Ataúro”, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic.

This proposed change in the legal-administrative status of Ataúro will pave the way for the redefinition of a territorial administration model that, under the authority of the Government, has the capacity to initiate the development process of this territory with the participation of local communities.

The Government considers that this solution is not a step backward or a downgrading of the Ataúro island territory but rather the foundation for a new organisational and operational model of local administration in Ataúro. This new model will have the necessary legal framework and means to promote infrastructure development in that territory, ensure the provision of basic goods and services to local communities, and stimulate economic growth and the well-being of the population in Ataúro.”

4 *Conduct audits of the Court of Auditors, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Public Prosecutor's Office regarding programme implementation and the lack of procurement processes in many projects.*

The Government is currently conducting a legal analysis of the lack of audited financial statements from the Chamber of Auditors, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Public Prosecutor's Office.

In accordance with the principle of the separation of powers among the organs of sovereignty, the Government and the National Parliament will soon propose mechanisms that compel these entities to be accountable and undergo specialised, independent audits.

5 *Conduct audits of the Civil Service Commission and the Office of the Inspector-General of the State regarding illegal hirings and contract terminations without justification.*

Both the Public Service Commission and the State Inspectorate are in the process of preparing the necessary terms of reference to conduct audits of these two entities.

These audits will focus on evaluating the quality and legality of the management practices carried out by the current leaders of these critical state services. They will involve a rigorous and systematic examination of the activities performed by these two important state services and will primarily centre around management and legal audits.





6 *Conduct an audit on the electoral fraud committed by the Electoral Administration in the recent Parliamentary Elections, so as to safeguard the Rule of Law.*

A comprehensive assessment of the organisation and operation of the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) and the activities carried out by it in recent electoral processes was conducted. This assessment identified the need to initiate a new voter registration process to accurately update the information in the Voter Registration Database.

To ensure a secure and reliable outcome and the integrity and authenticity of the electoral process, modernisation of the voter registration processes is required. This could include the use of biometric data of voters to eliminate the possibility of fraud and safeguard the genuine and democratic representation of Timorese voters.

Additionally, this assessment highlights the need to strengthen the legal framework governing electoral processes, particularly through the creation of an Electoral Code.

7 *Restructure TIMOR GAP and ANPM to ensure greater efficiency in the oil sector, which is crucial to the development of the country.*

The Council of Ministers approved the second amendment to Decree-Law No. 31/2011, of 27 July, TIMOR GAP – Timor Gas & Petroleum, E.P. This amendment aims to correct inaccuracies and shortcomings identified and adapt the governance structure of TIMOR GAP, E.P. to the standards followed by international and national companies in the energy sector. It also expands its scope of operation to better address the challenges of energy transition. Rui Maria Alves Soares has been appoint-

ed as the President of the Board of Directors and, ex officio, the President of the Executive Committee of TIMOR GAP, E.P. – Timor Gas & Petroleum, E.P (TIMOR GAP), for a four-year term. As a reference public company in the energy sector, TIMOR GAP is mandated to manage the state’s investments in the petroleum sector and related sectors, following the policies set by the Government.

The Council of Ministers also approved the third amendment to Decree-Law No. 20/2008, of 19 June, which creates the National Petroleum Authority. With this amendment, the National Petroleum Authority (ANP) will return to having competences and functions exclusively focused on matters related to the oil and gas sector and related areas. This will allow the ANP to focus solely on the sector, allocating all its resources to its development, thereby enabling it to contribute effectively to the country’s economic development. Gualdino do Carmo da Silva has been appointed as the President of the Board of Directors of the National Petroleum Authority, I.P., for a four-year term.

The Council also approved the establishment of the National Minerals Authority I.P. (Decree-Law No. 63/2023, of 6 September), and appointed Rafael Danilson Magno de Araújo as the President of the Board of Directors. The Institute of Geosciences of Timor-Leste I.P. was also created (Decree-Law No. 60/2023, of 6 September), with Job Brites do Santos as the new President of the Board of Directors. The Timor-Leste Mining Company, S.A. was also dissolved, and the Murak Rai Timor, E.P. was created (Decree-Law No. 64/2023, of 6 September), with José Manuel Gonçalves as the President of the Executive Committee and the President of the Board of Directors.

8 *Restructure the Criminal Investigation Scientific Police (PCIC) due to issues related to integrity and professionalism.*

A report and a proposal for the structural reform of the PCIC have been prepared to enhance various areas with the goal of achieving excellence and efficiency in the administration of justice. Key areas essential for achieving this goal, such as specialised training and capacity building, technological modernisation, role separation, transparency and accountability, process and procedure review, community interaction, investigator recruitment, sensitive case management, interagency coordination, and regular assessment and external feedback, have been considered to improve the quality of criminal investigations and strengthen the credibility of the PCIC. This contributes to strengthening the entire judicial system and promoting quality, rigor, security and the defence of the Rule of Law.

Decree-Laws regarding the PCIC Personnel Statute and Amendments to the PCIC Statutes are currently being drafted.



**PCIC - Polícia Científica
de Investigação Criminal
TIMOR-LESTE**



9 *Consolidate peace and security, which are essential for national development, while ensuring the fundamental rights, freedoms and guarantees of all citizens.*

The new government has initiated several initiatives and reforms to consolidate peace, stability and security in the country, which are fundamental conditions for national development. These reforms primarily relate to internal security, migration, border control, civil protection and road safety, as well as other governance sectors, including the justice sector.

10 *Immediately review the illegal forced retirement process of dozens of PNTL members.*

The Council of Ministers, by way of a Government Resolution, approved the reinstatement of 158 PNTL police officers. The government has reinstated these PNTL police officers and compensated them for the time they were listed as being retired.

11 *Immediately reform and restructure the National Intelligence Service to ensure integrity and professionalism within this institution.*

The National Intelligence Service has already started its restructuring, beginning with changes to its leadership. On 5 September 2023 a ceremony was held for the transfer of leadership within the SNI. The new leadership consists of Director-General Longinhos Monteiro and Deputy Director-General Egas Moniz.

As part of the government's legislative process, a bill is under review to amend the statute of the National Intelligence Service, reformulating and restructuring its services.

12 *Alert all PNTL agents who have sworn allegiance to a particular party to renounce their partisan ties or, alternatively, leave the PNTL.*

Awareness raising and training activities have been conducted for the PNTL officers, as well as meetings with senior officials of the PNTL, including a visit by the Prime Minister to the PNTL Academy, promoting the high values of integrity, professionalism, and non-partisan or political neutrality.

Impartiality is a mandatory characteristic in law enforcement professionals because they should treat all citizens fairly and equally, regardless of their political affiliations. This is an essential aspect to maintain trust and integrity in the justice system, and it will lead PNTL agents to focus on the impartial application of laws and the protection of the security and rights of all members of society, regardless of their political beliefs.

13 *Proceed to the immediate elimination of the substantial tax increases approved in January 2023.*

The Government adjusted the selective consumption tax rates and import customs duties applicable in 2023. The selective consumption tax rate on sugar was eliminated, and the import customs duties were reduced to the previous rate of 2.5%.





14 *Audit and review, as necessary, the major “deals” made at the end of the previous government’s term.*

The Government has established several working teams to audit and review some of the “major” deals made on behalf of Timor-Leste by the VIII Government at the end of its mandate.

Some of these deals were concluded after the parliamentary elections, with the previous Government, according to the law, having merely administrative powers. It was necessary to audit and review these “deals”, starting with those that have a greater impact on public finances, development and social stability. As an example, the contract for the rehabilitation of the runway at President Nicolau Lobato International Airport and the contract for the acquisition of Timor Telecom are under review.

In these, as in the other contracts being audited, the Government will decide whether they should proceed or, if any illegality or irregularity is detected, whether they should be revised, or if the public interest dictates that they should be terminated.

15 *Ensure the immediate availability of all necessary medicines for hospitals and health centres.*

The Government has established the National Institute of Pharmacy and Medical Products (FPM), Decree-Law n° 56/2023, of 6 September, to acquire, primarily through imports, pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, produce pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, ensure the quality control of goods purchased or produced by the institute, and maintain best practices in storage and distribution to the National Health Ser-

vice and resell them to national pharmacies and private healthcare facilities when needed.

The Government has also assessed the needs for medications and other medical and pharmaceutical products that are lacking in hospitals, health centres and laboratories. They have entered into a contract for the urgent supply of all the missing medications. This contract, valued at \$5.9 million, is awaiting approval by the Chamber of Accounts.

16 *Transform school snacks into a real “hot” and nutritious meal for children.*

The Ministry of Education has been working alongside international agencies such as WFP, CARE International and FAO. The Ministry has carried out observation and monitoring activities in schools at national and municipal levels to collect information on the implementation of the School Snack Programme. From July to September, the Government continued to conduct training activities and to distribute Implementation Guidelines to School Directors, Coordinators and Programme Management Teams. During this last quarter the Government identified schools with poor kitchen facilities, bathrooms and access to clean water, and accelerated distribution of support materials.

17 *Improve the conditions for assistance and treatment for people with disabilities at the National Rehabilitation Centre and, in the future, establish similar centres in all municipalities.*

The Government has established the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, including its Secretariat. The National Council will, among other things, seek to implement the following objectives: stimulate the creation of





self-sustainable businesses for citizens with disabilities; build accessible infrastructure and provide accessible equipment in public institutions; develop support programmes for families and communities where people with disabilities are integrated; create suitable conditions in the National Rehabilitation Centre extending these centres to all municipalities, with the identification of locations for the creation of centres in municipalities currently under study and identification.

An audit of the National Rehabilitation Centre was conducted by the Inspection and Audit Office of the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, which led to the removal of the Director and Deputy Directors of the National Rehabilitation Centre. In coordination with the Civil Service Commission, a new management team was appointed with the aim of effectively promoting the rehabilitation of people with disabilities through the provision of specialised services, as well as the inclusion and promotion of their rights to ensure equal opportunities, combat discrimination, and ensure the participation of people with disabilities in all areas of social life. The process of improving the physical space of the Becora National Rehabilitation Centre is also underway.

18 *Conduct a survey of the main road maintenance and river normalisation needs across the country to commence urgent rehabilitation works next year.*

The Government has identified and assessed all ongoing infrastructure projects and works to allow for the necessary corrections and restructuring of the infrastructure plan. This includes a focus on the condition of the country's roads and the rivers that need to be normalised before the rainy season begins.

In addition to the assessment of all ongoing infrastructure projects and works in the country, as well as the identification of the main needs for road maintenance, there has also been the cleaning of drainage systems and normalisation of rivers in Dili, not only by the Institute of Geosciences and Earth and Environmental Sciences (IGEADI) but also by employees and contracted companies. This was done to prevent recurring floods in Dili during the rainy season.

The Council of Ministers, by way of a Government Resolution, has also approved an urgent plan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure affected by the calamities that occurred on 2-7 July 2023, in eight national municipalities.



Main Achievements

In compliance with the mandate granted by the people, the Ninth Constitutional Government also took on a series of commitments, aiming to continue the development of social capital, infrastructure development, economic sector development, governmental consolidation and good governance, as well as the fight against corruption. In relation to these measures, the following achievements have been realised in the first 120 days of governance:

Continue Developing Social Capital

“The true wealth of any nation is the strength of its people. Maximising the overall health, education, and quality of life of the Timorese people is essential to achieving a just and developed nation.”

Ensuring the quality of teachers in the education system

Working alongside the Public Service Commission, the government has conducted a comprehensive analysis of contracted teachers to finalise the process for approximately 5,009 teachers who will be placed under the special regime. The government seeks to ensure a sufficient and suitable human resource

pool for fulfilling their roles in the education sector, aligning qualifications and placements according to the actual needs of the country.

The government is also promoting the Teacher Career Statute to ensure the quality of teaching and teachers by introducing methods for the selection, assessment and assignment of resources based on merit and professionalism, tailored to national requirements.

Restructuring of staffing in the Education Sector

In accordance with the Legal Regime of the National System of Basic and Secondary Education and Preschool Education and Infant Education Programmes, the Ministry of Education is identifying the number of teachers placed in public educational institutions to ensure the correct distribution of teachers and educators in schools throughout the country. This is being done to address situations where some schools may have too many teachers while others have too few.

Upon completion of this exercise by the end of the year, there will be an accurate assessment of the education system's personnel structure and requirements for recruiting teachers for the following year.

Review of school infrastructure and strengthening of the Basic Education System Transformation (BEST) Programme

In partnership with the World Bank, a school infrastructure construction programme is currently underway, which has been experiencing consecutive delays. The 9th Government, through the Ministry of Education, has made efforts to identify the problems and irregularities that are causing these delays, redefining strategies and improving inter-ministerial coordination to expedite the process.

As such, the aim is to have the new school infrastructure completed by 30 June 2025, with 10 new schools to commence construction in 2023, and an additional 69 in 2024. The BEST programme also encompasses aspects of teacher training, pedagogical support for teachers in rural areas, textbook printing, curriculum revision for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Cycles of Basic Education, as well as the development of the SIGE/EMIS programme for decentralised school management. All of these projects are currently underway.

Finally, designs and content for 30 books for classroom libraries have been developed to promote a love of reading, enhance reading skills and promote literacy among children.

Review of the 3rd Cycle of Basic Education Curriculum

The analysis and revision of the 3rd Cycle of Basic Education curriculum have been initiated, with competent technical support and the proper assessment of all subjects. This process is expected to be completed by December of this year. The Government aims to ensure that all students have access to suitable textbooks and educational materials for the development of 21st century skills.

Conclusion of the assessment and analysis of the Eskola iha Uma Programme

The assessment and analysis of the *Eskola iha Uma* Programme, which targets children aged 3-7 years who have not yet had access to basic education, have been concluded. This programme will undergo restructuring to better prepare children for formal education ("school readiness"), including the learning materials contents and implementation strategies.

Strengthening EMULI schools for inclusive education

Efforts have been made to secure funding for the continued implementation of the EMULI programme, and a new coordinator has been recruited for this programme to ensure its effectiveness until 2026. Expansion of the programme to more municipalities is also planned. In line with the goal of inclusive education, INFORDEPE has conducted teacher training for EMULI schools.

Improving school management

To enhance school management, the process of school concessions for basic education, including private elementary schools, has been reviewed. Additionally, a procurement process for computers and motorcycles has been developed to support central elementary schools and secondary education.

Improving school nutrition

In addition to the School Meals Programme, which aims to ensure that all children have a nutritious meal to improve health and academic performance, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with CARE International and with the support of the HATUTAN programme, has initiated a nutrition training programme within the scope of school meals. To this end, the “*lafaek*” magazine on nutrition has been distributed to schools.

Furthermore, to ensure that the meals provided by the School Meals Programme are nutritious and healthy, the Ministry of Education has developed coordination mechanisms with CARE International, WFP and FAO, not only for better programme monitoring but also for the implementation of manuals and training to ensure the programme’s objectives.

Timor-Leste participated in the Global Summit on School Feeding

Timor-Leste took part in the first Global Summit of the School Feeding Coalition, held in Paris on 18-19 October, under the theme “*School meals for a more equitable and inclusive future*”.

Launched in 2021 by France and Finland, with the support of the World Food Programme (WFP), this coalition aims to ensure that, by 2030, all children worldwide have access to healthy school meals. As advocated by the government through its “school meals” initiative, it is internationally recognised that school meals play a vital role not only in the health and education of children but also in job creation and sustainable food systems.

Establishment of coordination mechanisms for effective service coordination through the creation of the Joint Action for Education in Timor-Leste (ACETL)

ACETL encompasses the Ministry of Education and non-governmental organisations, both national and international, working together to coordinate and share information on programme implementation, facilitate and share best practices, and coordinate financial support from the Ministry of Education.

Implementation of a CAFE school in all Administrative Posts

Contact was made with the Portuguese government to solidify the Centres for Learning and Schooling (CAFE), a collaboration between Portugal and Timor-Leste. Progress has been made in terms of adapting the CAFE structure to the Timor-Leste school system, the existing curriculum in the country, and the desire to reconfigure the presence of Portuguese teachers in Timor-Leste.

