



IV CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION NO. ___/2009 OF ___ OF ___

ADOPTS THE NATIONAL POLICY ON MASS COMMUNICATION

The Programme of the IV Constitutional Government defends the right to information, which comprises the right to inform and the right to be informed, as defined in no. 1, section 40 of the Constitution.

Also states the importance of a free, independent and pluralist mass communication, in accordance with section 41 of the Constitution.

Namely, it must be ensured to public and private mass communication, including mass communication professionals, a free, independent and impartial environment, in order to obtain quality, professionalism, responsibility and accuracy.

Moreover, it aims to promote freedom of press, as an aspect of freedom of expression, in terms of independence of the mass communication regarding political and economic powers, which allows the comparison of different opinion trends, legitimized by democracy and social pluralism.

According to the Programme of the IV Constitutional Government, public and private mass communication must also protect the cultural identity of the People of Timor-Leste, through the development of civic education and citizenship promotion actions, thus helping the national community to get more informed, tolerant and inclusive.

Concerning this, the Public Broadcasting Service (Rádio e Televisão de Timor-Leste or RTTL) has a highlighting role, with thematic TV programmes on health, education, culture, history, among others, in cooperation with other countries, namely Portuguese Speaking Countries (Comunidade de Países de Língua Portuguesa or CPLP), whenever possible.

With the purpose of a sound public service, the Government adopted new Articles of Association, through Decree-Law no. 42/2008, of 26 November, transforming RTTL in a State-owned company, which allowed the resizing of the social bodies, staff and services, as well as the possibility to enter, in the future, into a concession contract, so to effectively define RTTL duties in terms of cultural broadcasting, attending to the audience several preferences.

Still regarding RTTL, the Government will regulate advertising, so that this activity is performed without restraining the editorial freedom of the Public Broadcasting Service, as well as to safeguard the pursuit of its aims and duties.

On the other hand, the activity of mass communication and its professionals must be regulated, in compliance with the guidelines defined by the Programme of the IV Constitutional Government and with the sphere of parliamentary competence regarding broadcasting and other mass communication general laws, as determined by paragraph i), no. 1, section 96 of the Constitution.

Therefore, the Government shall regulate the legislation adopted by the National Parliament, namely by establishing a future financial incentive system, according with the Government budget capacity, along with non-financial measures, which encourages the existence of several national and local mass communication bodies, with the special aim of animating community radios.

To that end, the Government must comply with a National Policy on Mass Communication that sets in order the several actions to be taken, as well as the guiding principles.

As a general aim, Timor-Leste mass communication bodies must be independent and impartial, able to obtain and scatter information around the country, through qualified and ethically responsible professionals, in order to defend national cultural identity and to bring populations together.

Pursuant to paragraph a), section 116 of the Constitution, the Government decides as follows:

Is adopted the National Policy on Mass communication, attached to this Resolution as an integrant part.

Adopted by the Council of Ministers of (...)

To be published.

The Prime Minister,

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão