

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

24/2010

On the use of the Official Languages

Considering the constitutional enshrinement of Tetum and Portuguese as the Official Languages of the Nation;

Considering that both Tetum and Portuguese constitute national heritage and an element of national unification, contributing decisively towards the cohesion of the Timorese society and State;

Considering that the Portuguese language is a differentiating element for the affirmation of the State and for its external projection, amounting equally to a crucial factor for the development of Tetum;

Bearing in mind the importance of the Portuguese language as a privileged instrument for the strengthening of historical, cultural, affective, friendship and cooperation ties linking us to the Member States of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP);

With the objective of furthering the efforts being undertaken for the affirmation of Portuguese language as official language in international organisations, notably in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which will also imply the strengthening of our presence in such organisations;

Recognising the importance of the use of Portuguese in the framework of the parliamentary participation in international fora, notably in the CPLP Parliamentary Assembly, a privileged arena for inter-parliamentary cooperation;

Considering also that the National Parliament will host the CPLP Parliamentary Assembly whose forthcoming Meeting will be held in Dili in 2011, and that it is imperative to ensure the capacity of response of the parliamentary support services;

The National Parliament decides, pursuant to articles 92 and 95.1 of the Constitution of the Republic, on the following:

1. To recommend the Government to pursue an effective bilingual policy in Public Administration by promoting the use of the official languages in all

spheres of its activities and, to that end, create the necessary conditions in all public organisms and services;

2. To recommend the Government to take all the necessary measures with a view to rendering effective the use of Tetum and Portuguese in all acts of Public Administration, notably in internal and external communication and in any public announcements, and to invest in interpreting and translating services;

3. To urge the Government to pursue the policies of dissemination of Tetum and Portuguese in all areas of social life, from education to administration, both in the public and in the private domains;

4. To recommend the Government to strengthen its support to the Institute of Languages of the Timor-Leste National University (UNTL) with a view to supporting the development of Tetum, notably through the allocation of additional funds for the recruitment of linguists for conducting research activities and for promoting publications in Tetum;

5. To recommend the Government to increase its investment in Portuguese, notably through budgetary allocations specifically for recruiting Portuguese language teachers, in order to intensify the teaching, and promote intensification, of Portuguese language in the country;

6. To urge the Government to strengthen the ties of cooperation with the Brotherly Countries of CPLP at the level of linguistic development;

7. To entrust His Excellency the President of the National Parliament to take and develop the necessary and adequate measures and actions aimed at strengthening the use of the official languages in all areas of parliamentary activity, notably at the level of the parliamentary support services;

8. In every Legislative Session, at least once every month, the plenary meetings are to be conducted in Portuguese;

9. In every Legislative Session, at least once every month, the parliamentary commissions meetings are to be conducted in Portuguese;

Approved on 26 October 2010.

For publication.

The President of the National Parliament.

Fernando La Sama de Araújo