

# **STATUTE OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION COMBATANTS**

## **Preamble**

Expressing the will of its people as represented by the members of the Constituent Assembly, the State of Timor-Leste took on as its own responsibility to recognize and valorize the contribution of those who fought for national independence. It also took on as its own duty to protect those who participated in that struggle, particularly those who became invalid as a result of their participation, as well as the dependants of those who gave their lives for the liberation of the Motherland.

The present law establishes the necessary legal framework for the development of actions and policies hitherto undertaken by the organs of sovereignty in view of the valorization and social protection of the National Liberation Combatants and constitutes a fundamental benchmark in the pursuance of the objectives enshrined in Article 11 of the Constitution of the Republic. Nevertheless, the present law should not be regarded as an instrument that marks the beginning of actions intended for the militants of the national liberation struggle, but rather be seen as the corollary of the efforts initiated more than three years ago by both the President of the Republic and the Government.

In terms of its scope, the present law is intended to all those who militated in the struggle for national independence regardless of the front from which they operated. It is for this very reason that, where applicable, any period of time spent in any of the fronts shall be taken into account when calculating the total period of participation in the struggle.

The present law encompasses the three dimensions to be incorporated by any public policies aimed at valorizing those who participated in the national liberation struggle: 1) recognition and valorization, which translates the moral dimension; 2) social or socio-economic protection, which translates the material or retributive dimension; and 3) memory preservation, which translates the need to preserve and disseminate the values and acts of the Resistance as a major historic feat of the Timorese people in the last century.

Although a minimum period of participation in the national liberation struggle has been established as one of the requirements for someone to be

conferred the title of National Liberation Combatant, attention has also been paid to the need to protect those who, having participated in the struggle without however meeting the minimum-time criterion, are unable, as a result of the war, to carry out any productive activity to ensure their own subsistence. A whole set of rights are thus extended to the National Liberation Combatants falling into this category.

The Government has been left with an important sphere of action to implement the necessary policies and measures contained in the present law as it has been granted the power to regulate and make decisions on the establishment of priorities for their execution in accordance with its own possibilities and capabilities.

Thus, pursuant to Articles 11, 92, and 95.1 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, the National Parliament decrees the following, to have the force of law:

## CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

### **Article 1 Object**

The present law establishes the general juridical regime for the recognition, valorisation and social protection of the National Liberation Combatants by determining the rights and duties, as well as the measures to preserve the memory of the National Liberation struggle.

### **Article 2 Objectives**

The objectives of the present law are:

- a) To pursue the constitutional objectives of recognizing and valorizing the contribution given by all those who fought for national independence as well as ensure a special protection to those who dedicated their lives to the struggle for the liberation of the Motherland;

- b) To preserve and honour the memory of the martyrs of National Liberation;
- c) To preserve and disseminate the traditions and the values of the resistance and the heroism of the national liberation struggle;
- d) To gather and preserve the heritage of the Resistance in the struggle for national independence against foreign domination in order to transmit the historic memory to future generations.

## CHAPTER II National Liberation Combatants

### Article 3 (National Liberation Combatants)

1. The following shall be considered National Liberation Combatants:
  - a) Timorese citizens who have militated for at least three years in the struggle for national independence between 20 August 1975 and 25 October 1999 and were affiliated in the structures or organizations of the Resistance;
  - b) Timorese citizens who have militated in the struggle for national independence between 20 August 1975 and 25 October 1999, were affiliated in the structures or organizations of the Resistance and perished due to their participation in the referred struggle before completing three years of militancy;
  - c) National Liberation Veteran Combatants as defined in Article 7 of the present law;
  - d) National Liberation Movement Founder Combatants as defined in Article 8 of the present law;
  - e) National Liberation Martyrs as defined in Article 9 of the present law;
  - f) Foreign citizens, as defined in Article 6 of the present law.

2. The following shall also be considered National Liberation Combatants:

a) Timorese citizens who were not affiliated in the structures and organizations referred to in paragraphs a) and b) of item 1 above but who performed relevant tasks at the service of those structures and organizations as assigned or recognized by the respective leading organs, namely those of a logistical, humanitarian, messaging and information nature;

b) Timorese citizens integrated in the population clusters which have provided FALINTIL in the bush with information service, logistical support, or humanitarian and social assistance;

c) Timorese citizens who, having participated for more than three years in the struggle for national independence as defined in paragraph a) of item 1 above, abandoned either voluntarily or involuntarily the struggle before 25 October 1999, as long as they did not collaborate with the enemy against the interest of national liberation.