Regarding the construction of CAFE schools, the Ministry of Education has taken steps to expedite construction projects.

Concession of land by the Timorese Government to the Portuguese School of Dili

After identifying land for the construction of new facilities for the Portuguese School of Dili, which has been present in the country since 2002, the school can be expanded, allowing for an increase in the number of student openings and strengthening education and the Portuguese language in the country.

Establishment of the Coordinating Committee for Universities and Higher Institutes

A proposal and terms of reference for the Coordinating Committee for Universities and Higher Institutes (CUIS) were prepared, and the regulation that defines the rules of operation and internal structure of this advisory body was approved.

Improvement of management mechanisms for higher education institutions

The launch of the Timor-Leste Higher Education Data Management System (SGDES-TL) took place, and the process of connecting institutions to the system is currently underway. The government has also reconciled the results of monitoring reports for all higher education institutions, both private and public (19 institutions).

Master's degree in education at UNTL in cooperation with Brazil

On 18 August 2023 a ceremony was held to sign cooperation agreements and implement

a project between Timor-Leste and Brazil for the establishment of a Master's Degree in Education at the National University Timor Loro-sa'e (UNTL).

This project involves collaboration between the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) in Brazil and UNTL to establish a Master's Degree in Education at the Timorese University. It includes the arrival of UFSC professors in Timor-Leste for two years to teach in the master's programme. The project also involves Timorese teachers attending training sessions in Brazil.

Signing of cooperation agreements for human resource development

Cooperation agreements have been prepared and signed with the University of Aveiro in Portugal and the Palembang Polytechnic Institute in Indonesia, under the Human Capital Development Fund, to provide scholarships for the training of Timorese professionals.

Conducting a situational diagnosis of the key challenges in the Health Sector

A diagnosis has been conducted to identify the key challenges in various health services and units, including central services and autonomous institutes that are part of the direct administration of the State within the Ministry of Health. This includes the Guido Valadares National Hospital, the National Institute of Public Health, the National Institute of Pharmacy and Medical Products and the National Ambulance and Emergency Medical Service.

Creation of the National Institute of Pharmacy and Medical Products

The government established the National Institute of Pharmacy and Medical Products (FPM) with the purpose of procuring pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, particularly through imports. The institute is also tasked with producing pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, ensuring the quality control of acquired or produced goods, maintaining best practices in storage and distribution to the National Health Service, and, when necessary, reselling these products to national pharmacies and private healthcare facilities.

Medication procurement

The government assessed the shortages of pharmaceuticals and other medical products in hospitals, health centres and laboratories. Subsequently, a contract for the urgent supply of all the missing medications was signed through direct adjustment from the former SAMES to the Ministry of Health. The contract, worth \$5.9 million, is awaiting approval from the Court of Auditors.

The former Executive Director of SAMES was relieved of their position and a new Director was appointed to lead the National Institute of Pharmacy and Medical Products (INFPM).

Legal regime for medical assistance abroad

This regulation establishes the legal framework for the right to medical assistance abroad for beneficiaries of the National Health Service who are residents of Timor-Leste. It also covers situations where beneficiaries are temporarily abroad and require urgent medical assistance that is incompatible with the delay associated with returning to Timor-Leste.

Eradication of rubella in Timor-Leste

On 21 July 2023 the World Health Organisation of the Southeast Asia Region announced that Timor-Leste was one of the two countries in the Southeast Asian region to eliminate cases of rubella within its territory.

This announcement came after the Regional Verification Commission, a team of independent experts, convened in Bangkok, Thailand, in June. Timor-Leste had already eradicated measles in 2018 and is now recognised by WHO and UNICEF for the progress made in achieving national immunisation coverage.

Rubella is a highly contagious disease that can cause severe health problems and irreversible issues in newborns if their mothers are infected during pregnancy.

National Breastfeeding Promotion Campaign

On 11 August 2023 the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and other partners, launched a National Breastfeeding Promotion Campaign in the Gariuai Village, Baucau Municipality. This campaign, which is part of World Breastfeeding Week, will extend to all national municipalities.

Blood donation campaign

On 25 July 2023 the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with National Hospital Guido Valadares (HNGV) and the World Health Organisation Office of Timor-Leste, organised an event at HNGV to promote blood donation and raise awareness for this year's World Blood Donor Day theme: "Give blood, give plasma, share life, donate often."

Combatting malnutrition in Timor-Leste

On 18 September 2023 the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs Coordination and Minister of Rural Development and Community Housing presided over a coordination meeting with international partner agencies of the government to address the issue of malnutrition and stunting in the country.

Several representatives from international agencies participated in the meeting, including JICA, UNICEF, the World Bank, KOICA, the EU, UNFPA, UNDP, WFP, FAO, WHO, ADB and IFC. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss strategies to tackle malnutrition in Timor-Leste, which currently affects 47% of the population. In addition to malnutrition, issues related to the challenges faced by young people, such as employment, education and health, were also addressed.

In order to ensure effective coordination of efforts and reach the entire country, including rural and remote areas, a National Technical Working Group for Early Childhood Development (ECD) and a Programme Steering Committee will be established to harmonise and monitor services, with the aim of improving efficiency in programme implementation in line with the priorities of Timor-Leste's Ninth Constitutional Government.

The Technical Working Group will provide technical inputs for the development of a Multisectoral ECD Policy and support the Steering Committee in coordinating and monitoring its implementation.

Programme to combat malnutrition in Timor-Leste with support from the UK

The UK's Minister for the Indo-Pacific, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, made an official visit

to Timor-Leste from 29 September to 2 October. During her visit, she participated in the launch of a joint programme by the Government of Timor-Leste, the UK Government and UNICEF aimed at combating child malnutrition in Timor-Leste. Funded by the British government, the programme seeks to empower community support groups to identify cases of malnutrition and provide caregivers with essential knowledge on child nutrition practices.

Anne-Marie Trevelyan also took part in the "Women in Leadership" event, a partnership between the Government of Timor-Leste and UN Women, with funding from the UK. This initiative aims to promote the participation of women in security, conflict resolution and formulation of development policies.

Approval of social security and mobility agreements with Portugal

The Government approved two agreements with Portugal in the field of social security, including a memorandum on the mobility of Timorese workers. These agreements include an administrative agreement for the implementation of the Convention on Social Security between Timor-Leste and Portugal and a memorandum of understanding on the mobility of Timorese workers.

The Social Security agreement will allow citizens of Timor-Leste and Portugal to enjoy the same Social Security benefits in either country.

Readjustment of conditional mother's scholarship programme data

The Government carried out a data readjustment for 55,185 beneficiaries in twelve mu-

municipalities and the RAEOA under the Conditional Mother's Scholarship Programme. As for the Conditional Mother's Scholarship Programme – Jerasaun Foun, data collection was completed to initiate the programme's expansion to all municipalities.

Revision of the Strategic Plan for the Secretary of State for Equality 2023-2028

Following data collection and consultations with national and international partners, the Secretary of State for Equality has drafted a strategic plan for gender equality and equality in Timor-Leste to be implemented between 2023 and 2028.

Also during this period there were awareness-raising actions for women's leadership in villages and communities, efforts to prevent domestic and gender-based violence and of the Domestic Workers Act, including the rights of domestic workers, which are mostly women.

Partnership agreement for the dissemination of children's rights and internet safety

The Government of Timor-Leste, represented by the Secretary of State for Social Communication, and the UNICEF Representative in Timor-Leste signed an agreement on 11 September 2023 establishing a two-year continuous work plan.

This plan includes components for raising awareness about healthy internet use and for capacity-building of human resources and provision of equipment for national community radio stations. The goal is to create and disseminate ethical and up-to-date information on children's rights.

Protection of children's rights

In addition to promoting and participating in the International Conference on “*Child Care Reform, Promotion and Defence of the Integral Development of Children in Timor-Leste*” and the Conference “*Ensuring Urgent Assistance for Children and Youth at Risk*”, both aimed at advocating children's rights and providing well-being and development, there has been ongoing work to protect and promote children's rights from legal, financial and institutional perspectives. Efforts to raise awareness and social inclusion programmes have continued as well.

Strategic plan of the Institute for the Defence of Children's Rights (INDDICA)

The Strategic Plan of INDDICA for the period from 2024 to 2028 has been finalised, and efforts to raise awareness about the defence of children's rights are ongoing. This includes addressing issues such as the need for psychological support, cases of sexual assault, physical and psychological violence against children, matters related to parental authority and concerns of orphaned children. There are also ongoing initiatives related to educational support and access to school meals, as well as strengthened advocacy for children's rights.

Promotion of the Maubisse Declaration 2023-2028

The celebration of World Rural Women's Day on the theme “*Women Ready to Lead for Freedom from Hunger and Poverty*” aimed to empower women in rural areas in their own development processes. Other programmes promoting women's rights and conditions have continued, including efforts to combat domestic violence, the implementation of gen-

der-sensitive budget programmes, support for mothers and educators and support for women's entrepreneurship and income generation.

Establishment of elderly care centres in each administrative post

To implement the measures by this government aimed at improving the living conditions of these citizens who are the living heroes of the nation, conditions have been created to establish care centres in administrative posts to support the elderly. In this regard, there is an ongoing programme to identify individuals over 70 years old, while providing financial support and conducting campaigns to raise awareness among families and communities about this segment of the population. Programmes for occupational therapy for the elderly are also in progress to fill their free time and integrate them into their communities.

Appointment of the new President of the National Institute for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (INCSIDA)

Daniel Marçal has been appointed as the President of the National Institute for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (INCSIDA), which is currently assessing and monitoring the institute's activities to establish new objectives for the institution.

During the period covered by this report, efforts continued in what regards awareness, monitoring prevention and support for infected individuals.

Improving the living conditions of people with disabilities

To enhance assistance for people with disabilities and special needs, the government

has established the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, including its Secretariat, which will work towards creating more sustainable living conditions for this vulnerable segment of the population. The National Council will, among other things, seek to implement the following objectives: stimulate the creation of self-sustaining businesses for citizens with disabilities, build accessible infrastructure and provide accessible equipment in public institutions, develop support programmes for families and communities where people with disabilities are integrated, and create suitable conditions at the National Rehabilitation Centre, extending these centres to all municipalities.

Validation of the 2009 veterans' data registration

The successful validation of the second data registration for veterans from 2009 has been completed for all municipalities and the RAE-OA. The nation's veterans and martyrs continue to be honoured and commemorated through various actions, including the construction of monuments and support for them and their families.

Support for arts and culture associations in the country

The government has provided support to arts and culture associations to encourage talented young individuals in various areas of art and culture, with the aim of affirming Timorese identity and promoting their participation in international forums.

Launch of the permanent exhibition of "Tais Timor"

The permanent exhibition of "Tais Timor", in-

augurated on 25 August 2023, aims to promote the national cultural identity. Since 28 August 2023 this exhibition has been on display at the Secretary of State for Arts and Culture, under the theme “*ExpoGraphic Tais, Timor-Leste’s Traditional Textiles – Intangible Cultural Heritage*”. The exhibition was organised by the Secretary of State for Arts and Culture with the support of UNESCO, UN Women, Timor AID and Fundasaun Alola, with the goal of contributing to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, especially tais, emphasising the importance of a sense of belonging to Timorese culture and the defence of national identity reinforced by traditions and culture.

Participation of national athletes in the Asian Games in Hangzong, China

The government supported the participation of 61 athletes and officials in the Asian Games held in China in September 2023. It was a dignified participation with the expected results.

Reorganisation of martial arts activities and resolution of conflicts among martial arts organisations

The Decree-Law establishing the Martial Arts Regulatory Commission as a public institute of indirect state administration was amended to place the organisation under direct State administration. Meetings were also organised between martial arts organisations, and sanctions were applied to the groups involved in conflicts.

With the reorganisation of the new structure and the resolution of conflicts, it is expected that martial arts activities in the country will proceed peacefully and promote national cohesion and stability.

Appointment of members to the National Sports Commission

To promote sports at national level, members of the National Sports Commission were appointed, and support for awarding prizes to athletes in international competitions, especially athletes from the Special Olympics, was reinstated.

Manny Pacquiao’s visit to Timor-Leste

Former boxer Manny Pacquiao visited Timor-Leste for 2 days with an agenda organised by the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture. The visit included meetings with local authorities and representatives of the sport of boxing. This visit aimed to inspire Timorese athletes in this discipline.

Construction of the new RTTL building and strengthening of its operational capabilities

On 11 August 2023 the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Japan signed a Note Exchange Agreement worth approximately \$6 million. The agreement seeks to support the strengthening of the operational capabilities of Timor-Leste’s Radio and Television Broadcasting company (RTTL) and the construction of its new permanent building. The signing ceremony took place at the United Nations facilities in Dili. The RTTL building, which had been affected by severe flooding, has undergone provisional arrangements and it is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2024.

¹ On November 10, 2023, the Government decided to suspend teaching, learning, and martial arts practices and to adopt measures aimed at ensuring public order.

Access to information beyond the country's capital

A contract has been signed with all national printed media outlets (5) for the acquisition of newspaper copies to be distributed to the municipalities.

“Governo Rona” television programme

A contract has been signed with television media outlets (2) to produce a monthly programme titled “Governo Rona”. This programme helps listening to civil society regarding government activities and enables the transmission of a series of documentaries produced by SECOMS, thereby disseminating information about government actions. In the same vein, a contract has been signed with online media outlets (18) to promote government activities and provide indirect support to these media sources.

Training in Portuguese for journalists and government communication professionals

An intensive 200-hour Portuguese language training programme has been initiated for journalists, press officers and government communication officials, conducted by the Language Clinic for Journalists.

Partnership with UNICEF to support community radios and internet safety

The Secretary of State for Communications and UNICEF have signed an agreement benefiting 18 community radio stations in the country. This support includes providing equipment such as computers, power stabilis-

ers, recorders and more, along with specific training to enhance and update the journalistic skills of media professionals. The agreement also includes promoting the healthy use of the internet among students.

Civil Society support service

Around 150 Memorandums of Understanding have been signed with various groups, associations, foundations and religious groups, stemming from the work undertaken by the previous administration. Furthermore, substantial work has been carried out to monitor and supervise previous allocations for projects, particularly concerning Protestant churches and some chapels.

National housing policy and the ‘Uma ba Ema Kbiit Laek’ programme

The implementation of the ‘Uma ba Ema Kbiit Laek’ (UKL) programme is a sustainable development strategy aimed at promoting social and economic prosperity to modify and enhance the quality of life and livelihoods of the community through community participation in their own development. The Government intends to construct decent homes for the most disadvantaged population in Timor-Leste. However, irregularities in the process have been identified, and the programme is suspended until it can be resumed with responsibility and efficiency.

A comprehensive survey and analysis of the housing sector, including ongoing projects and community housing needs, have been conducted to develop the draft National Housing Policy, which will be presented in the Council of Ministers by the end of the year.

Agreement with the Ministry of Communications and Informatics of Indonesia

The Council of Ministers has approved the signing of an agreement with the Ministry of Communications and Informatics of the Republic of Indonesia to expand and enhance bilateral coordination and cooperation in the field of communications and informatics. This agreement provides a framework for developing cooperation in the field of communications and informatics in Timor-Leste, in compliance with the existing laws and regulations of both countries.



Continue Developing Infrastructures

“One central pillar of the Strategic Development Plan is the construction and maintenance of a range of productive infrastructures”.

Completion of the fibre optic cable construction and installation

The process of constructing and installing the submarine fibre optic cable began with a public tender for the installation of the submarine cable through the CNA. Company ASN has conducted a study of the seabed, and the submarine cable, branching unit (BU), ROADM (Reconfigurable Optical Add/Drop Multiplexer) and 8 repeaters are currently in production. This project is funded by the State General Budget.

