

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR**

**LAW N.2/02**

**INTERPRETATION OF APPLICABLE LAW  
ON 19 MAY 2002**

International recognition of independence proclaimed on 28 November 1975 and the consequential hand-over of sovereignty powers call for the approval of a legal instrument aimed at facilitating interpretation of inherited law since it is the Constitution itself that determines that law previously applied in the country shall remain in force “...until laws and regulations applied in East Timor, for everything not contrary to the Constitution and principles enshrined therein, are amended or repealed”.

Accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c), subsection 1 of Section 97, and paragraph a), subsection 2 of Section 115 of the Constitution, the Government hereby submits to the National Parliament the following bill:

**Section 1**  
**Applicable law**

Legislation applicable in East Timor on 19 May 2002 shall remain in force *mutatis mutandis* for everything not contrary to the Constitution and principles enshrined therein.

**Section 2**  
**Powers hand-over**

Powers conferred to the Transitional Administrator by legislation applicable in East Timor on 19 May 2002 shall now be exercised by competent authorities of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, in accordance with the Constitution and principles enshrined therein.

**Section 3**  
**Validity of appointments**

Appointments in effect in East Timor on 19 May 2002 shall remain valid on a transitional basis until such a time as new appointments are made, in accordance with the law.

**Section 4**  
**Validity of documents**

Any documents, certificates, licences or authorisations issued by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (hereinafter UNTAET), and valid in East Timor on 19 May 2002, shall remain valid, without prejudice to the fact that expiry

deadlines thereof may be previous to this date and they may be, in the meantime, replaced by new documents, in accordance with the law.

**Section 5**  
**Foreign missions**

Foreign representative missions established in East Timor on 19 May 2002 pursuant to UNTAET Regulation N.2000/31, of 27 September 2002, shall maintain their status until such a time as they are accredited as diplomatic missions or consulates to the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

**Section 6**  
**Entry into force**

This law shall enter into force on 20 May 2002.

Approved by the Council of Ministers pursuant to provisions of paragraph c) of Section 116 of the Constitution on 24 May 2002.