



## **NINTH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT**

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### **Government Resolution No. 67/2025**

**of 24 of October**

#### **ESTABLISHING 5 JUNE AS NATIONAL OCEAN DAY**

Whereas the Ocean covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface and plays a fundamental role in maintaining planetary balance, serving as a source of resources and income for millions of people;

Whereas the Ocean produces more than half of the world's oxygen and absorbs carbon dioxide, thereby sustaining life on Earth;

Whereas the Ocean is threatened by serious problems, such as acidification and rising temperatures resulting from climate change, pollution, particularly from plastic, and the overexploitation of marine resources;

Whereas these problems affect all humanity and require a joint effort to safeguard the Ocean, namely through measures that preserve marine biodiversity, enable the restoration of already affected marine and coastal ecosystems, and promote the balanced and sustainable use of ocean resources;

Whereas Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), such as Timor-Leste, face enormous challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and are among the countries most affected by climate change and the problems affecting the Ocean;

Desiring to contribute actively to actions for the conservation and protection of the Ocean at the global level;

Recalling the commitment undertaken by the Ninth Constitutional Government in its Programme to "strengthen internal coordination to promote the growth of the national Blue Economy";

Recalling the Government's commitment to combating marine litter, particularly plastic waste that seriously affects ocean health, through awareness campaigns, beach and coastal clean-up activities, and other initiatives for the monitoring, control, reduction and mitigation

of marine litter and the preservation of the oceans, as well as through the promotion of educational actions aimed at developing a “blue generation”;

Whereas Timor-Leste is a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which it acceded through National Parliament Resolution No. 17/2012 of 27 December;

Reaffirming that Timor-Leste is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely through its support for and commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 14, which calls for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as declared through Government Resolution No. 34/2015 of 23 September and National Parliament Resolution No. 19/2015 of 18 November;

Recalling that, in the same spirit, Timor-Leste ratified the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, through National Parliament Resolution No. 26/2024 of 20 September;

Desiring to implement the Policy and Action Plan for the Promotion of a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy in Timor-Leste – 2025–2035;

Whereas the protection, preservation and sustainable use of marine resources and ecosystems are a collective and individual responsibility of every citizen;

Recognising the importance of ocean literacy and of raising awareness among citizens and communities regarding the fundamental role of the Ocean for all forms of life on the planet;

Recalling the cultural and spiritual value of the Sea for the Timorese people;

Whereas, through Resolution No. 63/111 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 5 December 2008, 8 June was proclaimed World Oceans Day, with the aim of recalling the importance of the ocean;

Whereas in 1972 the United Nations established 5 June as World Environment Day, celebrated annually with the aim of raising awareness of environmental challenges and promoting the preservation of the planet’s resources;

Whereas in Timor-Leste these dates are celebrated annually as part of Ocean Week activities;

Desiring to develop the national campaign “*Ha’u-nia Tasi, Ha’u-nia Timor*” – My Sea, My Timor;

Desiring to promote knowledge of Timor-Leste’s sea and marine biodiversity, awareness of the problems affecting the sea and marine resources and ecosystems, and the civic responsibility to contribute to their resolution and to the sustainable development of the country;

Considering the importance of promoting the involvement of Timorese society in this global and national cause;

Whereas during the public consultation session on the Policy and Action Plan for the Promotion of a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy in Timor-Leste 2025–2035, held on 21 October 2025 in Dili with municipal authorities and community leaders from across the country, it was unanimously agreed to establish 5 June as National Ocean Day in Timor-Leste;

Considering the commitment undertaken to annually mark and reflect, on 5 June, upon the importance of the sea for the country's common and sustainable development and upon the preservation of the environment and the Ocean;

The Government hereby resolves, pursuant to Article 116(c) of the Constitution of the Republic, as follows:

1. To establish 5 June as National Ocean Day, dedicated to the celebration and preservation of the Sea and marine biodiversity in Timor-Leste, to the organisation of activities aimed at their promotion and appreciation, and to encouraging the active participation of society, particularly children and young people, in their protection.
2. To determine that National Ocean Day shall be celebrated annually, on a rotating basis, in each municipality and region of the country, with the involvement of communities, regional and municipal authorities, community leaders, civil society organisations, the private sector and citizens in general.
3. This Resolution shall enter into force on the day following its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on 22 October 2025.

To be published.

The Prime Minister,

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão