



**REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR – LESTE  
MINISTÉRIO DA DEFESA E SEGURANÇA  
SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DA DEFESA**

Your Excellencies,

It is my honour to report to the aid partners on the progress made during achieving National Priority Targets of the Defence sector in 2008 and outline the National Priorities for 2009.

**Achievements in 2008**

As you know at the Development Partner's Meeting in March 2008, the Government of Timor-Leste presented its 2008 National Priorities. It was decided that Defence, Security and Justice matters would be covered by the National Priorities Working Group 1.

Substantial progress on the 2008 Priorities was made across all three sectors. The key achievements by the Defense sector were:

- The Force 2020 document, (aimed at modernising the F-FDTL), was presented to the Council of Ministers in mid 2008. Subsequently on 26 September I signed the Force 2020 Implementation Instructions. These gave clear guidance to F-FDTL senior officers on a development program, involving human resources, force structure and (resources permitting) minor capital works.
- Human rights and humanitarian law training programs envisaged in the National Priorities Matrix were conducted during 2008. A successful Human Rights Workshop for F-FDTL personnel from the rank of sergeant (and above) was held on 10-11 November. A seminar on the status of women in the F-FDTL was conducted in mid August in connection with the FALINTIL Day celebrations.
- Amendments to Military Service Law were effected in December, when the National Parliament approved amendments to enable the recruitment on a volunteer basis to the F-FDTL. (In addition its Regulations setting out the terms of employment for the recruit intake were approved by the Council of Ministers in February 2009.)
- Organic Law for the Secretariat of State for Defense was passed by the Council of Ministers in August.

**2009 National Priorities 2009 – Shared Targets**

The Council of Ministers has recently approved the Defence and Security National Priorities for 2009, as set out in the 2009 National Priorities Results-Oriented Matrix.

As you know some of these priorities – especially the delineation of the respective roles of the F-FDTL and the PNTL – I share with my colleague, His Excellency Dr Francisco Guterres.

#### Joint Defence and Security Reform Program

Drafts of National Security Law and the Internal Security Law were submitted to the Council of Ministers in February.

Another priority in the joint F-FDTL/PNTL reform framework will be the finalisation of the National Security Policy – a document which addresses the traditional aspects of national defense and internal law enforcement, and also issues such as threats from national disasters, diseases, sectional strife and socio-economic weaknesses.

We will also jointly progress the development of enhanced maritime and border management capability. This will include

- A seminar to be held in May on National Security Policy and border management issues.
- The Inter-Ministerial Maritime Security Working Group to be reactivated.
- A Maritime Security Policy Coordinating Committee to be established by 30 June.
- Draft of Decree Law to establish a Timor-Leste Maritime Authority will be submitted to the Council of Ministers by 30 June.
- A Maritime Operational Threat Response Plan will be prepared by 30 September.
- A Draft National Maritime Strategy including a Framework for a Model Integrated Maritime Administration to be completed by the end of 2009.
- Integrated Border Management Joint Training for F-FDTL and PNTL completed with facilitation from UN and other partners by the last quarter of 2009.

#### **2009 National Priorities 2009 – Defense Targets**

##### Developing Defence professionalism

A key task for 2009 will be training recruits to the F-FDTL. There was big response to the initial recruitment drive, with over 12,000 expressions of interest – 1800 of which have been short-listed. A Selection Board will narrow this down to get the 600 required recruits (both male and female). I am told this will be achieved by early May. The first group of 300 recruits will undergo three-months training from May. A second intake (also 300) will commence training in the last quarter of 2009. Specialist training for the first intake will also begin in the last quarter.

Other significant training activity will include specialised training for naval personnel (in the last quarter of 2009) and the development of Training & Human Resources Action Plan for civil service staff members.

UNMIT and individual bilateral partners will also support professional military development for F-FDTL in UN peace-keeping capabilities

##### Morale and discipline in the F-FDTL

Priority will be given to improving F-FDTL internal administration, morale and discipline systems. The key steps will be the drafting of new Decree Law for the approval by the Council of Ministers on:

- ❑ Organic Law on Military Police.
- ❑ F-FDTL Promotion Law
- ❑ Draft Pension Law for F-FDTL
- ❑ National Defense Law

In addition, Administrative Instructions for F-FDTL Disciplinary Mechanisms will be drafted and then approved by the CDF. Training for F-FDTL Legal Assistants will be completed by the final quarter of 2009.

With these reforms in place, the Defence sector plans that by the end of 2009 there will be a functioning Department of Justice in F-FDTL HQs, with an operating Court Martial system in the F-FDTL.

#### National Security, Defense Strategy, Military Doctrine.

The Defense sector has also identified a need to improve the strategic policy and capability development processes. This process will include a Force Development Plan 2009-2012 (to be approved by myself as the Secretary of State for Defense) and a Concept of Employment of F-FDTL (to be approved by the CDF).

In cooperation with UN and aid partners the Defense sector will upgrade CIMIC activity – a draft CIMIC Doctrine/Disaster Management Program and Standard Operating Procedures will be ready by the end of 2009.

Furthermore, with assistance from UN and interested partners, a Timor Leste National Defence Institute will be established by December 2009.

#### Building Defense relations

Finally, in regard to regional defense relations, the 2009 goals are:

- ❑ F-FDTL to participate in suitable ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) activities on disaster management.
- ❑ MOUs to be finalised with aid partners including Australia, India, Malaysia New Zealand and the US – to be achieved through a continuing process, which will be completed by the end of December 2009.

#### Outlook

These are realistic and achievable goals. We are of course mindful of the uncertainties presented by the global financial crisis its potential to impact on the Government of Timor and our aid partners. Nevertheless, Timor Leste remains committed to the goal of developing a modern and professional F-FDTL under the direction of a democratic society. We look forward to the continued support and encouragement from aid partners in this endeavour.

With best regards,

Júlio Tomas Pinto  
Secretary of State for Defence  
April 2004