#### Article 4

(Citizens not recognized as National Liberation Combatants)

The following shall not be considered National Liberation Combatants:

a) Any individual who has voluntarily collaborated with the enemy against the interest of national liberation irrespective of whether such collaboration has taken place in their capacity as militants of the struggle or after they had abandoned the struggle;

b) FALINTIL members and civilian militants who voluntarily surrendered to the enemy with their weapons.

#### Article 5

(Structures and organizations of the Resistance)

For the purposes of conferring the statute of National Liberation Combatant as defined in paragraphs a) and b) of Article 3.1 above, the structures and organizations of the Resistance recognized by the present law shall be the following:

a) FRETILIN – Revolutionary Front for an Independent Timor-Leste;

- b) FALINTIL – Armed Forces for the National Liberation of Timor-Leste;
- c) CRRN – Revolutionary Council of the National Resistance;
- d) CNRM – National Council of the Maubere Resistance, through the structures and organizations that integrated it or that were recognized by it;
- e) CNRT – National Council of the Timorese Resistance, through the structures and organizations that integrated it or that were recognized by it;

Article 6  
(Foreign citizens)

1. Exceptionally, the status of National Liberation Combatant may be conferred to foreign citizens falling within any of the categories provided for in paragraphs a) and e) of Article 3.1 above;
2. The recognition of foreign citizens pursuant to item 1 above shall be made by the National Parliament on proposal by the President of the Republic or the Government, or by at least one fifth of the elected Deputies.

Article 7  
(National Liberation Veteran Combatants)

1. The following shall be considered National Liberation Veteran Combatants:
  - a) National Liberation Combatants who have militated in the struggle for at least fifteen years;
  - b) National Liberation Combatants who have belonged to the superior cadres of the structures or organizations of the Resistance as listed in Article 5 above and perished or disappeared as a result of their participation in the struggle for national independence before completing fifteen years of participation in the struggle;
2. For the purposes of paragraph b) of item 1 above, the military as well as civilian posts pertaining to the superior cadres shall be determined by

decree of the President of the Republic after hearing the opinion of the Tribute, Registration Supervision, and Appeals Commission.

#### Article 8

(National Liberation Movement Founder Combatants)

For the purposes of the present law, National Liberation Movement Founder Combatants shall be the National Liberation Combatants who promoted, organized, and conducted the Resistance against foreign invasion between 15 August 1975 and 31 May 1976.

#### Article 9

(National Liberation Martyrs)

For the purposes of the present law, National Liberation Martyrs shall be all militants of the struggle for national independence who have perished or disappeared between 15 August 1975 and 25 October 1999 as a result of their participation in that struggle.

#### Article 9-A

(Calculation of the time of militancy in the national liberation struggle)

For the purposes of the present law and respective complementary legislation, the periods of time spent in the different fronts of the struggle as well as the periods of imprisonment suffered as a result of the participation in the struggle shall be taken into account in calculating the time of militancy in the national liberation struggle.

#### Article 9-B

(Forfeiting the status of National Liberation Combatant)

1. A National Liberation Combatant found guilty for committing crimes against State security or against Humanity shall forfeit that status;
2. Forfeiting the status of National Liberation Combatant shall imply forfeiting all the rights inherent to that status from the date the sentencing decision transited in rem judicatam.

CHAPTER III  
REGISTRATION, ARCHIVES AND DATABASE

SECTION I  
REGISTRY

Article 10  
Registration

- 1 – Recognition of the status of National Liberation Combatant shall depend upon the applicant's registration.
- 2 – The registration shall be made at the request of the applicant or, where the latter is dead, at the request of somebody in his or her behalf who shall present the necessary proof.
- 3 – The entity in charge of registration shall organize and undertake registration campaigns throughout the national territory.
- 4 – Proof of militancy during the struggle either on an individual basis or in the framework of a structure or organization of the Resistance may be presented by any valid means.
- 5 – Any applicant's intention to register as a National Liberation Combatant shall be broadly disseminated in the area of his or her habitual residence as well as in the areas where he or she has militated during the struggle and, once the registration period is expired, the applications shall be made known to the public for at least 30 days and announced in the widest daily newspaper and on TV.
- 6 – Any citizen may file substantiated complaints for impeachment of applications for registration.

