



PRESIDÊNCIA DA REPÚBLICA

Dili, April 26th, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

I am very proud to promote the work that Rosaria Martins da Cruz and her colleague Jill Hillary (Australian) and their teams at HIAM-Health are carrying out in Timor-Leste.

HIAM-Health is a National Local NGO registered with the Ministry of Justice in Timor-Leste. For 8 years now Rosaria and Jill have worked tirelessly to reduce the incidence of malnutrition through their education programs. 2 years ago HIAM-Health opened a residential center where parents can come with their malnourished infant and live-in. I have visited the HIAM-Health Centre on several occasions and I am always impressed by their professionalism, compassion and dedication that they commit to this task.

As we are aware the nutritional status of both children and adults in Timor-Leste remains significantly below acceptable world standards, a problem that needs to be tackled immediately and efficiently. Therefore the 'holistic' approach to dealing with this problem that HIAM-Health has taken of combining intensive Health and Nutrition education programs with Home Kitchen Gardening training for the parents, whilst their malnourished infant/child is being rehabilitated, is one I applaud. This approach will ensure that this family will have the skills to prevent this situation from re-occurring in their family and the vast potential of them being able to influence other community members on their return home.

Our children are the future of our nation and we must do everything in our power to care for them properly, so that they may have the best possible future. In that respect I thank HIAM-Health for their invaluable assistance and contribution.

I ask that their work be supported so that they may carry on with their projects and hopefully expand them nationwide. I ask this not only as the President of the Republic of Timor-Leste but as a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and a concerned citizen of this country.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. José Ramos-Horta
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

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