Fifteen years ago on 30 August, 1993, the people of Timor-Leste, our nation, and to date destiny into our own hands. It was the end of a long 24 years of struggle against an illegal occupation which had for so long subjected our people to colonial rule. We were the last among the South-East Asian nations to break from colonization.

Today, we call ourselves Timor-Leste, a country with a rich heritage, a country that we cherish. Our nation, a country that we have established, is a country that we will defend, a country that we will ensure its future is bright, a country that we will ensure it remains a beacon of hope for all nations, a country that we will ensure it remains a beacon of hope for all the world.

The official text begins with a historical account of Timor-Leste's struggle for independence, emphasizing the sacrifices and achievements of the nation. It then transitions to a discussion of the current state of the nation, highlighting its economic development, educational achievements, and cultural contributions. The text concludes with a call to maintain the democratic principles and values that have guided the nation's progress.

The message concludes with a message of hope and encouragement, urging the people to continue their journey towards a brighter future. The text is concise and straightforward, with a strong emphasis on the nation's past, present, and future.

The document is accompanied by various images, charts, and graphics, which provide additional visual context and support the overall message. The layout is clean and well-organized, with clear headings and subheadings to guide the reader through the various sections of the document.

The document's overall tone is one of dignity and pride, reflecting the national spirit and the commitment of the people to their country.
In the vanguard
Special Economic Zone opening up market of 30 million people

Investors from China, Korea, Macau, Portugal, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore are in various stages of project negotiations, contracts and implementation.

ABOVE OCCISUS AMBROO
Oceania Timor is a full sovereign territory and Special Administrative Region of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. It is a Special Zone of Social Market Economy (SZSM), with the island of Auro designated as the “Additional Development Zone” for tourism development.

Population: 71,400 (2014)
Religion: 96% Catholic
Languages: Timorese, Bahasa Indonesia
Economy: Subsistence farming, fishing

ZIELS Timor Sussex, Inc.
1 W, Nicosia, Timor
info@zields.com
www.zields.com

Dr. Mari Alkatiri, President of the Authority for the Special Administrative Region of Oceania Timor, speaks about the vision for the Special Zone of Social Market Economy (SZSM).

21st century state with old-world vibes
The first Portuguese ship to reach Timor-Leste was Orpheu in 1511, thus marking the beginning of Portuguese colonialism in the area. In 2015, Timor-Leste commemorates 500 years since the arrival of the Portuguese colonizers.

The Special Zone for Social Market Economy (SZSM) in Oceania in 2014. Source: wsj.com

Photos: MANI/B. GELLERGARDT/HANDOUT

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In 2015, Timor-Leste will commemorate 500 years since the arrival of the Portuguese colonizers.

Portuguese words and phrases are popular everyday expressions, harmonizing with the many other features that make Timor-Leste a unique place to visit. Portuguese colonizers left a lasting influence on Timorese culture, with their cuisine, language, and traditions.

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Food security and income

The government's objectives in the prospection for food security, and income generation for the people.

Timor-Leste has a traditional agricultural system, where a per cent of the population engage in farming, many of which are subsistence-based farming. In the face of climate change and other challenges, the government is working to improve the agricultural sector by investing in modern farming techniques.

This means enhancing productivity, quality, and sustainability while reducing the use of agrochemicals. The government is focused on creating an enabling environment for farmers to adopt best practices in crop production, processing, and marketing.

The government is also promoting the use of modern technologies such as drones and satellites to monitor crop health and water management. By improving access to credit and other services, the government is working to enhance the income and livelihoods of farmers and rural communities.

And researchers are analysing seeds to identify strains which will thrive in the conditions of Timor-Leste, and which will be most commercially competitive.

Cash crops

Rice is the staple food of the Timorese. The grain currently accounts for 27 per cent of the country's total food consumption. Rice is grown in paddies throughout the country, and it provides an important source of income for many farmers.

Still, it is not enough to meet domestic demand. Since the late 1980s, the country has become a net importer of rice. To help meet the growing demand, the government has taken steps to increase rice production through the use of modern farming techniques and the introduction of high-yielding rice varieties.

The government is working to improve the infrastructure for rice production, including the installation of irrigation systems and the development of new roads and bridges. By doing so, the government is helping to ensure a stable supply of rice for the people of Timor-Leste.

Livestock

The government has taken steps to increase the production of livestock, including cattle, pigs, and chickens. These efforts are focused on improving the quality and productivity of livestock through the introduction of modern farming techniques and the use of high-quality breeding stock.

In addition, the government is promoting the use of crop residue as animal feed, which helps to reduce the pressure on natural resources and supports the sustainable production of livestock.

Investors have begun to take interest in the livestock sector, and the government is working to create an enabling environment for the development of new businesses in this area.

Agriculture & Fisheries

A bountiful land

For centuries, traders have been flocking to Timor for its valuable commodities.
Tourism

On the eve of the ball

From natural hot springs and historical sites to culture, crafts and Timorese cuisine, Timor-Leste is brimming with tourism draws.

IT SEEMS hardly possible that beach, cloud-shrouded mountains, quaint towns, dazzling purple sunsets, and ancient ruins and historical sites coexist in a land as small as Timor-Leste. But they do. This is a land of several distinct cultural heritages, a 3,500-year-old sea paintings, 18th-century Chinese porcelain, and a 20th-century Timorese revolution.

IT SEEMS hardly possible that the phrase “land of many firsts” doesn’t apply here. The capital Dili was the first capital of the Portuguese on the southern half of the island where the colonial presence started in the 16th century, then the first post-independence capital, the first city to be struck by a tsunami on 22 December 2004, and most recently the first country to have a Tsunami Memorial built in its capital Dili.

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Hit-an, Nabilan ba
Levanta-te, Resplandece
Arise, Shine
FESTIVALS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Fun all year long

Timor-Leste’s calendar is filled with festivals and special moments.

Independence Day celebrations. PHOTO: DANIEL LEONGCAO / TIMOR-LESTE TIMES

The toughest mountain bike race on earth, Tour de Timor. PHOTO: JAYT

Timor-Leste’s premier sporting event, the Tour de Timor (www.tourdetimor.com) is the toughest mountain bike race on earth. Participating teams face a grueling downhill and cross-country race over 6 days from October 25 to 30.

Timor-Leste’s national Day of Independence (17 November) is a celebration of the country’s 15th anniversary. Celebrations include parades, cultural events, and sporting events. The day is marked by a traditional firework display at night.

On May 20 Independence Day, the nation parades out all the stops to celebrate with grand official ceremonies, cultural events and sporting competitions. The day is known as ‘Restoration of Independence’ in Timor-Leste in remembrance of the country’s independence originally declared on November 28, 1975.

Batuque horse race. PHOTO:acock / TIMES HOTEL AND APARTMENTS

Batukafe horse race. PHOTO: TIMES HOTEL AND APARTMENTS

President Tur Matan Ruak (centre) with the falekikin contest winners. PHOTO: TIMES HOTEL AND APARTMENTS

Timor-Leste quick guide

Beach glass and colonial style antique shop. PHOTO: TIMES HOTEL AND APARTMENTS

Cristo Rei. PHOTO: TIMES HOTEL AND APARTMENTS

Nino Kusti Santos National Park, Jaco Island. PHOTO: TIMES HOTEL AND APARTMENTS

Top left: Dawn at the peak of Mt Ramalais. Above: Catch of the day, cooked the way you like it.

Drinks

The chic cafes of Dili and the friendly schooling barmaids. Chances are high you will encounter the edible and delightfully spicy 35km strata between Dili and Ainaro. Green with nature at one end of the engravings on the island.

The Portuguese Intricacy of the island.

Watch

 inadvertently invites you to the site.

EAT

fresh seafood cooked just the way you like it, wrapped in banana leaf and eaten, grilled over coals, or steamed Cantonese style with a dash of soy sauce. Choose from a host of restaurants dotted along the coast offering sea breezes and international cuisines. Try Portuguese dishes like bacalhau (salted cod) and frigideira (charcoal sausage and beans), or Timorese specialties such as caruru (mustard seed) and manco (beef and tomatoes). A twist – lemon juice made from chilies, lemon mint, lime and Spanish oranges – add instant zing.

Buy

organic products: Timorese coffee, honey and pork on salt. A number of cashew producers Al-Fanar – meaning ‘House’ – a line of cashew handcrafted with 100% pure and natural ingredients. Don’t leave without a stash of colorful jars and accessories made from baskets and tiles. Pick up a copy of ‘AIX MUC’, a book of poems and paintings by Nino Kusti Gomide to read on your flight home.

Stay

At the peak of Pousada de Baucau, a quaint colonial era mansion in Guam, one of Timor-Leste’s many luxury hotels, you can enjoy the views of the island. Head off with a dip in the sea and a glass by the beach.

Timor-Leste’s quick guide

in the morning. Colonial style antique shops, bazaar style markets and various monuments make it an ideal place to craft farms from the central shop fight door.

Brink the Impressive Market Hall, the heart of the town’s central market during Portuguese times, and newly renovated and repurposed into a convention centre.

The crystal waters of Jaco Island with its thickly white sand. Dive into the amazing and bizarre 1,500-year-old rock at the Ilhao Koro caves. A small rock jutted out into the ocean. Negotiate a local guide to lead you to the site.

The Portuguese Intricacy of the island.

Nino Kusti Santos National Park, Jaco Island. PHOTO: TIMES HOTEL AND APARTMENTS

Top left: Dawn at the peak of Mt Ramalais. Above: Catch of the day, cooked the way you like it.

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Swim

The crystal waters of Jaco Island with its thickly white sand. Dive into the amazing and bizarre 1,500-year-old rock at the Ilhao Koro caves. A small rock jutted out into the ocean. Negotiate a local guide to lead you to the site.

Dine

The chic cafes of Ainaro and roast the friendly schooling barmaids. Chances are high you will encounter the edible and delightfully spicy 35km strata between Dili and Ainaro. Green with nature at one end of the engravings on the island.
The crocodile wakes

Legend says Timor-Leste was formed from the back of a giant sleeping crocodile. The resource-rich nation is asleep no more.

In a short span of nine years, the country’s sovereign wealth fund – the Petroleum Fund – has ballooned to USD16.6 billion.

Treasures in the south

Off the country’s south coast, the Timor Sea is rich in hydrocarbons. Transocean is already engaged in joint production of oil and gas in this territory with the Philippine company Philip Lines, which has a 25% stake. Transocean is now preparing for a major push in the area. In 2016 it announced plans to double the production capacity in the Terreiro field, where it is already producing 20,000 barrels of oil per day.

Transform and energise

The Timor-Mex project will open up a 140 km corridor along Timor-Leste’s south coast, complete with transport, water and electricity infrastructure. The maritime border agreement reached with Australia earlier this year will establish a maritime zone 12 nautical miles wide, between 0.9 million square kilometers suitable for industrial uses as well as agricultural industries such as livestock, forestry, fishery, horticulture and mining, and various other services such as processing and packaging for export. The expansion of the domestic petroleum industry will precipitate economic diversification in the country, as well as transform the economy of an under-developed area.

Safety in transparency

Having reached the milestones of the form- runners in the industry, the Timorese know their nation is not an option. “There are no Monroe Tennes in the petroleum industry,” observed Mr. Pires. “We have learned that a transparent, data- based Transparency Portal for full disclosure of the country’s invoices and the movement of public funds transparency, anti-corruption, the Petroleum Fund quarterly statement, and the central bank’s website (www. centralbank Timor-Leste) all have seen the International Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and is the first nation to fully comply with EITI’s Transparency Standards.

Investing in human resources

With all its plans and ambitions, Timor-Leste needs trained and skilled workers in every sector of the economy. In 2013 the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources launched the Timor-Leste Scholarship Program (TSP), aimed at providing scholarships to Timorese students. To date, more than 100 students have been selected to pursue studies in a variety of fields, including petroleum engineering, geology, and economics. The goal of the program is to ensure that Timor-Leste has the trained workforce it needs to support its oil and gas industry.

New acreage release

AFTER eight years of waiting, Timor-Leste is preparing to invest its resources in the offshore oil and gas industry. In 2016, the country has lined up several new acreage blocks that are expected to attract international interest. The blocks are located in the Timor Sea and are expected to contain significant oil and gas reserves. Companies are invited to bid for the acreage, which includes four blocks in the Timor Sea. The blocks are located in the Timor-Leste continental shelf and are expected to be explored for oil and gas in the near future. The announcement of the new acreage blocks is a significant development for Timor-Leste, as it marks the beginning of a new chapter in the country’s exploration and production activities.

The Diamond Eye Award: Commitment to Excellence 2014 awarded to Autoridade National do Petróleo (ANP) of Timor-Leste

Mr. Guadino de Silva (right), President of Timor Leste-regulador Autoridade National do Petróleo (ANP), accepting on behalf of ANP the Golden Award for Quality and Business Excellence 2014 from Timor Gap.

About setting economic parameters to the market.

Dili diaries

Singaporeans who have moved to Timor-Leste share their success stories

Keeping it real

Singaporean Chye Lye, 44, is chairman and managing director of National Insurance Timor-Leste (NITL), the country’s first general insurance company and chairperson of NTIIF, a non-profit private charitable foundation which develops children through education and healthcare programs. According to Mr Chye, who moved to Dili with his family at the age of 36, he made a regional career move because of a “great offer” at NITL, which he describe as “the best offer I’ve ever received.”

