



PRESIDÊNCIA DA REPÚBLICA
GABINETE DO PRESIDENTE

Dili, 19th of November 2008

Dear Ms. Joubert,

I am delighted to be the Patron of the Lospalos Centre for Traditional and Contemporary Arts and Culture Pilot Project. The goals, objectives and overall benefit to the Lospalos community warrant my support particularly due to the fact the project was initiated and will be managed by a member of that community. The aim to work in partnership with the UNESCO Observatory and Many hands International will bring considerable strength and expertise for a successful outcome.

As you know, we are a nation with a rich diversity of cultures. Projects that build on and promote these cultural assets are of great importance to the nation-building process, particularly in terms of their contribution to creating peace and stability. Your project, to build community health and wellbeing through placing culture at the centre of economic and skills development in the arts, crafts and tourism, is well conceived. The focus on cultural maintenance, youth empowerment, intergenerational learning, civic participation and ecological sustainability is relevant and significant. I support your intention to build on the successes of the Lospalos Pilot Project by establishing similar projects in other district centers of Timor-Leste.

As Project Patron, I will be an advocate for its success both within Government and the international community, as required. Where possible, I will be pleased to speak at relevant events and to have you represent me as your Patron in any communications.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any guidance and advice in relation to the Project.

Kind regards,

José Ramos-Horta
President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste