

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
MINISTRY OF STATE ADMINISTRATION

PRESENTATION

UN-HABITAT CONFERENCE

NAIROBI - KENYA, 08 – 12 MAY 2017

(By: Edgar Sequeira Martins, Director General of Corporate Services)

Excellency Mr President

Distinguis Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Timor-Leste is a country located in the southeast asia and independent since 2002. Is important to highlight that the path to the development started with a foot print left by a contemporary past disclosed by political and social conflicts that is surely and important piece of the recent history of the country.

Among these 15 years since the independence, nowadays Timor-Leste is a country with a young population of around 1 066 409, with more than 60% of the population with less than 25 years old. The distribution of the population is compacted in Dili, being the two most populated regions Baucau and Ermera, with a total of 43% of the population in these three cities. The migration of the population to Dili is related to the search for better conditions in the region that is by far the most development one in the territory. To understand Timor-Leste in terms of the living conditions of the population there are some features important to bearing in mind. For example the main material used to construct the wall of the houses are, in rural areas the bamboo (40.%) and in urban locations the palm- trunk/bebak (28.2%). In both scenarios (urban and rural) the material used to construct the roof of the household is corrugated iron/zinc with a percentage of 66.5%. In what refers to the main source of energy for cooking around all the territory the Timorese mostly use the wood (89.6%). A big difference is denoted between urban and rural areas regarding the main source of energy used, with the

urban population using the electricity (87.7%) and in the municipalities the kerosene (63.5%). With these illustrations we recognize there is a long path to achieve the advanced standards in the called developed countries.

In what concerns to the land and property is relevant to state that there still a misunderstanding issue about the ownership property as a result of abrupt transitions between governments administrations and political, social and military conflicts. As a consequence, there still, on a daily basis, judicial battles to define the official entitlement of lands by the population as well as private and official sectors. Of course is in the capital that the situation has larger contours, linked with the fact that is the most developed region. For the population this emerge as a difficulty to establish defined zones to construct residences, for the private sector is an obstacle to the investment and for the government to decide an official decision due to the lack of legal guidelines about this matters. To overcome this situation in 2013 Timor-Leste's Government established a partnership with a private company to implement a project that will implement a set of regulatory standards transparent and fair in order to, in one hand officially define the property ownership and transfer of lands and, on the other hand defend the interests of tradition owners and protect the interests of population and Government. With the objective achieved there will be time to outline new goals allied with the habitation matters. Also linked with growing the conditions of habitation for the population the Government recognize the importance of strategies to provide better access to water sources and the develop stronger sanitation infrastructures around the country.

The constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste state that the State respect the territorial boundaries through the principle of decentralization of the public administration. It also predicts the existence of Local Power, formed by legal persons with representative's organisms that assurance the participation of the citizens in the resolutions of issues that emerge in the community and improve the local development. The National Development Strategic Plan 2011-2030 outline four aims to be reached through the administrative decentralization policies: the development of the private sector in rural areas, the outset of new opportunities of democratic participation, the promotion of institutions of a stronger State and the launching of more effective and efficient public services. To accomplish this deconcentrating process had been shaped an organizational model wherein that is represented the state organisms in 12 municipalities in order to provide better public services to the local communities as well as provide the tools to use the human resources, materials and financial that will be spread each municipal. So by a local perspective this process is expected to improve the autonomy to analyze the needs of the population to prioritize and develop

solutions adjusted to the own municipal. With this we expect that the development of policies will improve the habitation conditions of the population locally, thought a more efficient process. Incorporated in this process were approved two projects to develop and straight the local infrastructures. One of this programs is called **Programa Nacional de Desenvolvimento dos Sucos** and the main goal is to increase the quality of life in remote areas introducing community mechanisms to overcome needs identify by the population. The other program is named **Planeamento de Desenvolvimento Integrado Municipal** that pretend to increase in remote areas public-private policies related with construction work. Associated with this the Government also implemented a program that approves the construction of houses to vulnerable people. There was constructed five houses in each of 2228 sub villages/aldeia in Timor-Leste. Under this platform there were constructed 5500 houses for in need people in the municipals. These houses are equipped with solar power, water and sanity and the program was run with a community component.

It is also important to state that the Government approved the **Região Administrativa Especial de Oecussi**, an enclave of Timor-Leste with a Special Economic Social Market Zone that will increase the local development becoming an attractive area for both nationals and foreign investors in several areas. With this is presumed that the quality of life of the population will also be increased.

Assumed as an essential part of the Developing Strategic Plan there was also approved the **Tasi Mane project**. There will be construct three industrial clusters in the south part of the territory related with the petrol industry, one of the main industry of Timor-Leste. The plan comprises the construction of the Suai Supply Base cluster, the Betano Refinery and Petrochemical Industry cluster and the Beaçõ LNG-Plant cluster as well as a highway between the three clusters. The development of this project and the south region of the country will be the first step associated with the economic and social development of this zone that will result as better living conditions for the population.

We rely on that all the mentioned programs and projects are tolls to improve the economic development of Timor-Leste in order to provide better living conditions to the Timorese people in a civil and social approach.

THANK YOU