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REGARDING THE AWARDING OF MEDALS

Considering the structures that constitute determining factors in social cohesion or conflict, in the success or failure of stability, in the preservation or deterioration of peace, as well as respect for or violation of human rights and fundamental liberties, the medals known as the “Medal of Merit” and “East Timor Solidarity” are hereby created.

These medals are intended to honor those who, as members of the military, of the police, and of civilian society, have served the nation of East Timor by reinforcing the social order and whose actions have contributed significantly to national peace and stability.

As such, the medals known as the “Medal of Merit” and “East Timor Solidarity” symbolize gratitude to citizens and those who, from various parts of the world, have played an active and crucial role in the development of democracy in this young Nation.

Within this context, the medals likewise recognize the sacrifice of men and women separated from their families who have placed their own safety at risk in order to serve their Nation and the people of East Timor.

Thus,

The Government decrees, pursuant to Article 116, line (d) of the Constitution of the Republic, that the following is valid as law:

Article 1
Object

1. The “Medal of Merit,” “East Timor Solidarity,” and “Halibur” medals are hereby created, along with the conditions for awarding them.
2. The “Medal of Merit” is intended to recognize and thank civilians and members of the military, both national and international, who have made a significant contribution to national peace and stability.
3. The “East Timor Solidarity” medal is intended to recognize and thank foreign military and police personnel who have served in missions mandated to assist Defense and Security operations after May 1, 2006 and during the period of INTERFET intervention, from September 20, 1999 to February 28, 2000.

4. The "Halibur" medal is intended to honor those who, within the sphere of the Joint Command, were noteworthy in contributing significantly to "Operation Halibur."

Article 2
Awarding of the "Medal of Merit"

1. The process for awarding the "Medal of Merit" begins with the presentation of nominations suggested by civil and military forces, by the departments of the Public Administration, and by civil society in general, which are sent to the Office of the President of the Republic.
2. The President of the Republic chooses the award winners, supported by the "Medal of Merit" Committee.
3. The members of the Committee, as well as the procedures for presentation to the individuals to be decorated, are determined by Presidential decree.
4. Conferment of this decoration upon State employees shall be subject to a prior written opinion issued by the Government.
5. The President of the Republic may bestow this decoration on an exceptional basis without complying with the requirements set out in this Article.

Article 3
Awarding of the "East Timor Solidarity" medal

1. Those awarded the "East Timor Solidarity" medal are required to have rendered continuous service for a total of 180 days, or services accrued in East Timor by police, military personnel, and civilians pursuant to Article 1, No. 3.
2. There are three categories of qualification for this medal, and submissions must be made on separate lists:
 - a) The first list includes all personnel that has served for over 180 days and is automatically qualified for the medal;
 - b) The second list is for the remaining personnel that has served a minimum of 120 days;
 - c) The final list is for those who have served for a period of not less than 90 days.
3. The procedures regarding presentation to those individuals to be decorated are determined by Presidential decree.
4. The President of the Republic may bestow this decoration on an exceptional basis without complying with the requirements set out in this Article.

Article 4
Awarding of the “Halibur” medal

1. Those awarded the “Halibur” medal must be national military or police personnel who were members of the Joint Command in the implementation of “Operation Halibur”.
2. The procedures relating to selection of the individuals to be decorated are determined by Presidential decree.

Article 5
Awarding of Medals

1. The formal award ceremonies are held in East Timor for people who are working in the country at the time the award is given.
2. For those who are no longer working in the country, the medals are delivered to the Heads of Mission to be sent to the appropriate services in the supporting countries, for later distribution.
3. As an alternative, the medals may be delivered by or via representation of the President of the Republic during official visits to such countries.

Article 6
Design of the Medals

1. The “Medal of Merit” has the following characteristics:
 - a) On the front there is the form of the five-pointed star contained in the national flag of East Timor, gold in color;
 - b) In the center of the star, the coat of arms of East Timor, showing that the medal was issued by the State;
 - c) On the reverse side, there is the national laurel wreath;
 - d) Diameter is 38 mm;
 - e) The ribbon contains the colors of the national flag, with the golden color representing the Presidency predominating.
2. The “East Timor Solidarity” medal has the following characteristics:
 - a) On the front is a geographical outline of the nation of East Timor, with “TIMOR_LESTE” above it;
 - b) On the lower portion, the word “SOLIDARIEDADE” is engraved, representing the solidarity of nations, soldiers, the police, and civilians who have jointly served the cause of peace for the people of East Timor and humanity;
 - c) At the top of the reverse side is the coat of arms of the State of East Timor, showing that the medal was issued by the State;
 - d) Diameter is 38 mm;

- e) The ribbon contains the colors of the national flag.
3. The “Halibur” medal has the following characteristics:
- a) On the front there is the form of the five-pointed star contained in the national flag of East Timor, gold in color;
 - b) In the center of the star, the coat of arms of East Timor, showing that the medal was issued by the State;
 - c) On the reverse side, there is the national laurel wreath;
 - d) Diameter is 38 mm;
 - e) The ribbon contains the colors of the F-FDTL and PNTL.
4. The designs and dimensions of the “Medal of Merit”, the “East Timor Solidarity” and the “Halibur” medals are regulated by decree issued by the President of the Republic.

Article 7
“Sérgio Vieira de Mello” Human Rights Prize

1. The “Sérgio Vieira de Mello” Human Rights Prize, awarded by the President of the Republic, has as its objective to highlight the activities of Timorese citizens or foreigners, and governmental and non-governmental organizations in the promotion, defense, and dissemination of Human Rights in East Timor.
2. The “Sérgio Vieira de Mello” Human Rights Prize, awarded by category, is regulated by decree issued by the President of the Republic.
3. Those who have made relevant contributions in the fields pertaining to each one of the categories mentioned in the previous item are awarded an honorary title and an individual monetary sum.
4. A project to be indicated by each one of the winners of the individual prize mentioned in the previous number will be awarded a monetary sum.

Article 8
Effective date

This statute takes effect on the date of its publication, producing effects retroactively to January 1, 2009.

Approved in Cabinet Meeting on February 11, 2009.

The Prime Minister

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

Promulgated on 9/Mar/09.

To be published.

The President of the Republic

José Ramos-Horta