Under the mandate of the Ninth Constitutional Government and working through CNA, the procurement process for the construction of the Beach Manhole by companies RMS and DXN for the installation of the cable landing station in Bebonuk, Dili, has been completed. On 22 September 2023 MTC signed a contract with RMS and DXN.

For the essential work that will follow, it is necessary to establish a State Agency to manage the future fibre optic network.

Upgrade of broadband from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps

Phase 7 of the National Connectivity Project – NCP has been completed during the previous government’s mandate. The budget for phase 7 of the NCP is funded by the Infrastructure Fund. The goal of the National Connectivity Project – NCP is to increase/expand the 230 connections of government agencies, State institutions, and public buildings at the national and municipal levels, including hospitals and

some health centres, increasing the number of beneficiaries of this project to 599.

The bidding process has already been completed, so the Ninth Constitutional Government has upgraded the broadband from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps. Therefore, starting from 31 August 2023, at 00:00, MTC launched the internet connection with a capacity of 1 Gbps. Phase 7 of the National Connectivity Project – NCP also allows for the implementation of the Ninth Constitutional Government’s e-governance programme.

Expansion of President Nicolau Lobato International Airport

The President Nicolau Lobato International Airport project is under review. The government will decide in what terms it should proceed or if public interest determines that it should not be executed.

Abolishment of ANAS, I.P. and ANE, I.P.

The two Public Institutes, the National Authority for Water and Sanitation (ANAS, I.P.) and the National Authority for Electricity (ANE, I.P.), have been abolished and their responsibilities have been transferred to Directorates-General under the Ministry of Public Works, with the aim of increasing administrative efficiency and effectiveness, reducing bureaucracy in services and facilitating more integrated and effective planning. This will result in improved service delivery in the water and sanitation and electricity sectors.

Surveillance and preservation of the water supply system

The Council of Ministers approved, by way of a Government Resolution, the need for sur-

veillance and preservation of the water supply system, with a priority on swiftly resolving the water supply issue. This includes assessing and rehabilitating existing pipeline infrastructure and potentially reconstructing it to ensure adequate water supply to the population. Competent public authorities have also been tasked with coordinating awareness initiatives regarding the importance of water conservation and responsible use of water and pipeline infrastructure.

Electricity production from renewable sources

Legislative intervention is currently being developed to establish the legal framework for electricity production from renewable sources, including self-production and production for injection into the grid and sale to EDTL, E.P. for resale to its consumers, and the establishment of renewable energy communities.

Urgent infrastructure interventions

The Council of Ministers, by way of a Government Resolution, has approved an urgent plan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure affected by the disasters that occurred on 2-7 July 2023 in 8 national municipalities. After a detailed technical assessment of the damages, it was determined that 30 areas required emergency and immediate intervention. The process is currently in the contracting phase for implementation, with an estimate that some work will be completed by the end of this year.

Identification of irregularities in ongoing infrastructure projects

Following a detailed technical survey and an analysis of supporting documentation, nu-

merous projects with irregularities were identified, primarily in road rehabilitation and construction, bridge construction and retaining wall construction. Abandoned projects due to a lack of technical oversight, projects not submitted for ADN evaluation, and completed projects without payment from the previous administration were also identified. The new government is conducting inspections and audits with the aim of regularising and restructuring those projects.

Audits of the National Laboratory and IGEADI

Regarding the identification, analysis and evaluation of irregularities in the infrastructure sector, weaknesses were identified in the National Laboratory Services, including lack of inventory. Additionally, the Institute for the Management of Equipment and Support for Infrastructure Development (IGEADI) is also being considered for audits and investigation. It is worth noting that one of the responsibilities of IGEADI is river and stream dredging and bank stabilisation.

Improving infrastructure sector service management

A thorough analysis of the service provision in the sector was conducted, leading to the conclusion that the planning system, employee administration, asset management and administrative procedures need improvement. The government is currently reforming the planning system to make it integrated, with the establishment of the Planning and Monitoring Unit and the Inspection and Verification Unit.

Community Infrastructure for Resilience Project

The Government of Timor-Leste has signed an agreement for the Community Infrastructure for Resilience Project with the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Japan, in a ceremony held on 12 October 2023.

The project, to be implemented between 2023 and 2027, jointly by the Ministry of State Administration and UNDP, aims to support communities in three municipalities (Ermera, Bobonaro, Liquiçá) and in the Special Administrative Region of Oe-Cússe-Ambeno by constructing and rehabilitating 40 units of community infrastructure. This will improve access to essential services such as health-care, education, markets, irrigation, water and sanitation. The project will also promote short-term job creation for the communities, involving both skilled and unskilled workers in the construction process.

Assessment of the key road maintenance and river normalisation needs across the country

In addition to the assessment of all infrastructure projects and works underway in the country and the identification of the key road maintenance needs, steps have been taken to clean drainage systems and normalise rivers in the city of Dili. This work was carried out not only by IGEADI but also by government employees and contracted companies. The aim is to prevent recurring floods in Dili during the rainy season.



Continue Developing the Economy

“Timor-Leste is a low-income country with an emerging private sector, limited economic diversification and a focus on agricultural production. However, our country holds significant economic opportunities and strong potential to become a nation with average incomes.”

National irrigation system assessment

A survey has been conducted on the potential of irrigation systems at national level, including cultivated and abandoned areas, to enhance agricultural sector productivity. Ongoing irrigation system construction projects across the country are also being monitored.

Diagnosis for coffee cultivation expansion

A comprehensive diagnosis has been conducted concerning coffee cultivation areas and potential areas for rehabilitation and expansion of this agricultural product

Tractor data collection for agricultural support

A comprehensive survey has been carried out regarding tractors allocated to agriculture projects in the 12 municipalities and in Oe-Cússe Ambeno. The report is expected to be ready by November.

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Menzies School of Health Research

This Memorandum of Understanding aims to strengthen livestock control in the country. Managing diseases in these animals will facilitate sustainable development in the livestock sector and enhance the country's food health

systems. This also includes support for the National Directorate of Veterinary Services.

A comprehensive survey of animal production and pastures was conducted in all municipalities and training was provided to beneficiaries on animal production management.

Investment in the fisheries sector

Efforts have been made to develop the fisheries sector in collaboration with national and international partners. A survey of fishponds was carried out in all municipalities and the fishpond centre in Vemasse was reactivated. Additionally, boats and fishing equipment were distributed to fishermen and boat production monitoring was initiated.

Development of community forests

A programme for maintaining *ai kameli* and commercial products in various areas of the country has commenced. Training initiatives have also been undertaken for community forest user groups.

Reforestation and awareness raising on growing mangrove forests

In addition to awareness raising activities emphasising the importance of protecting and conserving mangrove forest ecosystems within communities, the government has launched a mangrove reforestation programme to restore vegetation that existed decades ago but has dwindled over the years to about half. This programme aims to promote marine biodiversity and combat climate change through prevention and mitigation.

Measures to stabilise the price of rice

On 17 October 2023 the government signed five agreements with food import companies to implement a temporary intervention for stabilising the price of rice in the market.

These agreements seek to ensure that the price of imported rice, sold in the warehouses of national rice wholesalers, is fixed at a maximum of \$12 per bag or 25 kg portion, allowing retail prices to be set at a maximum of \$0.50 per kilogram of rice.

To meet this maximum price limit, national rice wholesalers or national economic operators who are wholesale rice importers will receive a subsidy of \$5 per bag or 25 kg portion, which equates to \$0.20 per kilogram of rice.

To access the subsidy, these companies must submit payment requests, accompanied by authenticated copies provided by the Customs Authority, confirming the import of the product in accordance with the specifications and the period defined by Decree-Law no. 76/2023, of 29 September, which established this measure. The five companies that formalised agreements with the government are Perissos Victoria Lda., Loja Creative Furak Lda., Lisun Importação no Exportação Lda., Jusibel Unipessoal Lda., and Alfa Dili Unipessoal Lda.

Additionally, a complementary safety stock of rice, amounting to approximately 30,000 tonnes, has been established in the warehouses of the National Logistics Centre. This stock is intended for social interventions in emergencies, including floods, national disasters, health emergencies and social solidarity, and for supply to wholesale companies in times of need.

Institutional reform and restructuring in the Petroleum and Mineral Resources sector

For the sake of effectiveness and efficiency in the functions of institutions overseeing the Petroleum and Minerals sector, it was considered necessary to undergo an institutional restructuring of the sector. This restructuring resulted in the division of the National Petroleum Authority (ANPM, I.P.) into two entities: the National Petroleum Authority (ANP, I.P.), responsible for acting as the regulatory authority for the oil, natural gas and their derivatives sector.; and the National Minerals Authority (ANM, I.P.), tasked with regulating and overseeing the mineral resources sector.

Additionally, the Institute of Petroleum and Geology (IPG, I.P.) has been renamed the Institute of Geosciences of Timor-Leste (IGTL, I.P.) with a renewed focus on geosciences.

The mandate of TIMOR GAP, E.P. was also altered under the Decree-Law n° 31/2011, of 27 of July, to ensure a more efficient and effective operation. The Timor-Leste Mining Company underwent a liquidation process, and Murak Rai, E.P. was established to engage in mining activities.

Inauguration of the new officials in the Petroleum and Minerals sector

On 22 September 2023 the inauguration ceremony for new presidents of public institutions in the petroleum and mineral sector took place.

These appointments and reforms aim to reinvigorate Timor-Leste's petroleum sector, restoring its vitality and establishing trust with all stakeholders, partners, counterparts and other interested parties in alignment with the priorities set by the Ninth Constitutional Government.

The newly inaugurated presidents, serving a four-year term, are:

- Rui Maria Alves Soares, as Chairman of the Board of Directors and, ex officio, President of the Executive Commission of TIMOR GAP, E.P. – Timor Gas & Petroleum, E.P. (“TIMOR GAP”).
- José Manuel Gonçalves, as Chairman of the Board of Directors and, ex officio, President of the Executive Commission of Murak Rai Timor, E.P.
- Gualdino do Carmo da Silva, as Chairman of the Governing Board of the National Petroleum Authority, I.P. (ANP).
- Rafael Danilson Magno de Araújo, as Chairman of the Governing Board of the National Minerals Authority, I.P. (ANM).
- Job Brites dos Santos, as Chairman of the Governing Board of the Institute of Geosciences of Timor-Leste, I.P. (IGTL).

Legal and regulatory framework for carbon capture and storage

The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, in collaboration with the National Petroleum Authority and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), organised a seminar dedicated to the legal and regulatory framework for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in Timor-Leste.

The event, held on 10-12 October 2023, featured the participation of the National Maritime Authority and representatives from various ministries, including among others Defence, Interior, Trade and Industry, and Transportation and Communications.

The primary goal of this event was to facilitate discussions on how to establish a legal framework that promotes the development of CCS projects in the country, with the aim of substantially reducing carbon dioxide emissions, a matter of significant importance for Timor-Leste, especially as the Bayu Undan field nears the end of its production.

This project has the potential to stimulate the national economy, create job opportunities and increase State revenues. It allows for the support of oil production while simultaneously reducing carbon dioxide emissions, an important consideration given the regional interest in trading CCS with Timor-Leste.

Restarting the Greater Sunrise process

Productive meetings were held on 18-19 September 2023 with relevant stakeholders involved in the Greater Sunrise, such as Woodside Energy and the Australian Special Representative, Mr. Steve Bracks. The resumption of negotiations is planned to occur very soon, involving the Governments of Timor-Leste and Australia, as well as TIMOR GAP, E.P. These negotiations will focus on the finalisation of the Petroleum Mining Code, the Fiscal Regime and the Production Sharing Contract (PSC), supported by a Concept Selection Study, to align the expectations and responsibilities of all stakeholders.

Additionally, on 17 October 2023, the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers received a delegation from Osaka Gas Australia Pty Ltd, an energy sector company with significant investments in oil and gas projects. This company is part of the Greater Sunrise development consortium (Sunrise Joint Venture) with a 10% stake, alongside TIMOR GAP (56.6%) and Woodside Energy (33.44%).

During the meeting, feasibility studies related to the development of Greater Sunrise were discussed, as well as the negotiation process with Australia regarding the resource development concept.

Strategic partnerships in the Petroleum and Minerals sector

Initiatives have been developed to enhance strategic partnerships in the sector, including seeking a resolution to the dispute between TIMOR RESOURCES and TIMOR GAP E.P. This initiative aligns with efforts to optimise operations and ensure that all entities involved work effectively and in cooperation. Discussions were also held with SundaGas for the acquisition of the Chuditch block.

Drafting the Strategic Plan for the Blue Economy

The development of Timor-Leste's vision and strategy for the Blue Economy has been initiated by the Land and Maritime Boundaries Office. This includes the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan, which will be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Appointment of new leadership for the Tourism Authority

New leadership has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Timor-Leste Tourism Authority, I.P. Virgílio Simith is the new President of the Board, and Ildefonso de Carvalho has been named as a new Board Member.

Expo China-ASEAN 2023

Timor-Leste was invited to take part in the 20th edition of the China-ASEAN Expo 2023 on 14-24 September 2023. This marked Timor-Leste's first participation as an observer country of the organisation.

Timor-Leste's pavilion showcased its craftsmanship, traditional musical instruments and agricultural products such as coffee and rice. As an important platform for cooperation between China and ASEAN, the Expo will continue to play a role in promoting a comprehensive partnership between China and Timor-Leste, based on good neighbourliness, trust and mutual benefit.

Appointment of Commercial Attachés

On 4 September 2023, the following Commercial Attachés were appointed:

- Apolo da Silva was appointed to serve as a Commercial Attaché at the Embassy of Timor-Leste in Jakarta, Indonesia;
- Felícia Soares was appointed to serve as a Commercial Attaché at the Embassy of Timor-Leste in Lisbon; and
- Januário Gomes was appointed as an Assistant Technical Commercial Attaché at the Consulate General of Timor-Leste in Kupang, Indonesia.

Review and development of legislative acts to promote Trade and Industry

The following legal acts and policy texts are in an advanced stage of drafting and are expected to be approved later this year as part of Timor-Leste's accession process to the World Trade Organisation:

- A Government Resolution project approving the Industrial Policy;
 - A Draft-Decree Law on the Foundations of Industry;
 - A Draft-Decree Law on Industrial Licensing;
 - A Draft Law on the Industrial Property Code;
 - A Draft-Decree Law establishing the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI);
 - A Draft-Decree Law on Commercial Licensing;
 - A Government Resolution project approving the Policy on Trade Defence Measures; and
 - A Draft-Decree Law regulating electronic commerce.
- Additional legislative acts that may be approved in a post-accession phase include:
- A Draft-Decree Law on Trade Defence Measures;
 - A Draft-Decree Law on Assessment and Conformity Certification Procedures;
 - A Government Resolution project approving the Action Plan for the Promotion of the Manufacturing Industry.

Ulmera Industrial Park

Technical studies are currently underway for the Ulmera Industrial Park. This industrial park will be located in the Liquiçá Municipality, covering an area of 49.5 hectares. The

capital investment project for this park has already been submitted to the Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment. The Feasibility Study estimates that the total cost of the project will be \$29,458,878.38. In this scenario, the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) is approximately 16.01%, and the Net Present Value (NPV) is around \$11,040,273.90 per year of operation.

Laleia Industrial Park

There are plans for the construction of an Industrial Park in Laleia, Manatuto, and the Government has initiated efforts to analyse this project proposed by the Chinese company Guangxi Yixin Fishery Development and its potential benefits for the country.

This company intends to invest around \$685 million in Laleia for the construction of an Aquaculture Port Park specialising in the production and processing of seafood products, both for the domestic market and export.

The plans include the construction of a fishing port, a shipyard specialising in fishing, the construction and repair of fishing vessels and the promotion of fishing and related activities. However, the government aims to ensure the project's environmental sustainability and the transfer of knowledge to Timorese citizens.

