

PRESIDÊNCIA DA REPÚBLICA

Dili, 08 February 2012

Dear Friend,

This year, Timor-Leste will celebrate ten years as an independent state, and we will conduct our third set of elections for President and Parliament. These elections will be a pivotal milestone on our journey from occupation through international assistance to standing on our own. If they go well, they will show our people and the world that Timor-Leste has overcome past violence and crises, and that we are becoming secure as a peaceful, stable democracy. International and Timorese observers will play a critical role in ensuring and validating that they are free and fair.

Having campaigned for Timor-Leste's independence for many decades and as President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste for the last five years, I know that ETAN (East Timor and Indonesia Action Network) has consistently supported our people during bad and good times.

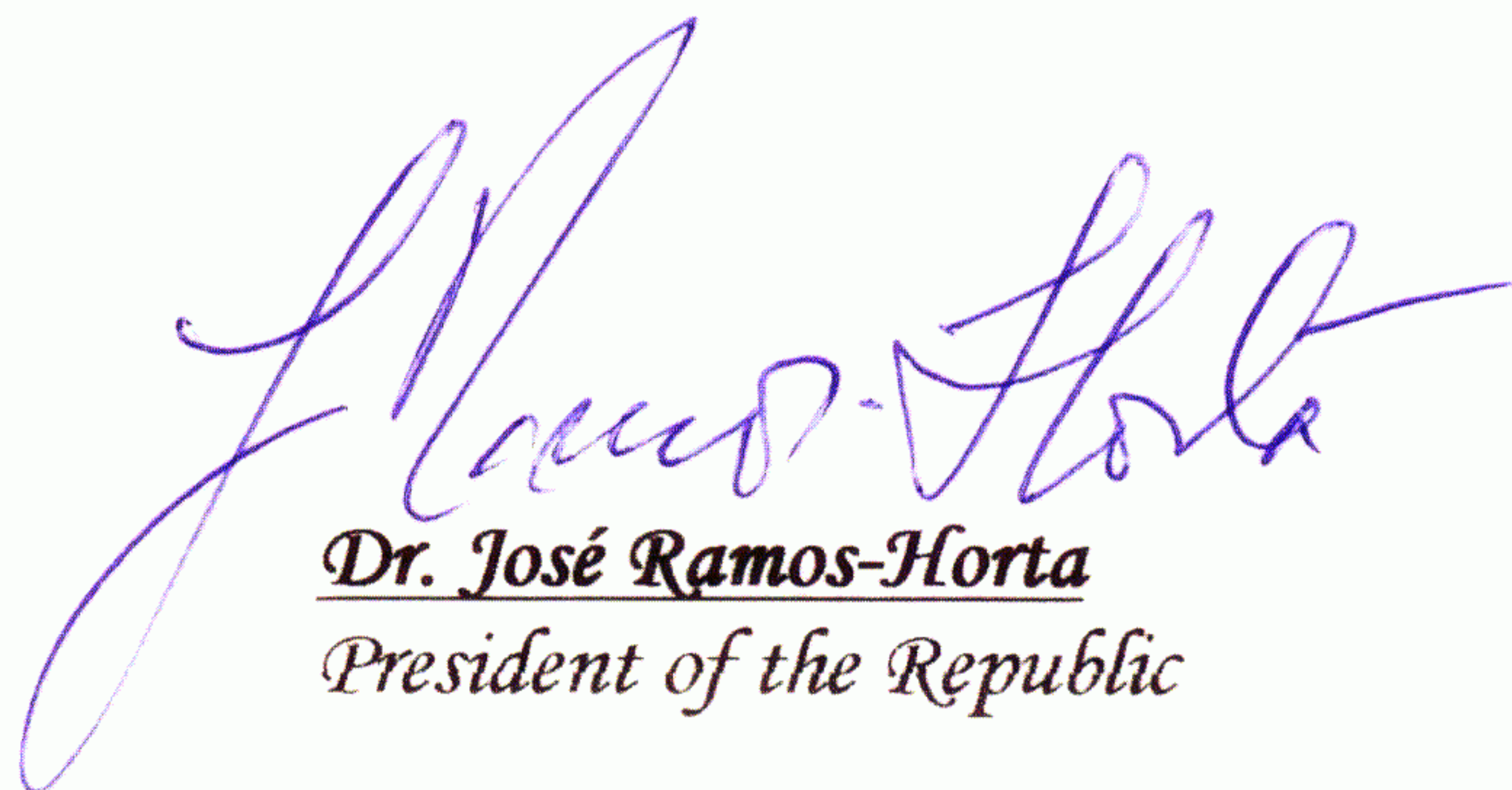
It is natural and essential for ETAN to use its skills and experience to send trained, sensitive nonpartisan observers for our 2012 national elections, which will build and strengthen our young democracy. Although our elections will be observed by delegations from foreign governments, international agencies, political parties and others, ETAN's commitment, solidarity and experience are unparalleled.

The presence of ETAN and its allies will be invaluable: the carefully-wrought

experience of 20 years of solidarity with Timor-Leste. ETAN was key to educating and pressing people in the United States and around the world about Timor-Leste's struggle against foreign occupation, and it continues to provide diverse, thoughtful information and support for our evolution as a sovereign state.

I appreciate ETAN's commitment to work in full partnership with Timorese colleagues, as well as ETAN's strict non-partisanship. Observers organized by ETAN demonstrated their skills, principles and commitment during our 1999 independence referendum and our 2001 and 2007 national elections.

I look forward to welcoming ETAN-organized observers in their mission of solidarity during this crucial electoral year, and I encourage you give them your full support and cooperation.



Dr. José Ramos-Horta
President of the Republic

Mr. John M. Miller,

National Coordinator of East Timor & Indonesia Action Network (ETAN)

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