



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

11 January 2008

Excellency,

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the warm hospitality you provided to me, as well as my delegation, during my recent visit to Timor-Leste.

I greatly enjoyed the luncheon which Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão so generously hosted for me, and the opportunity to meet with you and other distinguished members of the Government. I greatly valued our sincere exchange during the luncheon on the progress made by your young country over the past year, as well as the many challenges remaining. As mentioned, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and all United Nations partners remain fully committed to supporting your country in addressing priority needs and overcoming challenges so as to bring sustainable peace and stability, rule of law, democratic governance and socio-economic development to the country. I was encouraged that Timorese at all levels acknowledged the need to intensify efforts towards dialogue and to work closely together to tackle the country's challenges in a coordinated way in order to promote national interests.

I wish to add my deep appreciation for the excellent support and assistance your Government provided for my visit to Dili. The productive meetings I had with the Timorese leadership, Parliament, political parties and civil society, as well as my moving visits to the National Police Academy and the Motael IDP camp, were greatly facilitated by the valuable efforts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other members of the Government.

His Excellency
Mr. José Luís Guterres
Vice Prime Minister
of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
Dili

I am most grateful for the strong partnership between Timor-Leste and UNMIT as well as the entire United Nations family, and I look forward to continued close cooperation in the period ahead.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end. Below the signature, the name "Ban Ki-moon" is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.

Ban Ki-moon