Micro, small and medium companies

A survey of micro, small, and medium companies in all municipalities has been conducted. The survey covered 1,089 micro-companies, 109 small companies and 41 medium-sized companies, employing 2,997 Timorese national workers and 420 workers from other nationalities.

Visits to the country's municipal markets were also carried out, and projects for the construction of municipal markets in the municipalities of Lautém (Lospalos), Baucau and Ermera were analysed. Additionally, visits were made to the Tibar Port and warehouses of rice importing companies.

Innovative business ideas competition

The winners of the 4th edition of the Innovative Business Ideas Competition (Kompetisaun Negósiu Inovativu) received their respective awards on 22 September during an event held in Dili.

This competition is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the United Nations Development Programme, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Institute for Business Development Support (IADE). It serves as an example of partnership work aimed at promoting new businesses, fostering entrepreneurship and providing employment and self-employment opportunities, particularly for young people. It also contributes to economic growth and diversification.

Institutional contacts for foreign investment attraction and trade and industry development

A series of meetings and encounters, known as institutional and political-diplomatic contacts, were held to maintain open channels of dialogue and cooperation with key development partners, both at their initiative and at the government's initiative. These contacts led to various investment initiatives in the country, job creation, professional internship programmes and scholarships.

The government is committed to establishing connections with reliable partners to produce tangible results in terms of attracting investment, sustainable economic growth, diversification and job creation.

Bilateral agreement on market access for services and goods within the World Trade Organisation

On 23 October 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, Timor-Leste and Indonesia finalised a bilateral agreement on market access for services and goods as part of Timor-Leste's accession process to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

This bilateral agreement on market access for services and goods is a significant step towards boosting national economic growth, trade relations and Timor-Leste's efforts to become a member of ASEAN, while strengthening diplomatic relations between Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

The 6th Meeting of the WTO Working Group for Timor-Leste's accession process took place on 8-14 October. This may be the last meeting of the Working Group, which could recommend Timor-Leste's accession to the multilateral trade organisation. Bilateral negotiations have already been concluded with all interested countries, with only the legislative process for some legal acts remaining, which might potentially be deferred to the post-accession period.

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with the People's Republic of China

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Re-

public of China to enhance the economic and social development of both countries.

Youth Entrepreneurship Fair 2023

The Youth Entrepreneurship Fair 2023 took place on 18-20 October 2023 with the theme "Young People as Agents of Change: Fostering Job Creation and Economic Diversification through Innovation and Entrepreneurship".

This initiative is the result of a partnership between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) through its YEES project. Its aim is to present an integrated strategy to support job creation, economic diversification and business growth by promoting entrepreneurship.

During this event there was a dialogue on entrepreneurship involving policymakers and entrepreneurs, a day of business networking between young entrepreneurs and representatives of large companies, and an information-sharing session on accessing financing.

Creation of seasonal work programmes with friendly countries

The government approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Timor-Leste and the Government of Brunei Darussalam for a programme to send Timorese workers to that country.

It will be the responsibility of Timor-Leste's ambassador in that country to assist in preparing the national workers to be sent.

Vocational training and the new building of the National Employment and Vocational Training Centre

The Closing Ceremony of the 2022/2023 Training Cycle and the beginning of a new Training Cycle took place on 6 October 2023 at the National Employment and Vocational Training Centre (CNEFP) in Tibar, Liquiçá Municipality.

During the event, certificates of completion for Levels I and II were awarded to a total of 215 trainees, including 129 men and 91 women, in the fields of General Construction, Hospitality and Agriculture.

Certificates were also given to 48 trainees from the Betano Polytechnic Institute, specifically for Practical Construction Training and Livestock Professional Internships.

The ceremony included the opening of the General Construction Training for members of the F-FDTL (Timor-Leste Defence Force) and the Maritime Unit Training. Notably, some of these trainees are naval military personnel from the F-FDTL's Naval Component, and this training is supported by the Australian government through its Defence Cooperation Programme (DCP). This training aims to provide technical skills to military personnel who will be responsible for maintaining the Navy's fleet in the future.

During the ceremony, the foundation stone was laid for a Multifunctional Workshop, a two-story building with a versatile workshop suitable for various areas, including classrooms for trainers and a conference room.

Private Sector Development

Financial support has been established for non-profit civil associations in Timor-Leste

that promote the development of the Timorese private sector.

Mapping and identification of cooperatives in Timor-Leste

All existing cooperatives in the country have been identified, including those supported by Development Partners, with the review of established Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements..

Strategic Plan 2023-2030 and Action Plan 2023-2028 for the Cooperative Sector

Considering the challenges and obstacles, but also opportunities for the development of cooperatives in the country, strategies for implementing cooperative programmes are being defined, as reflected in the 2023-2030 Strategic Plan and the 2023-2028 Action Plan. These plans were developed in consultation with relevant entities.

Signing the Convention on Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdictions

This is a fundamental agreement aimed at contributing to the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. The agreement creates a legal framework that can help the world achieve the goal of having 30% of the ocean – and land – in protected areas by 2030. It focuses on waters that are beyond national jurisdiction, meaning they are the responsibility of all countries. The agreement proposes joint mechanisms for the conservation of biodiversity in this common area, which covers most of the ocean.



Continue with Governance Consolidation

“The Public Finance Management Reform”, to be implemented by the Ninth Government, commits to a comprehensive reform in the field of public finances, aiming to increase state revenue and enhance the transparency and efficiency of fiscal policy and financial management. This reform strengthens the fiscal strategy, enhances resource mobilisation, promotes the implementation of programme-based budgets, streamlines public expenditure, increases accountability and transparency, and encourages financial decentralisation.

Inauguration of the new Central Bank Governor

The inauguration of Hélder Lopes as the new Governor of the Central Bank of Timor-Leste (BCTL) took place on 13 September 2023. BCTL is responsible for regulating and supervising the national financial sector. The new BCTL Governor replaces the outgoing Governor, Abraão de Vasconcelos, who has led the Central Bank since its establishment in 2011, replacing the former Banking and Payments Authority (ABP).

Combating money laundering and terrorism financing

On September 26, 2023, the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers met with the team accompanying the representatives from the Asia Pacific Group (APG). On

18-28 September 2023 an APG team was in Timor-Leste to assess the country's commitment to international standards for combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

During the meeting, APG's experts reported on the activities conducted in Timor-Leste. In this evaluation phase, the Asia Pacific Group representatives are examining the effectiveness of the measures adopted by the government in line with international standards. Timor-Leste has been developing its system to combat money laundering and terrorism financing, enacting specific laws in recent years. Notably, the country established the Timor-Leste Financial Information Unit in 2014.

Inauguration of the Commissioner of the Civil Service Commission

On 3 October 2023 the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers inaugurated Agapito da Conceição to serve as the Commissioner of the Civil Service Commission, as appointed by the National Parliament in the election held on 29 August 2023.

The Civil Service Commission, which has been in existence for 14 years, faces significant challenges outlined in the programme of the Ninth Constitutional Government. These challenges include enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and professionalism of the public administration to provide high-quality public services, a crucial factor in poverty reduction and for the progress and well-being of the population.

The new Commissioner is committed to safeguarding the public good and the interests of the Timorese people to uphold the Nation's highest priorities.

Installation of the Integrated Planning Unit (UPI) and the Strategic Investment Unit (UIE)

The establishment of these two new units responsible for implementing or coordinating the technical activities of socio-economic strategic planning in the country (UPI) and for coordinating the technical activities of strategic investment planning in infrastructure and services (UIE) aims to boost and promote Timor-Leste's economic and social development in coordination with the relevant government departments.

Reduction in the number of public institutes

The government has initiated a policy to reduce the number of public institutes created by the previous administration, which only served to employ party members without any administrative or economic rationale. This policy, which will continue in future budgets, abolishes the National Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Agency (ANAPMA), the National Authority for Water and Sanitation (ANAS, I.P.), and the National Authority for Electricity (ANE, I.P.).

Immediate reversal of the drastic tax increase approved in January 2023

Selective consumption tax rates and import customs duties applicable in 2023 have been reduced. The consumption tax on sugar has been eliminated. The increase in the import customs duty rate from 2.5% to 5% has also been reversed, restoring the 2.5% rate specified in the Tax Law.

Promoting the stability of the General State Budget

The organisation of the state budget into five categories (goods and services, salaries and wages, public transfers, minor capital and development capital) has been reinstated, increasing the level of detail provided to the National Parliament for better comprehension and future oversight.

To enhance the stability of the State Budget, the Law on Major Planning Options has been eliminated and replaced with the Annual Strategic Investment Plan to maintain the multi-year vision of the budget, in line with international best practices. With the removal of the Law on Major Planning Options, the state budget bill report now includes a multi-year budget framework that presents revenue, expenditure, public debt and the value of the Petroleum Fund projections for five years. This ensures the sustainability, accuracy and transparency of public finances.

Adherence to the International Convention on the Harmonised System for the Designation and Coding of Goods

A Resolution Proposal has been presented to the National Parliament concerning this International Convention, established in Brussels in 1983, and for the acceptance of the Protocol of Amendment to the Convention prepared by the Customs Cooperation Council on 24 June 1986.

Overview of the Amended State Budget for 2023

The Amended State Budget (2023) has been approved, promulgated and subsequently published in the Journal of the Republic under

Law No. 17/2023, of 29 August, with a total consolidated expenditure of \$1.77 billion, in response to the new Programme of the Ninth Constitutional Government.

To control public finances, expenses budgeted in the 2023 State Budget, as well as the amount transferred from the Petroleum Fund, have been reduced. This reflects the government's commitment to ensuring the country's financial sustainability.

The changes also include modifications to Articles 3 and 4 of Law No. 15/2022, of 21 December, the 2023 State Budget, as well as the tables in the annex to the same law. Additionally, Law No. 2/2022, of 10 February, the Framework of the State Budget and Public Financial Management, has undergone a first amendment to ensure greater rigor and transparency in the execution of the State Budget and public finances.

Furthermore, this law enacted a second amendment to Law No. 8/2008, of 30 June, the Tax Law, as amended by Law No. 5/2019, of 27 August, for clarification of the concept of permanent establishment as outlined in the Tax Law.

The approved budget allocates \$439,060,944 for economic affairs, \$24,965,254 for housing and collective infrastructure, \$94,411,189 for health, \$136,974,446 for education and \$253,389,284 for social protection.

As of 31 October, the expenditure execution rate is 53%, and the revenue collection rate is 62% of the total revenue estimate for the entire fiscal year of 2023.

Carrying out institutional strengthening activities

Through the Office of the Vice Minister for Institutional Strengthening, a series of activities have been carried out to enhance the efficiency of public services and draft the Institutional Development Plan. This plan encompasses the consolidation of the administration of justice and the improvement of the government's institutional capacity.

In this context, visits to the municipalities have been conducted to understand the challenges they face and find solutions to the obstacles and difficulties encountered. Furthermore, comprehensive data collection and assessments have been carried out to support institutional strengthening efforts.



Continue with Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption

“Good governance and a professional, competent, and efficient public sector are essential conditions for delivering public services and implementing the policies and actions outlined in the Strategic Development Plan and the Government Programme. Increasing trust in governance necessitates elevating the performance of the public sector, as it is the primary driver of national economic growth in the initial stages.”

Establishment of the Suco Administration Service

The government has approved a draft decree-law that establishes the Suco Administration Service as a support body to the Suco Chief and strengthens public subsidies to the Sucos to finance the human resources of this service. With this change, it also allows for the payment of allowances to community leaders when mobilised for activities of the central administration.

Administrative Post Labour Programme / PMOPA and Hafoun Village Movement Programme / PMOHA

These programmes have been analysed and evaluated, identifying some problems and gaps in the PMOPA programme. In the case of PMOHA, it was found that no feasibility

studies were conducted. After the evaluation and coordination with other programmes under PNDS and PDIM, as well as other programmes focused on rural development, PMOPA and PMOHA will be restructured transparently and responsibly to achieve qualitative and quantifiable results that improve the lives of the population, especially in remote areas, maximising benefits for the communities.

The PNDS programme has also been scrutinised to assess its implementation and benefits for the population, and the government is implementing measures to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of this programme.

Strategic Plans for Municipalities

The collection of relevant documents for the Strategic Plans for the Municipalities, aimed at identifying national-level problems and challenges, has been completed. In coordination with all relevant entities, preparations are underway for a meeting with all Municipal Authorities, supported by a specialised technical team. This meeting will develop a plan for the development of municipalities based on their respective circumstances and realities.

Holding village assemblies and suco councils for the election of community leaders

Government Decree No. 9/2023, of 16 August, which establishes the dates for holding Village Assemblies and Suco Councils within the procedures for the election of community leaders, has been approved. In coordination with the Directorate General for Local Government, preparations have been carried out for the election of Village Assemblies and Suco Councils, which took place on 28 October 2023. By law, the process is organised as follows:

- 28 October 2023 – The day for the election of Suco Chiefs, Village Chiefs and Delegates from the Villages to the Suco Council.
- 28 October 2023 – Commencement of vote counting and electoral result tabulation.
- 29 October 2023 – Tabulation of results for Suco Chief.
- 29 October 2023 – Complaints regarding the vote count and electoral result tabulation.
- 29 October 2023 – Appeals against decisions made by the Suco Electoral Board concerning complaints about vote counting or result tabulation.

If none of the Suco Chief candidates receive more than half of the valid votes cast, the Village Assemblies convene for a second round of voting on 13 November 2023, as outlined in Article 71(2) of Law No. 9/2016, of 8 July.

Implementation of the Urban Solid Waste Management Investment Strategy for Dili

The Government reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Urban Solid Waste Management Investment Strategy for Dili by approving the regulation concerning the maintenance of the State's contractual public interest in the execution of the public contract for the supply of equipment under the urban solid waste management project for Dili.

Memorandum of Understanding for administrative decentralisation

A memorandum of understanding was signed for cooperation in the process of administrative decentralisation and local development in the municipality of Manatuto. This memorandum aims to establish cooperative relations for the promotion of administrative decentralisation and local development in municipalities. It was signed by Hunan Province, in the People's Republic of China, and by the Municipal Administration of Manatuto, represented by the Minister of State Administration.

Amendment to the legal-administrative qualification of Ataúro Island

The Council of Ministers approved a proposal for the fourth amendment to Law No. 11/2009, of 7 October, which approves the Administrative Division of the Territory. This proposal was approved in the general assembly of the National Parliament on 24 October 2023. As envisioned in the Programme of the Ninth Constitutional Government, this amendment aims to abolish the municipality of Ataúro and create a first-tier administrative division called "Ataúro", in line with the definition in Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic.

The proposed change in the legal-administrative qualification of Ataúro Island is intended to pave the way for the redefinition of a territorial administration model under the government's jurisdiction. This model should have the capacity to trigger the development process in this territory with the participation of local communities.

The Government considers this solution as not constituting a step backward or a disqualification of Ataúro Island. Rather, it sets the foundations for a new model of local ad-

ministration organisation and operation for Ataúro. This model will have the necessary legal framework and resources to promote infrastructure development in the area, provide basic goods and services to local communities, and stimulate economic growth and the well-being of the population on Ataúro Island.

Amendment to the Law establishing the RAEOA and ZEEMS

On 25 September the Council of Ministers approved a draft proposal to amend the Law No. 3/2014, of 18 June, which established the Special Administrative Region of Oe-Cusse Ambeno (RAEOA) and created the Special Zone of Social Market Economy in Oe-Cusse Ambeno and Ataúro.

This draft proposal was approved in the general assembly of the National Parliament on 24 October 2023. The approved amendments include: establishing a suitable legal framework for the Special Zones of Social Market Economy throughout the territory; transferring the oversight of the RAEOA solely to the Prime Minister; aligning the regulatory authority of the RAEOA with the Constitution and the Law; and automatically transferring contracts signed by the RAEOA on behalf of the Special Zone of Social Market Economy in Oe-Cusse Ambeno and Ataúro to the RAEOA.