Article 11  
Certificate

Following approval of the registration, applicants shall be entitled to a certificate containing all the information relating to his or her militancy, including the dates, the duration, the organization in which they militated, and the functions exercised by them.

Article 12  
Registration period

- 1 – The registration period shall expire twelve months after the effective commencement of the respective activities.
- 2 – No applications for registration shall be accepted after the registration period referred to in item 1 above has expired.
- 3 – Following a substantiated request by the entity responsible for registration and after hearing the opinion of the Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission, the registration period may be renewed by Government decree for a period not exceeding twelve months.

Article 13  
Competence for registration

The Ministry or the Secretariat of State in charge of the issues of the National Liberation Combatants shall be the competent entity to undertake the registration and it shall have the responsibility to accept the applications for registration, analyze the proofs presented, investigate the facts and make the necessary decisions.

Article 14  
Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission

- 1 – It shall be incumbent upon the Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission to:
  - a) Study all issues relating to decorations, demobilization ceremonies as well as other tribute-paying acts and make a proposal thereof to the President of the Republic and the Government;
  - b) Supervise the registration process and guide the relevant entity in all matters relating to the said process by deciding on the methodological and procedural issues, including issues relating to forms and questionnaires, as well as dissemination and information activities;
  - c) Decide on appeals against decisions on registration and on requests for curing of errors or omissions.



2. The Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission shall be composed of ten members as follows:

- a) Three nominated by the Government and selected or not from among its members, of whom one shall be the Chairman of the Commission;
- b) Three nominated by the President of the Republic, of whom two at least shall be selected from among the former Combatants of the struggle for National independence;
- c) Three nominated by the National Parliament;
- d) One representative of FALINTIL-FDTL nominated by this institution.

3 – The members of the Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission shall be sworn in by the Prime Minister.

4 – The Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission shall prepare its own internal regulation.

5 – The Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission shall depend administratively and financially upon the Government.

6 – It shall be incumbent upon the Government to decide on the dissolution of the Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission if it deems that the purpose of the latter has been accomplished.

#### Article 15

#### Appeal and claim against registration

1 – Applicants whose requests for registration have been denied may appeal to the Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission within sixty days from the date they have been notified of such decision.

2 – The Commission's decision with respect to any such appeal shall be final.

3 – National Liberation Combatants may at any time file claims against omissions, inaccuracies, or constant errors in their registration with the competent entity as provided for in the present law.

Article 16  
Previous registrations

For the purposes of their use, existing registrations undertaken by the Commissions established by the President of the Republic before the present law entered into force shall be recognized as valid and all those individuals contained in the respective lists shall be considered as registered without prejudice to the right of claim against errors and omissions of information and to complementary adjusting measures necessary for the smooth execution of the present law.

Article 17  
Falsity

1 – Any person who provides false statements or information or falsifies documents relating to proof of militancy in the National Liberation Struggle with the objective of obtaining rights contained in the present law shall be punished in accordance with the law.

2 – Where the acts referred to in item 1 above are committed by a National Liberation Combatant, he or she shall forfeit that status in addition to the punishment provided for therein.

SECTION II  
ARCHIVES AND DATABASES

Article 18  
Previous archives and databases

1 – The archives consisting of forms and other relevant documents relating to registrations undertaken by the Commissions established by the President of the Republic before the present law entered into force shall be considered official archives and the property of the State.

2 – Databases established on the basis of the archives referred to in item 1 above shall also be considered official databases of the State.

3 – Any documentation contained in electronic file carriers shall also be considered part and parcel of the archives and databases.

## Article 19

### Competence to maintain and manage the archives and databases

1 – The Museum and Archives of the National Resistance established by the present law shall be the competent entity for maintaining and preserving the documentation produced by the Commissions established by the President of the Republic before the present law entered into force, including the documentation produced in accomplishing the purpose of the present law.

2 – The documentation referred to in item 1 above shall be transferred to the Museum and Archives of the National Resistance once the registration process and the tribute-paying ceremonies are completed.

3 – The electronic database produced in the framework of the registration activities carried out by the Commissions referred to in item 1 above shall be immediately transferred to the entity responsible for registration as defined in the present law.

4 – The Government shall regulate the use of, and access to, information contained in the archives and databases.

