MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER XANANA GUSMÃO

Timor-Leste: Nation with a vision

Fifteen years ago, on 30 August, 1999, the nation of Timor-Leste was born as a free nation, and to take destiny into our own hands. It took nearly 20 years of struggle against an illegal occupation which had been a colonial rule. We were the last among the South-East Asian nations to break from colonization.

Today, we call ourselves Timor-Leste, the land of all the people from different traditions, cultures, and other ethnic groups. We have strong ties with our neighboring countries, and our relations with them are very strong. The work of nation-building and economic development has been a continuous process, and we have formed strong friendships with our regional neighbors through proactive engagement. No vital country can exist in isolation, and it is necessary to maintain links and work together. We have many opportunities to adapt and evolve. We must not compromise on our fundamental values.

Strategic Development Plan

In July this year, Timor-Leste hosted the 15th Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Independent States (CIS) in Dili, capital of Timor-Leste, which is the highest level of international cooperation in the region. We have been working on the development of the country and our relations with our neighbors. We have established strong ties with our neighbors, and we believe that a strong and stable region is essential for the development of our country. We are committed to working with our neighbors to achieve prosperity and sustainable development.

Special Economic Zones

As we look towards the future, we are committed to creating opportunities for growth and development. We are focusing on creating a positive environment for investment and business. In the next 15 years, we aim to establish several special economic zones, which will provide a range of incentives for economic growth. These zones will be established in different regions of the country, including Dili, Atabula, and other areas. We will work closely with our partners to ensure that these zones are successful and contribute positively to the economy.

In conclusion, we believe that Timor-Leste has a bright future ahead. We are committed to working hard to achieve our goals and to ensure that our country is prosperous and healthy. We hope that our people will continue to work together to build a better future for our nation.