Drafting of regulatory acts to support local government and phased decentralisation of government

To further the goals of local government and the phased decentralisation of government, the following draft laws are currently being developed:

- Local Government and Administrative Decentralisation Law (revision of Law 23/2021, of 10 November);

- Municipal Electoral Law (revision of Law 22/2021, of 04 November);
- Municipal Finance Law (revision of Law 16/2023, of 31 May);
- Draft Law: Statute, careers, bonds, remuneration and discipline of municipal employees;
- Draft Law: Municipal assets;
- Draft Laws: Actual establishment of municipal councils;
- Draft Law: Electoral Code.
- General Regime of the National Suco Development Programme (5th amendment to Decree-Law No. 8/2013, dated 26 June);
- Community Development Planning;
- Integrated Municipal Development Planning (2nd amendment to Decree-Law No. 4/2012, of 15 February);
- Regime for Provision of Integrated Municipal Development Planning (2nd amendment to Decree-Law No. 11/2013, of 7 August);
- Repeal of Decree-Law No. 23/2021, dated 10 November, which established the Movimento Hafoun Aldeia Programme;

Additionally, to develop government programmes and support decentralisation goals, the following Decree-Laws are being developed or have already been developed and/or approved by the Council of Ministers:

- Statute of Municipal Administrations, Municipal Authorities and the Interministerial Technical Group for Administrative Decentralisation (5th amendment to Decree-Law No. 3/2016, of 16 March) – awaiting scheduling in the Council of Ministers;
- Statute of the Administrative Authority of Ataúro – awaiting scheduling in the Council of Ministers;
- Regulation of the FEDA – Ataúro Special Development Fund – awaiting scheduling in the Council of Ministers;
- Material resources and financial incentives for community leaders and the establishment of the Suco Administration Service (3rd amendment to Decree-Law No. 6/2014, of 26 February) – approved by the Council of Ministers on 19 September 2023;
- Hygiene and Public Order (1st amendment to Decree-Law No. 33/2008, of 27 August);
- Municipal One-Stop Shop;
- Municipal Website;
- General cemetery regulations
- Regulations for the attributions and competencies of Sucos;
- Legal regime for inter-administrative contracts;
- Regulation of the Electoral Code;
- Regulation of the technical procedures to be performed as part of electoral registration operations;
- Electoral Registration Law (2nd amendment to Law No. 6/2016, of 25 May);
- Municipal symbols;

- Definition of the structure and economic classification of municipal revenues and the structure and economic and functional classification of municipal expenses;
- Regulation of the specific definition and structure of budget programmes;
- Regulation of the criteria and formula for allocating the Municipal General Fund to municipalities;
- Regulation of the application of criteria and the formula for allocating the Territorial Cohesion Fund to municipalities;
- Regulation of the application of criteria and the formula for allocating the Administrative Decentralisation Fund to municipalities.

Work is still in progress to develop the following Government Decree-Laws and one Government Resolution:

- Regulation of accreditation for candidate and political party observers, electoral observers and media professionals in the context of municipal electoral processes;
- Regulation of the National Suco Development Programme;
- Regulation of the Integrated Municipal Development Planning programme;
- Resolution on the National Local Development Policy.

Implementation of the One-Stop Shop in all Municipal Headquarters, allowing access to Central Administration services throughout the country

The One-Stop Shop is being developed with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This programme is part of the policy of administrative decentralisation and local government, aimed at simplifying and modernising local administration.

The government, through the Ministry of State Administration and UNDP, is collaborating to develop the One-Stop Shop in the municipalities of Liquiçá, Dili, Manatuto and Baucau. In Dili, two units will be developed, one by the MAE-UNDP cooperation and another by UCCLA. The intention is to extend this project to Ataúro and all municipalities in the country.

Justice Sector Reform

As part of the justice sector reform and institutional strengthening, three new foundational legal instruments were submitted to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, with special emphasis on the new structure of the Ministry and the Statute of Prison Guards. Furthermore, a draft Law on Personal Data Protection was prepared. Other legal instruments are in the process of being drafted for presentation soon.

Establishment of the Working Group for Justice Sector Reform

In August, the Working Group for Justice Sector Reform was created with the special tasks of coordinating and proposing policies to promote the implementation of the Government's Programme in the justice sector.

In this regard, an international expert team was formed to ensure excellence and impartiality in the processes aimed at an up-to-date situational analysis of the justice sector.

In addition to various studies and opinions in various areas related to justice (ranging from land ownership to parental rights regulation to disciplinary and criminal procedures), several national and international documents and papers were studied with the aim of legal and overall justice sector reform.

Finally, within this scope, the preparation of a scholarship programme is underway to address the shortage of human resources in the justice sector. This programme will include scholarships for obtaining law degrees at foreign universities, as well as certain specialties relevant to the country's needs, such as forensic medicine.

Establishment of the Bar Association

The Law on the establishment of the Bar Association Draft Law is currently under review and scheduled for presentation to the Council of Ministers.

Provision of electronic passports

Four types of electronic passports were approved for immediate printing in Finland. Modernisation of the registry and notary services has enabled the issuance of regular passports, with an expectation that passport issuance will be made available to all citizens by the end of the year.

The integrated online registry for issuing birth certificates, national identification cards, and passports was also updated, resulting in the issuance of over 25,400 national identification cards and more than 6,600 passports.

Regularisation of State-Owned Private Properties

A survey of state-owned private properties, including Timor-Leste's inns, was conducted. This survey identified occupied areas and lease contracts that were either signed or in place.

Regularisation of State-owned property occupation

A survey and regularisation of state-owned properties occupied by government institutions were also carried out. These properties were officially assigned to the respective institutions. Allocation plans for other buildings were also developed, with some being used for government agencies and offices, housing for government officials, and establishing embassies and diplomatic representations.

Training for legal professionals

Training courses for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, registrars and notaries are ongoing. The recruitment process for private attorney trainees is also ongoing.

The opening ceremony for the 2nd Training Course for Public Prosecutors and the 4th Training Course for Judicial Magistrates of Timor-Leste was held at the Centre for Judicial Studies (CEJ) in Portugal. The training for 5 Public Prosecutors began in the Lisbon West Judicial District and the Department of Investigation and Criminal Action of Lisbon, lasting for 6 weeks from September to November. This is followed by the theoretical and practical training phase at the CEJ in November and December 2023.

On the other hand, 4 Law Judges will begin their training at the CEJ between September

and December 2023, followed by an internship phase in the Judicial District between January and February 2024.

Analysis and proposal for restructuring the F-FDTL

The Ministry of Defence analysed and submitted proposals for new appointments to be presented to His Excellency the President of the Republic, including:

- Appointing Colonel Domingos Soares “Dobu” as Commander of the F-FDTL Land Component; and
- Promoting Brigadier-General Américo Ximenes “Sabika Besi Kulit” to the rank of Major-General;
- Promoting Brigadier-General Cornélio Ximenes “Maunana” to the rank of Major-General;
- Promoting Brigadier-General João Miranda “Aluk Descartes” to the rank of Major-General;
- Promoting Colonel José da Costa Soares “Trix” to the rank of Brigadier-General; and
- Promoting Navy Captain Higino das Neves to the rank of Commodore.

Recruitment of new public administration agents

A Recruitment Commission was established to ensure the hiring of 230 public administration agents to be assigned to each administrative post, to fulfil the government’s commitment to conflict prevention.

Development of the PNTL’s Strategic Plan for the next 7 Years

The “PNTL Strategy 2023-2030” was developed to ensure the best internal security and national peace and stability. An agreement was also signed with the New Zealand Embassy to support the development of the Community Policing Action Plan 2023-2030 in this context.

Participation in the Forum of Archipelagic and Island States

The First High-Level Meeting of the Forum of Archipelagic and Island States was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 10-11 October 2023.

Timor-Leste was represented at the highest level, with the presence of the Prime Minister, considering the importance of this platform that brings together 51 archipelagic and island nations to participate in a collective forum that addresses challenges related to sustainable use of marine resources for sustainable economic growth, climate change resilience, ocean pollution, emergency management and the enhancement of sustainable fisheries.

Under the theme “*Promoting Collaboration, Enabling Innovation for Our Ocean and Our Future*,” the high-level event brought together Heads of State and Government to discuss the operationalisation of technological, innovative and nature-based solutions to address common development and environmental challenges, in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG14.

Participation in the XIV Summit of Heads of State and Government of the CPLP

During this summit, Angola officially transferred the rotating presidency of the CPLP to São Tomé and Príncipe, which assumed the leadership of this organisation for a two-year term from 2023 to 2025.

The summit, themed “*Youth and Sustainability in the CPLP*”, took place in São Tomé and Príncipe on 21-27 August 2023, culminating in the Conference of Heads of State and Government on August 27, where Timor-Leste was represented by the Speaker of Parliament, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Reappointment of the Executive Secretary of the CPLP

At the XIV Summit of Heads of State and Government of the CPLP held in 27 August in São Tomé and Príncipe, the Timorese national serving as the Executive Secretary of the CPLP was reappointed for another three-year term until 2025. This reappointment was the result of Timor-Leste’s intensive diplomatic efforts.

Participation in the G77+China in Havana

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, representing the government, participated in the G77+China Summit with the theme “*Current Challenges of Development: The Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation*”, which took place in Havana, Cuba, on 15-16 September 2023.

The G77, originally created by 77 developing countries, is the largest intergovernmental organisation of Southern countries in the United Nations and currently includes 134 countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America. Although China does not consider itself a

member, it has acted as an external participant since 1992. The group plays a strategic role in promoting the collective interests of developing countries and improving their negotiating capacity in global economic issues.

The Havana Summit sought to address the urgent need to promote a fair international order for developing states, reflecting on the transformative role of science, technology and innovation in achieving sustainable development goals by 2030.

Senior dignitaries on official visits to Timor-Leste

Since the Ninth Constitutional Government took office, Dili has hosted official visits by the following senior foreign dignitaries:

- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Takei Shunsuke (6 July 2023);
- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Penny Wong (7 July 2023);
- Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Non Rong (19-21 July 2023);
- Prime Minister of Portugal, António Costa (25-26 July 2023);
- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, AK Abdul Momen (28-29 August 2023).

Official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia

The Vice-Prime Minister, Coordinator Minister for Economic Affairs, and Minister for Tourism and Environment conducted an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 28-29 August.

During this visit, meetings were held with the Prime Minister and members of the new Cambodian Government, which was sworn in on 1 August, with the aim of strengthening bilateral cooperation ties.

These meetings addressed various mutual interest topics, with a focus on cooperation in the fields of education, economy, trade and tourism between Timor-Leste and Cambodia.

The Prime Minister of Cambodia also reaffirmed his country's support for Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN and the World Trade Organisation, as well as other regional and global initiatives.

Working visit to the People's Republic of China

On 20-23 September 2023 the Prime Minister visited the province of Hangzhou, China, to attend the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games, which is an important opportunity for the young participants from Timor-Leste.

During this visit, the Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with the President of the People's Republic of China on 23 September 2023, with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the two countries. Various bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting, and both parties agreed to elevate the relationship between the two countries towards a comprehensive strategic partnership.

President Xi Jinping reiterated China's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and expressed ongoing support for Timor-Leste's development.

On 22 September 2023 the Prime Minister also visited Zhejiang Gongshang University, in Hangzhou, where he delivered a scientific

lecture to students on the theme "*The Evolution of Asia: From China to Timor-Leste*".

Also on 22 September, the Prime Minister, accompanied by his delegation, which included the Vice-Prime Minister, Coordinator Minister for Economic Affairs, and Minister for Tourism and Environment, held a meeting with representatives from the private sector in China, Macau and Singapore who were interested in investing in Timor-Leste. During the meeting, the investors presented their companies and expressed their interest in investing in Timor-Leste. The meeting also included the participation of the Minister of State Administration, the Minister of Planning and Strategic Investment, the Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts, and Culture, and Timor-Leste's Ambassador to China, Abrão Santos, as well as Timor-Leste's Trade and Industry Attaché.

During this visit the Prime Minister also had the opportunity to meet with his counterpart from the Republic of Korea, with the aim of strengthening and expanding bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the Korean government and private sector for employing thousands of Timorese workers, providing them with opportunities and valuable work experience in South Korea, which has contributed to reducing unemployment in Timor-Leste.

The South Korean Prime Minister reiterated support for Timor-Leste's full accession to ASEAN and expressed a willingness to continue supporting Timor-Leste in various areas, including sports, education, health and reforestation, with the aim of creating an environment conducive to ecotourism in Timor-Leste.

Signing a strategic partnership between Timor-Leste and China

Following a meeting in Hangzhou, a comprehensive strategic partnership agreement was signed between the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and the President of China. This agreement represents the second-highest level in Chinese diplomatic protocol.

According to Chinese diplomatic interpretation, a “comprehensive strategic partnership” means that cooperation should be “multidimensional”, encompassing economic, scientific, technological, political and cultural domains, conducted by both governments and non-governmental organisations.

The term “strategic” implies that this cooperation should be “stable” and “long-term,” not subject to the impact of periodic events.

Establishment of the future Embassy of Singapore in Timor-Leste

The establishment of an Embassy of Singapore in Timor-Leste will serve as a focal point for cooperation, support and mutual exploration of future opportunities between the two countries, particularly in the fields of tourism, investment, defence and energy.

Establishment of the future Embassy of India in Timor-Leste

During an ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) meeting, the Prime Minister of India announced the decision to establish a Embassy in the capital of Timor-Leste, Dili.

This decision is part of a 12-point plan for India’s relations with the region, aiming to strengthen cooperation and diplomatic rela-

tions in the East Asian region. This plan covers various areas, from connectivity to digital public infrastructure and counter-terrorism actions.

Participation in the 43rd ASEAN Summit in Jakarta

On 5-7 September 2023 the Prime Minister, accompanied by the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Minister of the Interior, and Deputy Minister for ASEAN Affairs, attended the 43rd ASEAN Summit in Jakarta.

During this summit the Prime Minister met with Heads of State and Government from ASEAN member states and Dialogue Partners to discuss various regional and international issues of mutual interest. The summit provided an opportunity for Timor-Leste to exchange views and share ideas on matters related to political, economic and security cooperation in the region.

The Prime Minister also held numerous bilateral meetings with the leaders of ASEAN member states, the United Nations Secretary-General, and dialogue partners on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit. He also participated in the other 12 conferences, including the plenary session, informal meeting and individual ASEAN summits with partners such as China, South Korea, Japan, the United States, Canada, India, Australia, the United Nations and East Asia, along with a joint summit with China, Japan and South Korea.

It is worth noting that this ASEAN Summit marks the end of the rotating presidency of the Republic of Indonesia, with the presidency transitioning to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

Participation in the 78th United Nations General Assembly

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation accompanied the President of the Republic, José Ramos-Horta, during a visit to New York to attend the 78th United Nations General Assembly and a series of associated meetings and events. This year's High-Level General Debate took place on 19-26 September 2023.

The theme for the 78th session of the UNGA was “*Rebuilding Trust and Reigniting Global Solidarity: Accelerating action for the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all.*”

Operationalisation of the Timor-Leste Permanent Mission to ASEAN

With the appointment of the new Ambassador, Natércia Coelho, the Mission in Jakarta is now operational, and soon there will be more effective coordination of Timor-Leste's commitment to the three pillars of ASEAN.

Regarding ASEAN, a detailed execution plan for the accession process to ASEAN is being developed in Dili, along with the preparation of a series of agreements and treaties within the ASEAN framework.

Human resources development for ASEAN accession preparation

Bob Aubrey, an expert in Human Resources Development in ASEAN, visited Timor-Leste from 28 August to 12 September 2023, to assist the government in formulating strategies and policies for human capital development, especially in the context of preparing human resources for Timor-Leste's future accession to ASEAN.

Support from Singapore to Timor-Leste's ASEAN accession

On 23-27 July 2023 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore made an official visit to Timor-Leste and reiterated Singapore's commitment to supporting Timor-Leste's accession to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Support from Indonesia to Timor-Leste's ASEAN accession

On 4 September 2023 the Prime Minister and the President of Indonesia held a bilateral meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.

During the meeting they discussed Indonesia's continued commitment to supporting Timor-Leste's accession to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as matters related to strengthening human resources and the national economy. The President of Indonesia affirmed that Indonesia has consistently supported Timor-Leste's candidacy for accession, as well as the implementation plan for this accession.

Finalisation of the Land Border with Indonesia

The 6th Meeting of Senior Officials Consultation (SOC) was held in Bali on 13-14 October, with the aim of continuing discussions between Indonesia and Timor-Leste on the unresolved segment of the Noel Besi-Citrana land border located in Oe-Cússe Ambeno.

As a result of this meeting, both parties agreed to proceed with technical and practical preparations with the intention of completing the demarcation of the land border between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, potentially by the end of 2023.



Participation in the consultative process of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on Climate Change

On 20 September 2023 Timor-Leste appeared before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany, in a historic case concerning the Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) regarding Climate Change.



Structure of the 9th Constitutional Government

Prime Minister

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

*Vice-Prime Minister and Minister
Coordinator for Economic Affairs and
Minister of Tourism and Environment*

Francisco Kalbuadi Lay

*Vice-Prime Minister and Minister
Coordinator for Rural Development and
Community Housing*

Mariano Assanami Sabino

*Minister of the Presidency of
the Council of Ministers*

Agio Pereira

Minister of Finance

Santina José Rodrigues
F. Viegas Cardoso

*Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation*

Bendito dos Santos Freitas

Minister of Justice

Amândio de Sá Benevides

Minister of State Administration

Tomás do Rosário Cabral

Minister of Health

Elia A. A. dos Reis Amaral

Minister of Education

Dulce de Jesus Soares

Minister of Higher Education and Science

José Honório da Costa Pereira Jerónimo

Minister of National Liberation

Combatants Affairs

Gil da Costa Monteiro “Oan Soru”

Minister of Public Works

Samuel Marçal

Minister of Transportation

and Communications

Miguel Marques Gonçalves Manetelu

Minister of Trade and Industry

Filipus Nino Pereira

Minister of Agriculture, Livestock,

Fisheries, and Forestry

Marcos da Cruz

Minister of Defense

Donaciano do Rosário Gomes

Minister of Petroleum

and Mineral Resources

Francisco da Costa Monteiro

Minister of Interior

Francisco da Costa Guterres

Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion

Verónica das Dores

Minister of Youth, Sports, Art, and Culture

Nelyo Isaac Sarmento

Minister of Planning and

Strategic Investment

Gastão Francisco de Sousa

Vice-Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Adérito Hugo da Costa

Vice-Minister of Finance

Felicia Claudinanda da Cruz Carvalho

Helder Lopes

From July 1st to September 13th, 2023, the day he was sworn in as Governor of the Central Bank of Timor-Leste.

Vice-Minister for ASEAN Affairs

Milena Maria da Costa Rangel

Vice-Minister for

Institutional Strengthening

Paulo Manuel da S. dos Remédios

Vice-Minister for Institutional

Strengthening in Health

José dos Reis Magno

Vice-Minister for Infrastructure

Júlio do Carmo

Vice-Minister of State Administration

Jacinto Rigoberto G. de Deus

Vice-Minister of Commerce

Augusto Júnior Trindade

Vice-Minister of Social

Solidarity and Inclusion

Céu Brites

Vice-Minister for Hospital

Operationalization

Flávio Brandão

Secretary of State for Equality

Elvina de Sousa Carvalho

*Secretary of State for
Social Communication*

Expedito Dias Ximenes

Secretary of State for Lands and Properties

Jaime Xavier Lopes

*Secretary of State for Secondary
Education and Technical Schools*

Domingos Lopes Lemos

*Secretary of State for Electricity,
Water, and Sanitation*

Santos Noronha

Secretary of State for Art and Culture

Jorge Soares Cristovão

Secretary of State for Fisheries

Domingos da Conceição dos Santos

Secretary of State for Livestock

José Vieira de Araújo

Secretary of State for Forests

Fernandinho Vieira

Secretary of State for Cooperatives

Arsénio Pereira da Silva

*Secretary of State for Vocational
Training and Employment*

Rogério Araújo Mendonça

Secretary of State for Local Development

Mateus dos Santos Tallo

*Secretary of State for Toponymy
and Urban Organization Affairs*

Germano Santa Brites Dias

Secretary of State for Civil Protection

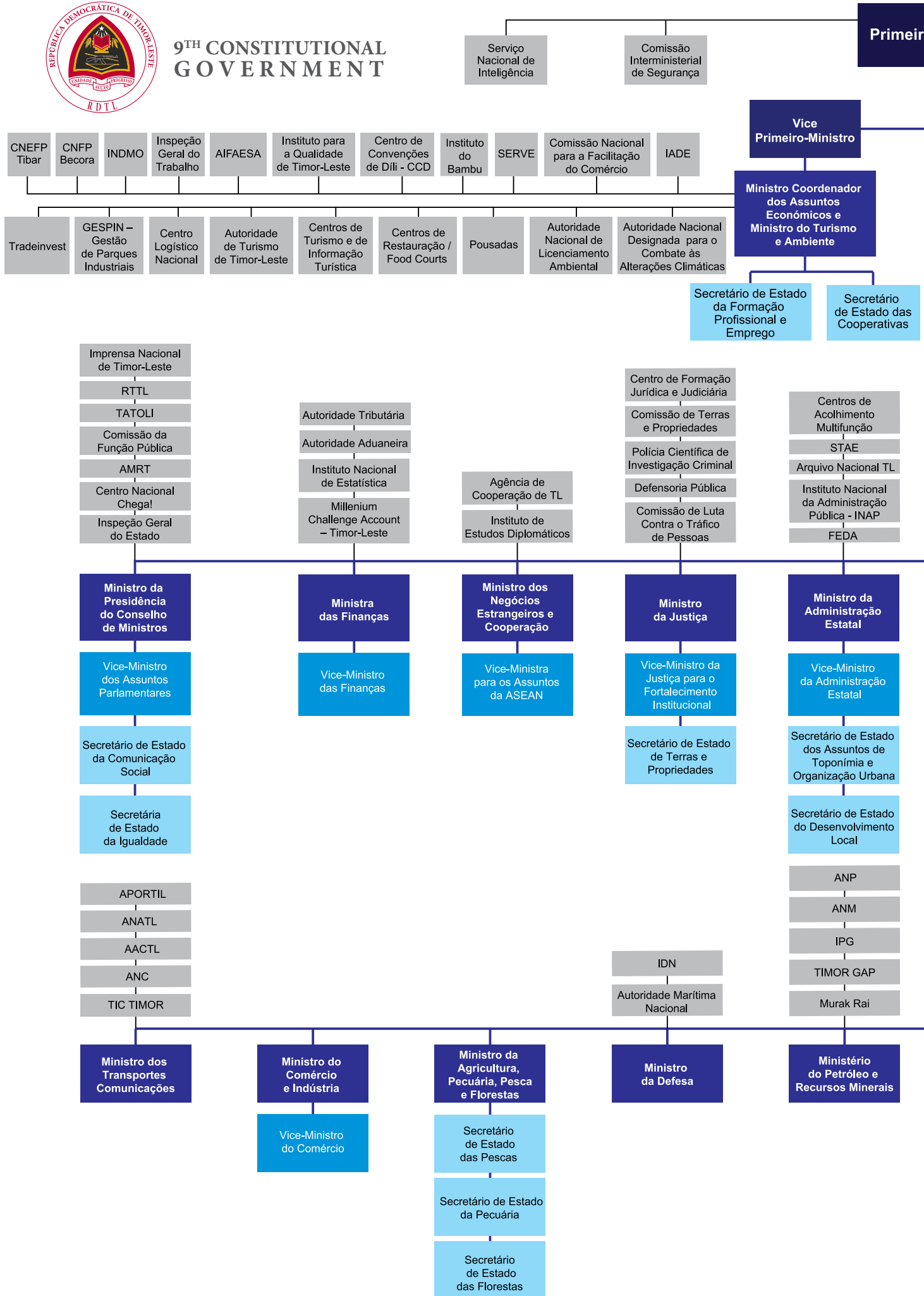
Domingos Mariano Reis

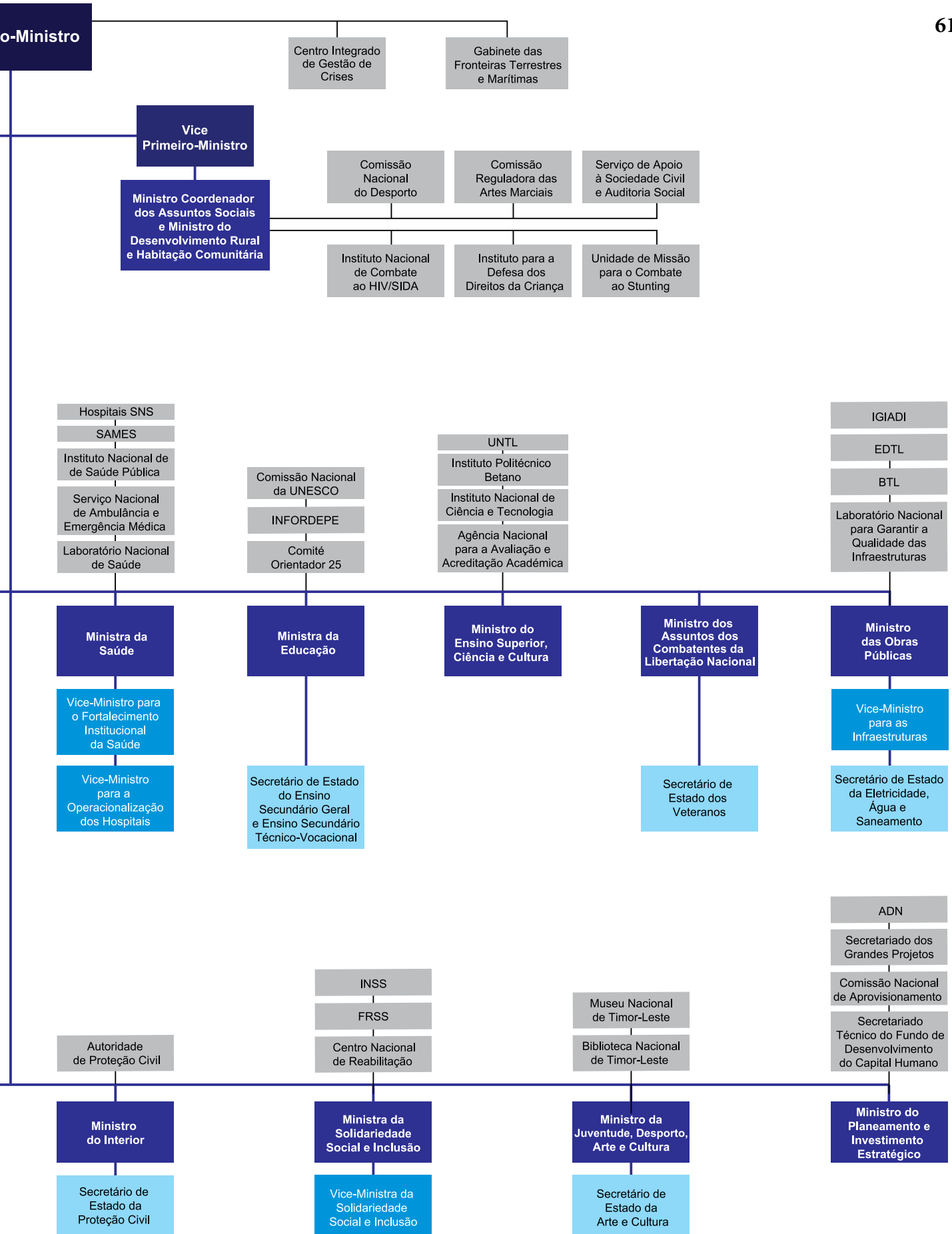
Secretary of State for Veterans

César dos Santos da Silva

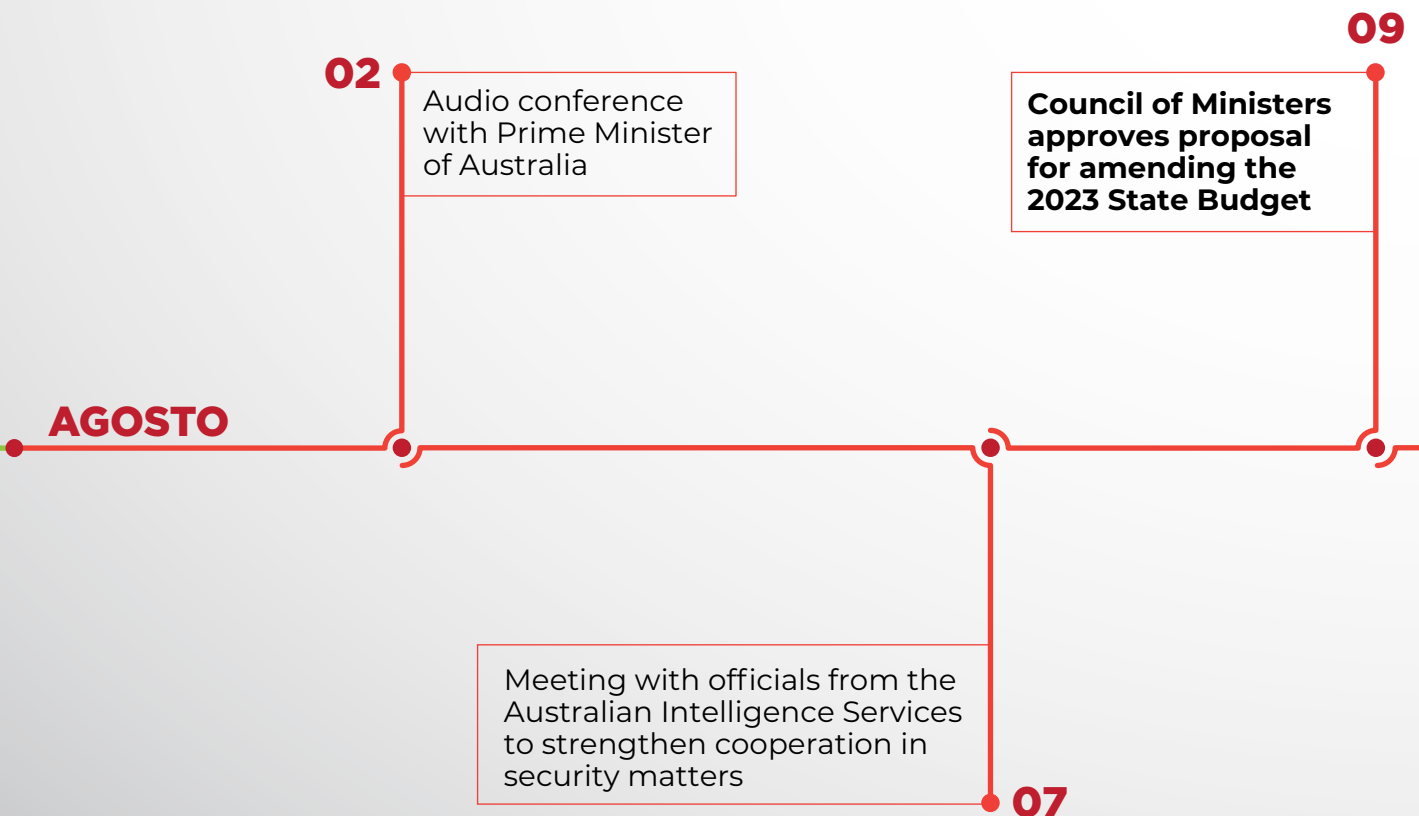
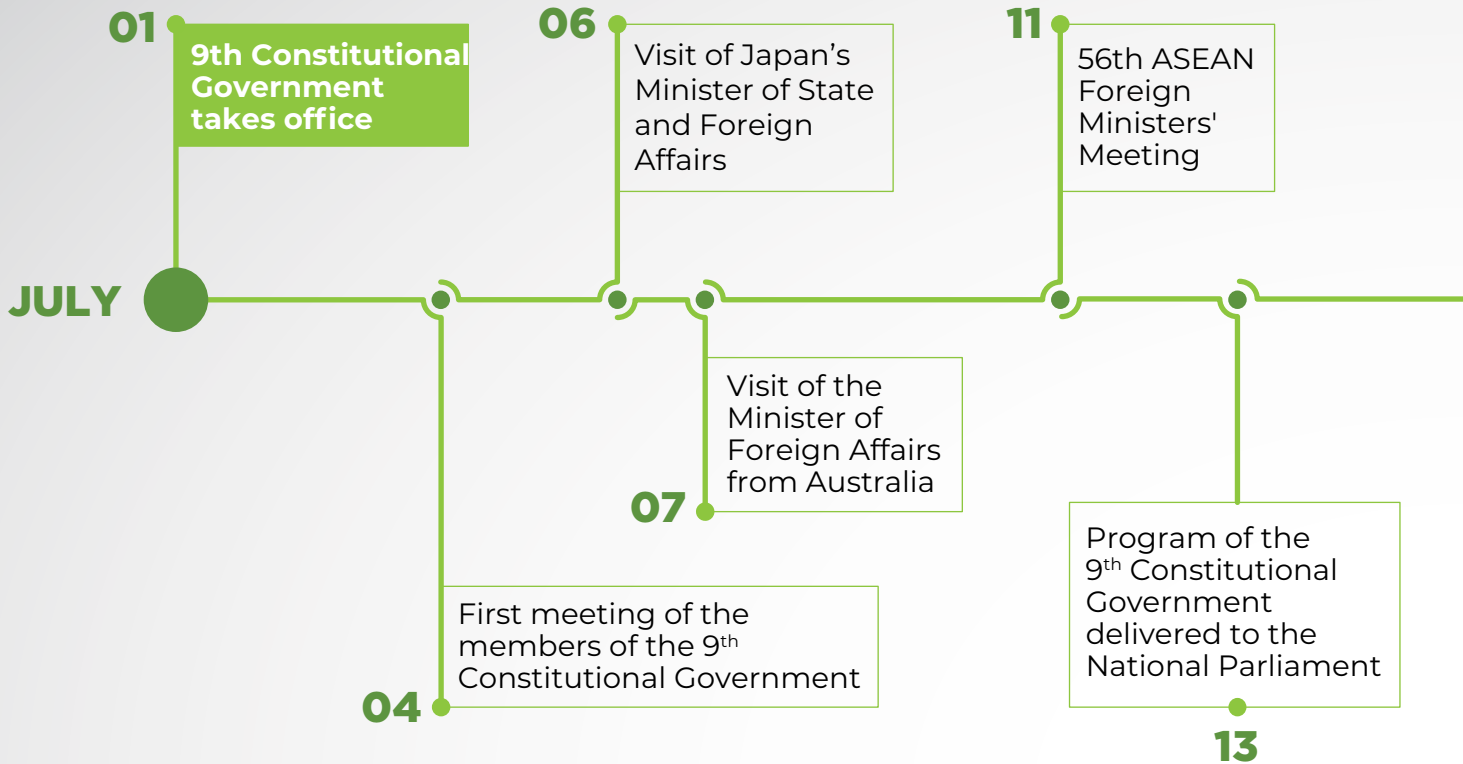


9TH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

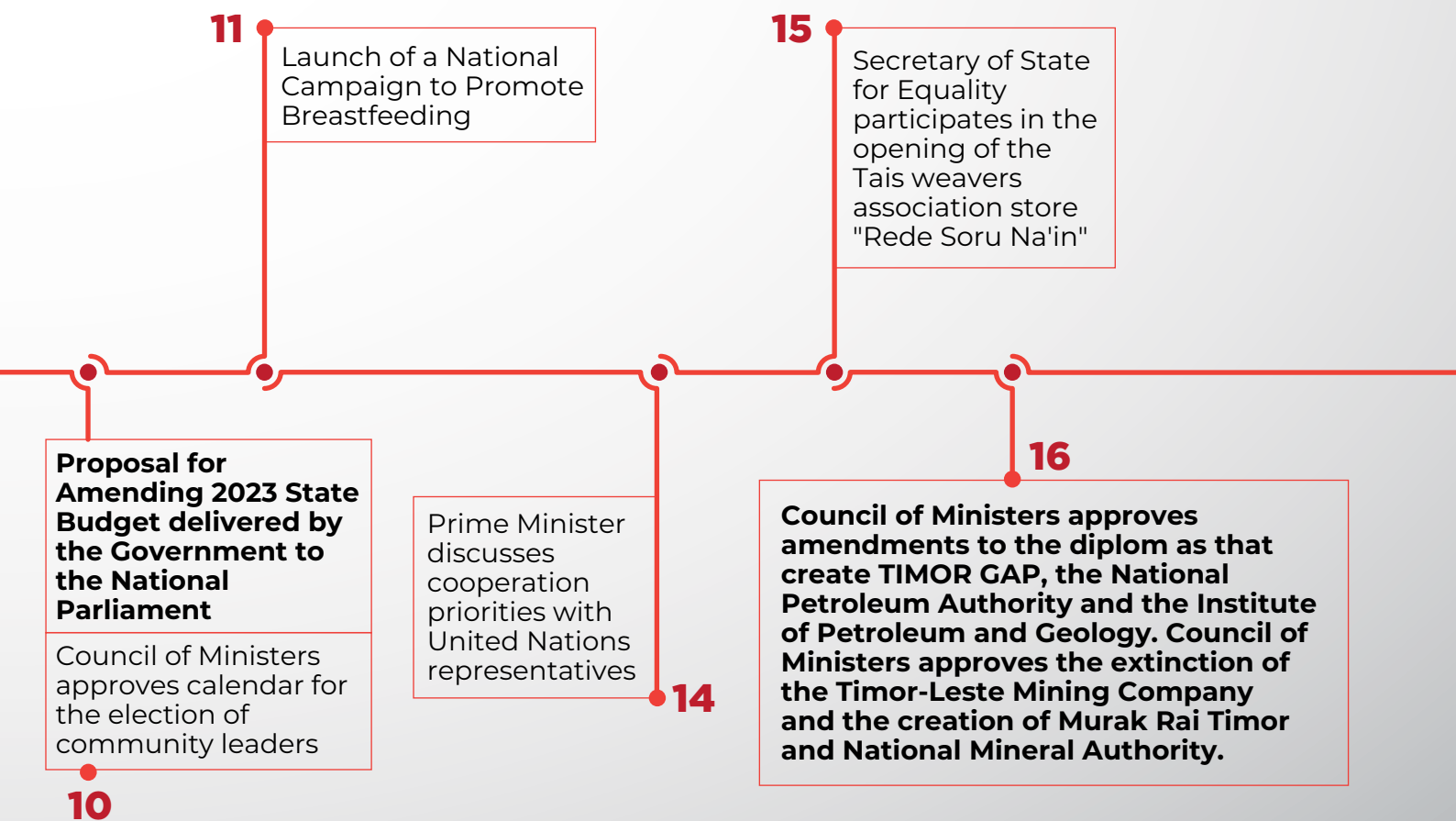
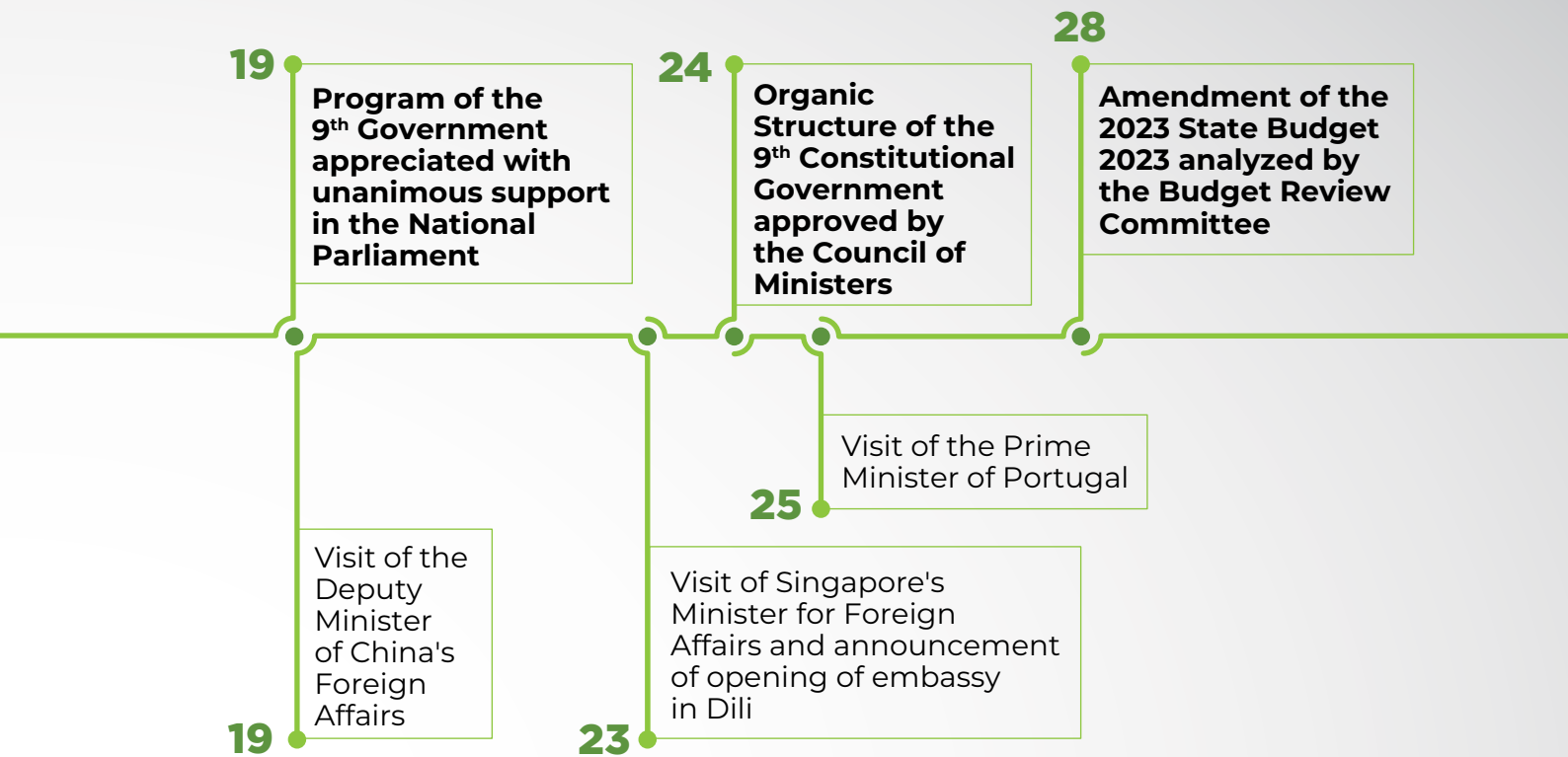




MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE 9th CONSTITUTIONAL



GOVERNMENT IN THE FIRST 120 DAYS OF TERM



MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE 9th CONSTITUTIONAL

AUGUST

17

55th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting

20

17th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime

22

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation visit to the European headquarters of the g7+ defends commitment to multilateralism

18

Timor-Leste and Brazil sign cooperation agreement for new master's degree in education

Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers discusses strategic cooperation with IFC to boost the national economy

21

SEFOPE and United Nations discuss cooperation in the area of employment and professional training

23

SEPTEMBER

03

China hospital ship docks in Dili to provide medical services

06

43rd ASEAN Summit in Jakarta

Ceremony of Transfer of Powers in the National Intelligence Service

04

ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

Government receives support from UNICEF and Japan to combat anemia in adolescent girls

Inter-ministerial Social Affairs Coordination Meeting

08

GOVERNMENT IN THE FIRST 120 DAYS OF TERM

24

Amending Budget approved by the National Parliament in votes against

Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources participates in the 41st ASEAN Energy Ministers' Meeting 2023 and the ASEAN Energy Business Forum

28

Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh

Official Visit of the Vice-Prime Minister, MCAE to Cambodia

Launch of the Permanent Exhibition "Tais Timor"

Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion participates in the 30th Meeting of the ASEAN Sociocultural Community Council (ASCC)

25

28th Meeting of the CPLP Council of Ministers

6th ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit

Visit of WFP Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships - World Food Program

29

Council of Ministers approves calendar for preparing the General State Budget for 2024 and Establishment of the National Institute of Pharmacy and Medical Products

09

Governor of the Chinese Province of Hunan, Mao Weiming, visits Timor-Leste and launches Agriculture Cooperation Program with Manatuto

12

2024 Budgetary Days

14

Government Promotes Strategic Seminar on Human Resources Development for Sustainable Membership of ASEAN

Government and UNICEF sign partnership agreement to disseminate rights child safety and safe internet

11

Inauguration of the New Governor of the Central Bank of Timor-Leste

Council of Ministers approves appointments of the Presidents of TIMOR GAP, Murak Rai Timor, ANP, ANM and IPG

13

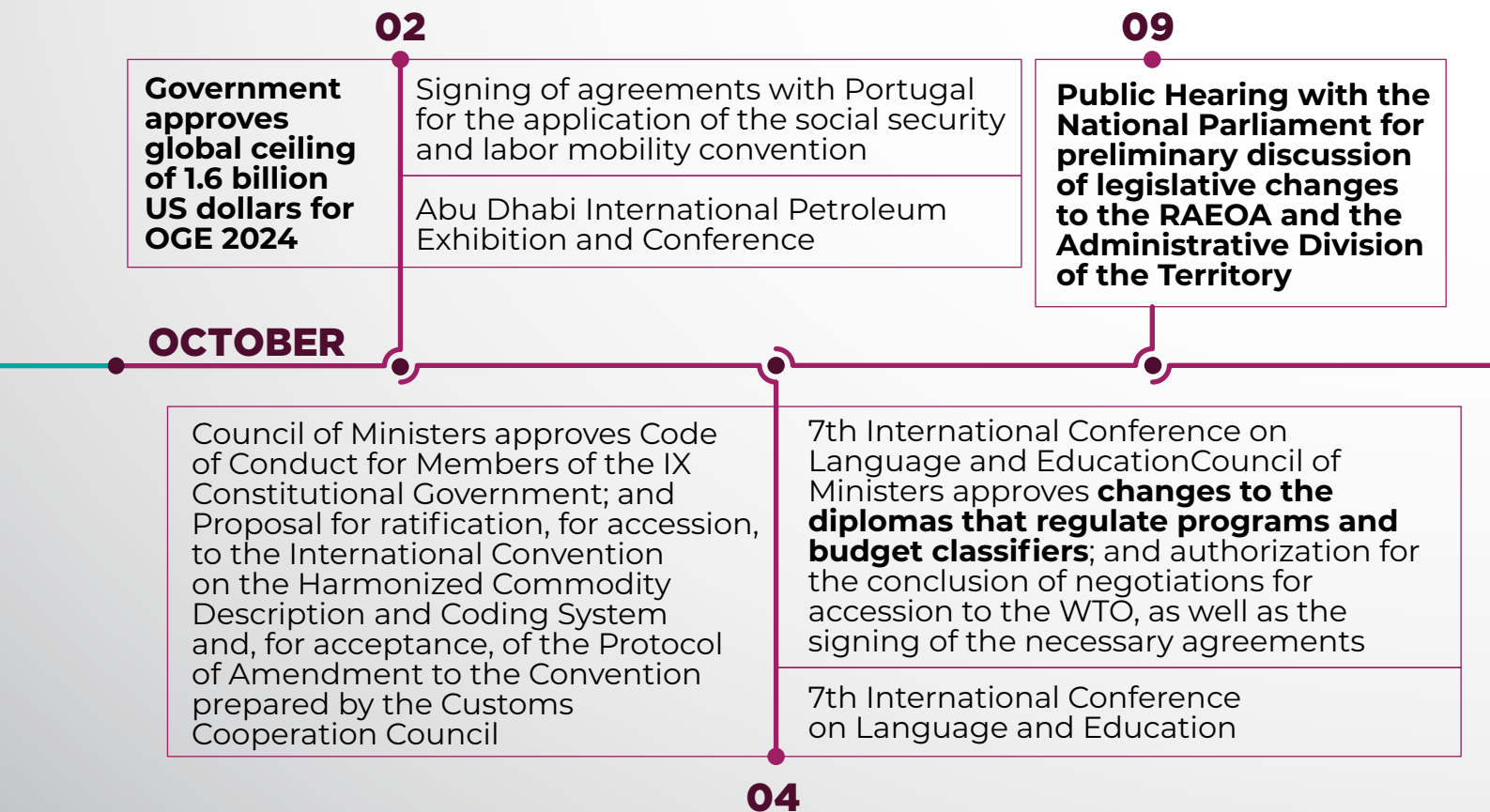
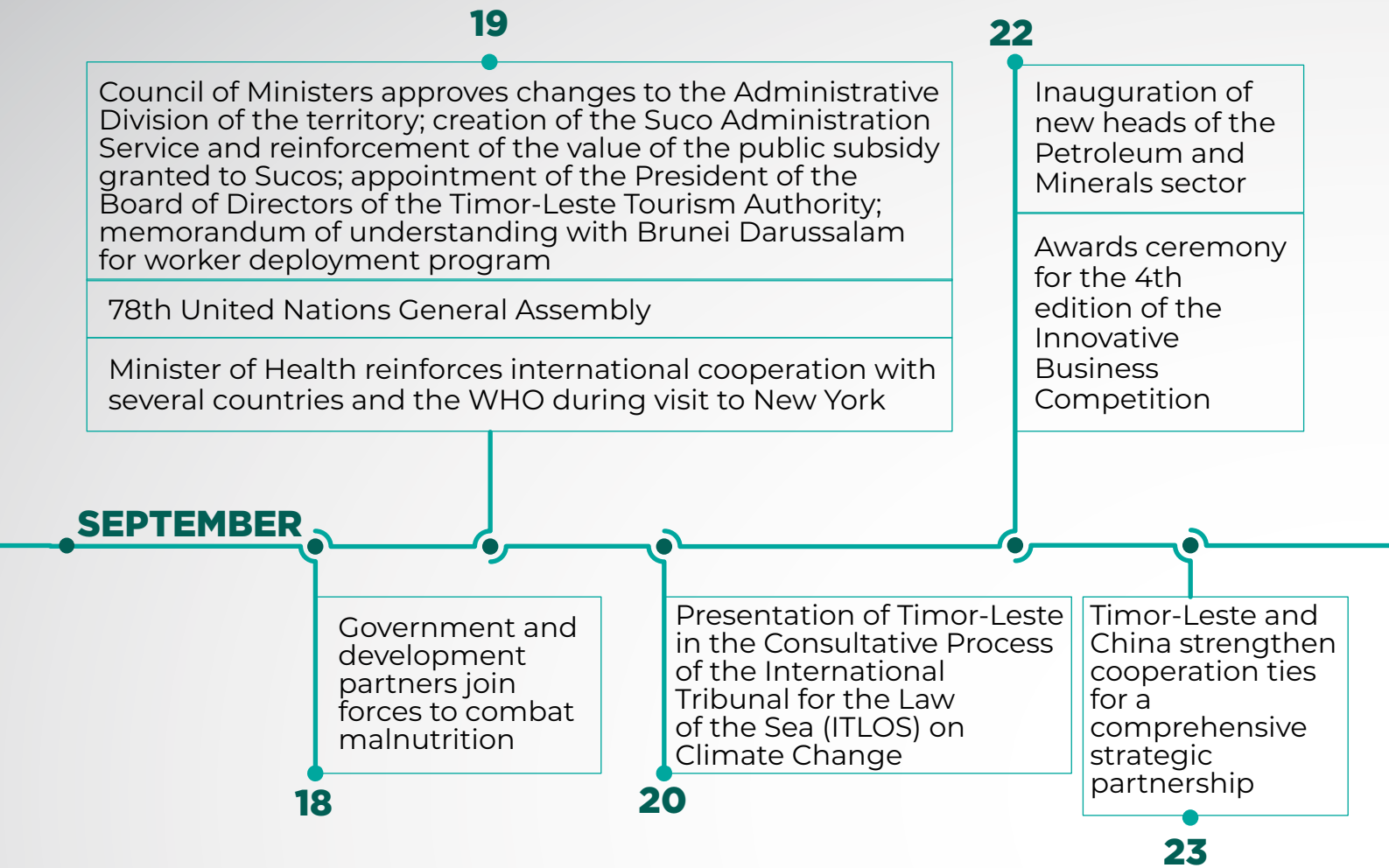
Council of Ministers approves maintenance of contractual public interest within the scope of the Dili urban solid waste management project and the names to be presented for new Commissioner from CAC

15

G77+China Summit in Havana

Felícia Carvalho takes office as Vice Minister of Finance

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE 9th CONSTITUTIONAL



GOVERNMENT IN THE FIRST 120 DAYS OF TERM

27

Council of Ministers approves reinstatement of PNTL personnel; agreements with Vietnam, the UN International Trade Center and the Indonesian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology; allocation of land for the new facilities of the Portuguese School of Dili; intervention measure to stabilize rice prices; surveillance and preservation measures for the water supply system; intervention plan for urgent rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure

25

Council of Ministers approves amendment to the Law that created RAEOA and ZEESM

29

Visit of the UK Minister for the Indo-Pacific

APG assesses Timor-Leste's commitment to adhering to international standards to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism

26

Government and Brunei discuss expanding and strengthening cooperation between the two countries

28

Forum on Women in Leadership and Diplomacy

Visit of India's Minister of State for External Affairs

30

11

Council of Ministers approves proposal to ratify the agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards within the scope of the Non-Proliferation Agreement; agreements with ASEAN countries for visa exemptions for tourism purposes; assignment of CONSSANTIL coordination responsibility; authorization to open a procurement procedure for the construction of an irrigation system in Maliana

6th meeting of the Working Group for WTO accession to conclude negotiations

First batch of passports, totaling 700, begins to be distributed to priority groups

5th Ministerial Meeting of the Forum of Archipelagic and Island States (AIS Forum) 2023

Seminar on Legal and Regulatory Framework for Carbon Capture and Storage in Timor-Leste

ASEAN High-Level Forum on Partnerships and Inclusive Development of Persons with Disabilities

10

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE 9th CONSTITUTIONAL

12

Government, UNDP and Japan sign partnership to improve infrastructure in rural communities

Timor-Leste and Indonesia continue negotiations on land borders at the 6th Senior Officials Consultation Meeting

OCTOBER

17

Meeting with a delegation from Osaka Gas Australia, a partner company in the Greater Sunrise development consortium

Government signs agreements with five heads of importing companies to ensure rice price stabilization

14

Discussion with businesspeople from Brunei Darussalam on comprehensive multi-sector investment and development project studies in the municipalities of Baucau and Dili

23

General State Account of the financial year 2022 approved by the National Parliament

SEFOPE and European Union discuss cooperation in agroforestry training

Timor-Leste and Indonesia finalize bilateral agreement on access to the services and goods market within the scope of the World Trade Organization

First International Skills Week of Timor-Leste and the 34th Meeting of the Board of Directors of SEAMEO VOCTECH

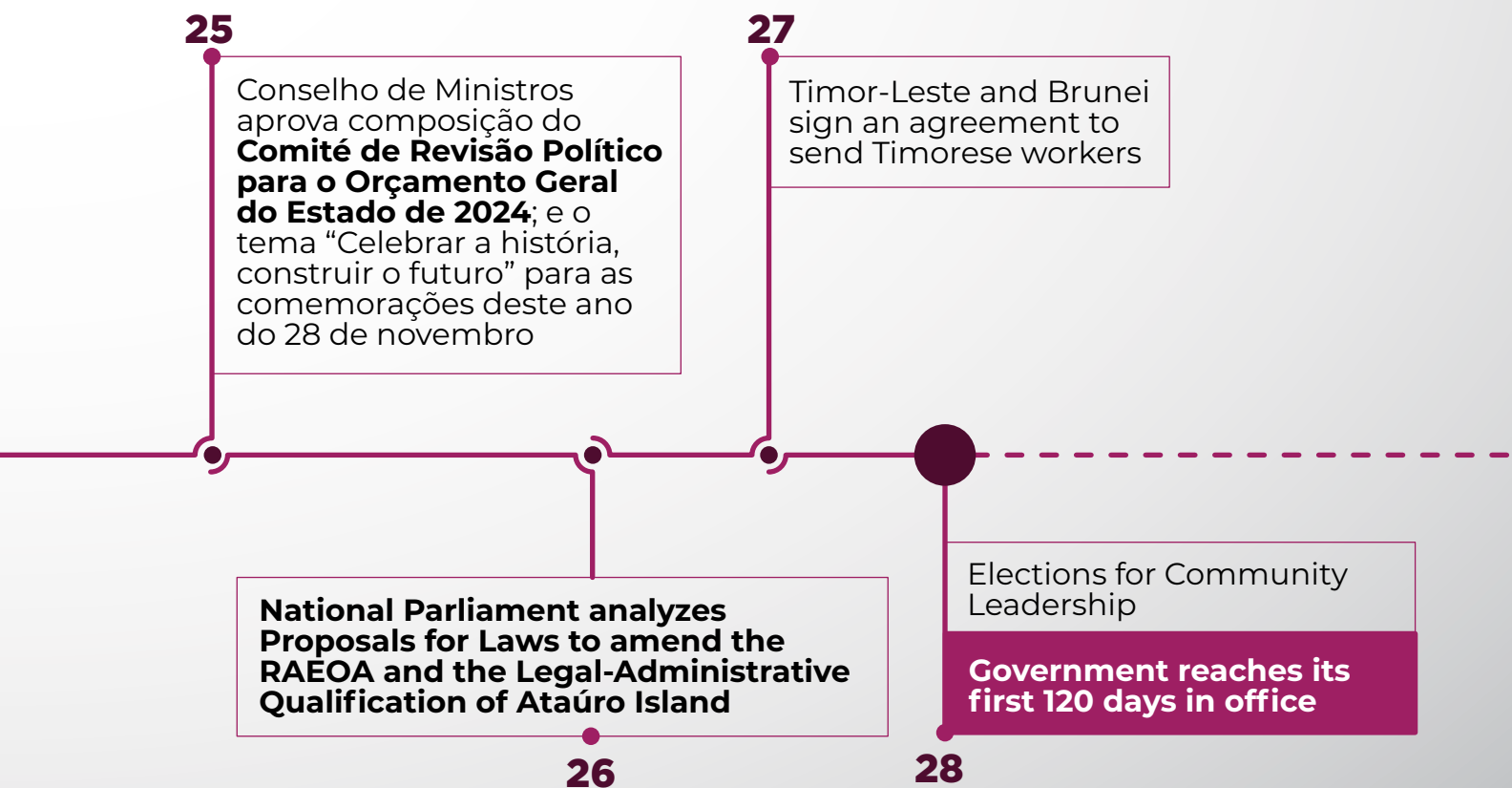
OCTOBER

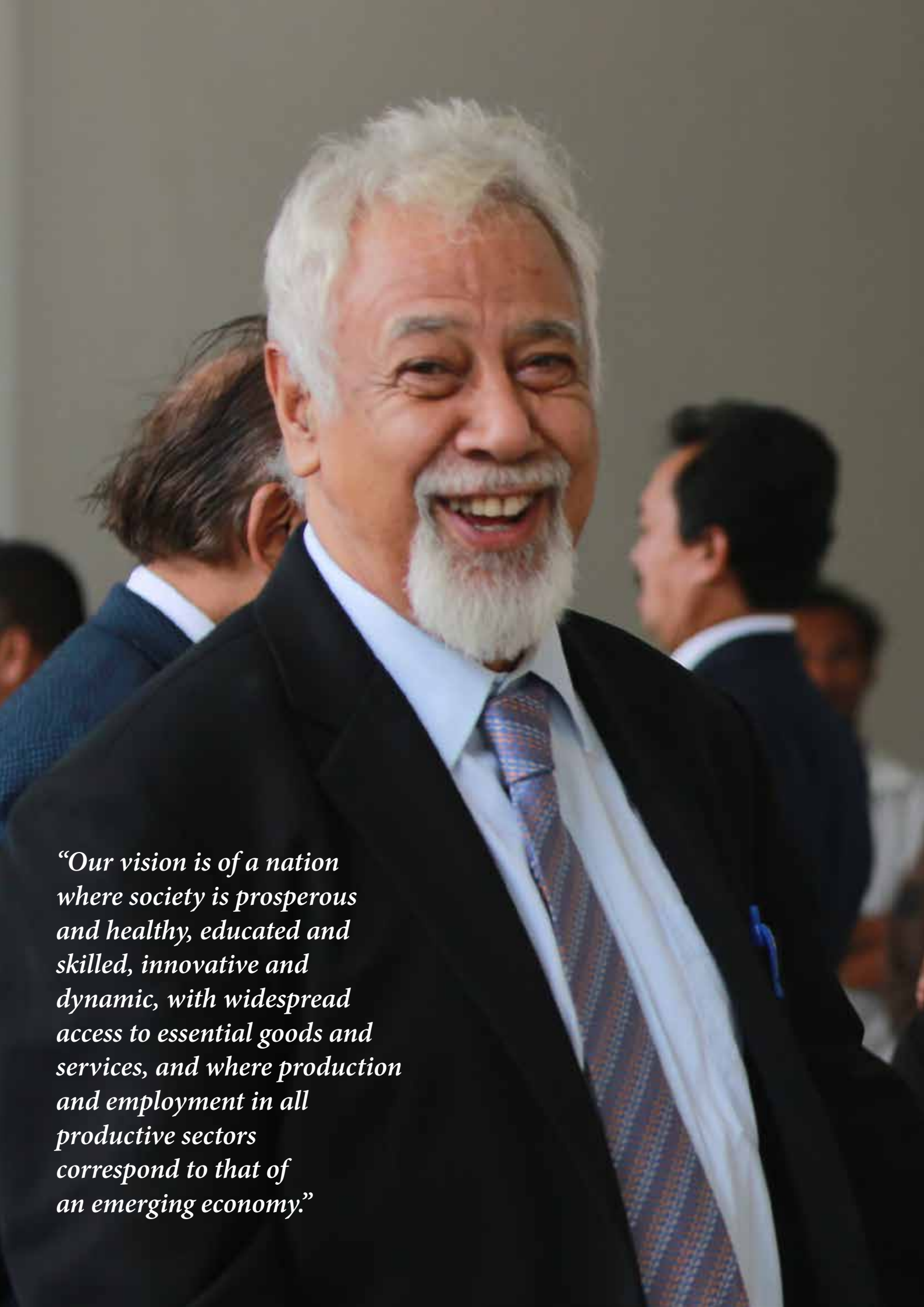
National Parliament generally approves Proposed Laws amending the RAEOA and the Legal-Administrative Qualification of Ataúro Island

Political Review Committee begins analysis of OGE 2024

24

GOVERNMENT IN THE FIRST 120 DAYS OF TERM





“Our vision is of a nation where society is prosperous and healthy, educated and skilled, innovative and dynamic, with widespread access to essential goods and services, and where production and employment in all productive sectors correspond to that of an emerging economy.”



9th Constitutional Government

November 2023