## CHAPTER IV RIGHTS AND DUTIES

### Article 20

#### Rights

1 – National Liberation Combatants shall be entitled to the following rights:

- a) The right to a Special Identification Card;
- b) The right to a Diploma of Honour;
- c) The right to use the title of “National Liberation Combatant” or “National Liberation Veteran Combatant”;
- d) The right to an outstanding place in ceremonies for the commemoration of historical dates;

- e) The right to use their uniforms in ceremonies for the commemoration of the National Independence;
- f) The right to funeral honors and to burial in special cemeteries following decision by the President of the Republic;
- g) The right to see the period of time entirely devoted to the Struggle for National Independence counted as time at the service of the State as defined in the present law;
- h) The right to a Special Subsistence Pension as defined in the present law and in regulatory legislation;
- i) The right to a Special Retirement Pension for the National Liberation Veteran Combatants;
- j) The right to free medical assistance for beneficiaries of Special Subsistence Pension and respective underage children and spouse to be provided by the national health service;
- k) The right to free prosthetic devices for those physically disabled as a result of their participation in the Struggle for National Liberation;
- l) The right to participate in, and benefit from, social reinsertion programs and other programs aiming at supporting National Liberation Combatants, namely in the areas of education, technical-professional training, employment, as well as the right to access to credits and to income-generating activities in accordance with the terms regulated by law for accessing to such programs;
- m) The right to free access to public teaching institutions for beneficiaries of Special Subsistence Pension and respective underage children and spouse;
- n) The right to decoration by the State in accordance with the present law and complementary legislation.

2 – Citizens meeting the requirements listed in paragraph a) of item 1 and paragraph b) of item 2, Article 3, of the present law, but who have participated in the struggle for national independence for less than three years, shall enjoy the rights provided for in paragraphs h), j), k), l) and m) of

item 1 above in case they are physically or mentally disabled as a result of that participation.

#### Article 21

##### Time dedicated to the struggle

1 – The period of time entirely dedicated by National Liberation Combatants to the National Liberation Struggle shall be counted as time at the service of the State and shall be calculated in duplicate.

2 – The period of time spent by National Liberation Combatants in prisons shall be considered as time of entire dedication to the National Liberation Struggle.

3 – Entire dedication shall mean exclusive dedication to the National Liberation Struggle as determined by the leadership of the struggle and it shall not include academic activity or ordinary and remunerated working activity.

4 – The period of time entirely dedicated to the National Liberation Struggle by a National Liberation Combatant who was, is, or becomes a civil servant or a public agent shall be taken into account for purposes of retirement and retirement pension.

5 – National Liberation Combatants who are not civil servants or a public agents shall be entitled to a Subvention for Exclusive Dedication for the period entirely dedicated to the National Liberation Struggle in accordance with the terms to be regulated by the Government.

6 – The Subvention for Exclusive Dedication shall not be cumulative with the right to time counting for purposes of retirement and retirement pension.

#### Article 22

##### Special Subsistence Pension

1 – The Special Subsistence Pension shall be granted to National Liberation Combatants who are incapable of work due to physical or mental disabilities resulting from their participation in the struggle for national independence.

2 – The Special Subsistence Pension shall also be granted to National Liberation Combatants who participated on a full-time basis in the struggle for national independence for at least fifteen years and, as a result of that participation, find themselves in a situation of economic vulnerability that inhibits them from catering for their own survival.

3 – National Liberation Combatants who participated on a full-time basis in the struggle for national independence for at least eight years and who are at least fifty-five years old shall also be entitled to the Special Subsistence Pension.

4 – Where the beneficiary of the Special Subsistence Pension is deceased, his or her successors shall be entitled to the Survival Pension provided for in the present law.

5 – The competence to grant the Special Subsistence Pension shall rest with the Government, on proposal of the Ministry or the Secretariat of State in charge of the affairs of the Combatants of the National Liberation Struggle.

6 – The Special Subsistence Pension shall be paid in accordance with the terms to be regulated by the Government, which shall define the criteria and the manner in which to determine the physical and mental incapacity of the beneficiary, as well as the corresponding amount to be paid and the payment modality.

7 – The monthly amount of the Special Subsistence Pension shall not be less than the minimum wage established for the civil service.

#### Article 22-A

##### Special Retirement Pension for National Liberation Veteran Combatants

1 – National Liberation Veteran Combatants with fifteen or more years of entire participation in the national liberation struggle shall be entitled to a special retirement pension as defined in article 21.3 of the present law.

2 – The amount of the special retirement pension for National Liberation Veteran Combatants shall be defined by the Government, but it shall not be less than the equivalent to three minimum wages established for the civil service or than the salary, wage, or any other remuneration earned by a

National Liberation Veteran Combatant who was, or continues to be, at the service of the State after 25 October 1999.

