

Brief biography of His Excellency Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo

His Excellency Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo is the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste. His Excellency was sworn into office on the 16th of February 2015 and leads the 6th Constitutional Government. His Excellency was an active member of the resistance during the Occupation, later graduating as a General Practitioner and Medical Doctor in July 1994.

Dr. Araújo's years of working in the medical field in Dili led him to undertake a postgraduate diploma in public health, majoring in Health Policy, Health Management and Health Financing, at Otago University, New Zealand. Dr. Araújo also received a Master's Degree in Public Health in 2001.

His Excellency was appointed as Minister of Health until August 2007 and added to his portfolio the role of Deputy Prime Minister of Social Affairs in June 2006. Between 2007 and 2012 he was appointed to the Council of State and he held the position of an adviser to the Ministry of Health and later Senior Adviser to the Ministry of Finance.

Upon his inauguration on 16 February 2015, Prime Minister Araújo gave a far-reaching address which touched on a number of key themes for his government, including continued efforts towards decentralisation, the importance of developing infrastructure, continuing positive foreign relations (particularly with Australia, Indonesia and Portugal), healthcare, increasing access to education and knowledge for the country's youth, striving for poverty alleviation as well as maintaining the responsible and sustainable development of Timor-Leste's petroleum sector.

In his inauguration speech, the Prime Minister also noted the importance of the permanent delimitation of land and maritime boundaries with Indonesia and Australia. In addition to his leadership on the final demarcation of the land boundary with Indonesia, His Excellency has also prioritised the issue of maritime boundaries.