What was the hardest time and how did you overcome it?

The hardest times were the first three years when he took 15 months to get our operating licence. I had no income, had to support my wife and three children, and we were living on savings. Also, those first three years I was spending long months away from home. I was moving in Timor-Leste. But I had to maintain the business structure. I had to be very focused and be involved in all business decisions. I had to focus on work. There had been many attacks but I stayed alive and I learn to live from this experience. I believe that there is a divine reason for everything—we should face and follow that reason. I believe me and my colleagues have grown and that this growth can happen in Timor-Leste.

What are your goals and challenges now?

My goal is to continue to grow a robust, efficient and reliable insurance and risk management service provider on a sustainable financial standing. If we succeed then we can take up more leadership positions. I want to do my part to help the Timorese people and help the underprivileged and marginalised in society.

How has Timor-Leste changed you?

I am an unconventional thought-taking person with no fear of expressing my own ideas. I was always close to my family and friends. I had to develop my own ideas and I was very comfortable with this. I became more independent, more assertive. I can express my ideas and opinions without fear of being judged. I can express my ideas and opinions without fear of being judged.

My favourite things

I love spending time with Catholic missionaries and their work. I am very fond of the Timorese people. I have a lot of respect for Timorese people. I have enjoyed meeting them and I have enjoyed spending time with them.

Never give up

Sparrow Chye Lye, 44, arrived in Timor-Leste alone. I was 15 years old when I arrived here. I didn’t think I could do this. I didn’t think I could survive. I didn’t think I could do this. I didn’t think I could survive. I didn’t think I could do this. I didn’t think I could survive.

In 2000, the capital Dili was shelled to smithereens in the civil war that followed the independence battle. The place was destroyed, with United Nations peacekeepers, foreign advisors, aid workers, opportunists and mercenaries. In those days, everyone went hungry. We had to scavenge for food and water. And we had to pull ourselves together to survive. In 2000, we were all hungry. We had to pull ourselves together to survive. In 2000, we were all hungry. We had to pull ourselves together to survive. In 2000, we were all hungry. We had to pull ourselves together to survive.

What were the hardest times and how did you overcome them?

My hardest times were from 2006 to 2008. I couldn’t find a job and I was going on welfare. I didn’t have any money and I was going through my own personal crisis. I was so depressed that I was on the verge of suicide. I was so depressed that I was on the verge of suicide. I was so depressed that I was on the verge of suicide. I was so depressed that I was on the verge of suicide.

How have you changed and what are your goals now?

I have changed a lot. I have become more independent and more assertive. I have become more independent and more assertive. I have become more independent and more assertive. I have become more independent and more assertive.

Our family has been in the real estate business for 30 years. We involved in the building of homes and commercial buildings. We also involved in hotels and restaurants. We have a building in Dili, Dili International Building, which is a complex of offices, hotels and restaurants. We also have a building in East Timor.

Mr Tony Lye, managing director of Dili International Building.

Our city centre development, Dili Central, is fast expanding into an integrated business hub and will include a new hotel, office and retail spaces, and also commercial buildings and a medical center. We also have an office building and an office tower.

Dili International Building, operated by our company, has been helping the local government to develop a business centre. We have been working with the government to develop a business centre. We have been working with the government to develop a business centre. We have been working with the government to develop a business centre.

The warmth of the Timorese people, the beauty of the landscape, the challenges and opportunities of working in a rapidly developing country has been advancing political stability to new economic development. Among our biggest challenges is to train the local workforce to operate to international standards. Upgrading the quality and capabilities of our human resources is crucial to servicing our projects in the pipeline. We have been elected to service our projects in the pipeline. We have been elected to service our projects in the pipeline. We have been elected to service our projects in the pipeline.

Mr Tony Lye (second from right) on the grounds of a Dominicans orphanage in Dili. Timor-Leste, supported by NTIIF. The orphanage cares for orphaned children of conflict, conflict, conflict, conflict, conflict, conflict, conflict, conflict, conflict, conflict.

I have wanted to build something of my own where I can make a tangible difference to the people and community I live and work with. Timor-Leste was a country with a long history of conflict. I have wanted to make something of my own where I can make a tangible difference to the people and community I live and work with. Timor-Leste was a country with a long history of conflict. I have wanted to make something of my own where I can make a tangible difference to the people and community I live and work with. Timor-Leste was a country with a long history of conflict. I have wanted to make something of my own where I can make a tangible difference to the people and community I live and work with. Timor-Leste was a country with a long history of conflict.
No image provided.