



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 also express my deep appreciation to you personally for the seamless organization of my programme and the excellent arrangements afforded to me and my delegation 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 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency  
Mr. Zacharias Albano da Costa  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
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.



Ban Ki-moon