3 – The special retirement pension for National Liberation Combatants shall not be cumulative with the Special Subsistence Pension and the Subvention for Exclusive Dedication provided for in the present law, nor with the Valorisation Subsidy granted by the Government and the Retirement Pension granted by State of Timor-Leste.

4 – For the purposes of the special retirement pension dealt with by this article, the time of service dedicated to the State after 25 October 1999 shall be taken into in calculating the total time of service.

### Article 23 Survival pension

1 – Widows, orphans, elderly parents or siblings of the following National Liberation Combatants shall be entitled to a survival pension:

- a) National Liberation Combatants deceased as a result of their participation in the National Liberation Struggle;
- b) National Liberation Combatants beneficiaries of the Special Subsistence Pension or the Special Retirement Pension after their demise;

2 – The granting of survival pension shall observe the following conditions:

- a) Widows may only be beneficiaries of the pension in case they do not remarry;
- b) Elderly parents may only be beneficiaries of the pension in case they are fifty-five or more years of age;
- c) Siblings may only be beneficiaries of the pension in case they have been tortured, deportated or imprisoned for more than one year as a result of their brother's or sister's militancy.

3 – Adult orphans attending secondary or tertiary education on a full time basis shall be entitled to a scholarship the amount and conditions of which shall be defined by the Government.

4 – The competence for granting survival pensions shall rest with the Government on proposal by the Ministry of Secretariat of State in charge of the matters relating to National Liberation Combatants.

5 – The amount of the survival pension shall be defined by the Government.

6 – The order of preference among beneficiaries shall be as follows: widows, children, parents, and siblings.

#### Article 24 Diploma of Honour

1 – All National Liberation Combatants are entitled to a Diploma of Honour to be conferred by the State in recognition of their contribution to the cause of National Independence.

2 – Deceased National Liberation Combatants shall be conferred the Diploma of Honour posthumously.

#### Article 25 Decorations

1 – The following individuals shall be entitled to decorations:

- a) National Liberation Veteran Combatants;
- b) National Liberation Combatants with eight or more years of participation;
- c) National Liberation Movement Founder Combatants;
- d) The National Liberation Martyrs;
- e) Foreigners recognized as National Liberation Combatants;
- f) National Liberation Combatants who, having participated in the struggle for less than eight years, have nevertheless exercised functions as military and civilian cadres of the Support Base.



2 – The Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission may propose to the President of the Republic the establishment of decorations for National Liberation Combatants not falling in any of the categories listed in item 1 above.

3 – The decorations shall be conferred by decree of the President of the Republic after hearing the opinion of the Government.

4 – The decorations shall take place at public and solemn ceremonies.

5 – Deceased National Liberation Combatants shall be decorated posthumously.

6 – For the purposes of the present law, Support Base shall mean the stage of the National Liberation Struggle that occurred between 1975 and 1978 and that took place in the bush or the mountains.

7 – The principle of non-cummulativity shall be observed in conferring decorations.

## Article 26 Orders and Degrees

1 – The following Orders are hereby established:

a) Order of the Guerilla, to be conferred to National Liberation Veteran Combatants and National Liberation Combatants who participated in the struggle as military for eight or more years, as well as to National Liberation Combatants who exercised their functions as military cadres of the Support Base;

b) Nicolau Lobato Order, to be conferred to National Liberation Veteran Combatants and National Liberation Combatants with participated in the struggle as civilians for eight or more years, as well as to National Liberation Combatants who exercised their functions as civilian cadres of the Support Base.

c) D. Boaventura Order, to be conferred to National Liberation Movement Founder Combatants;

- d) Funu Nain Order, to be conferred to the National Liberation Martyrs;
- e) Laran Luak Order, to be conferred to foreign citizens recognized as National Liberation Combatants;

2 – The Order of the Guerilla as well as the Nicolau Lobato and the Funu Nain Orders shall have three degrees, following an ordinal numeration, and the first, second, and third degrees shall correspond respectively to the upper, intermediate, and lower posts and functions.

3 – The classification of the posts and functions referred to in item 2 above shall be the competence of the President of the Republic after hearing the opinion of the Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission.

4 – The Order of the Guerilla and the Nicolau Lobato Order shall also be hierarquized in accordance with the following periods of participation in the struggle:

- a) Between eight and less than fifteen years of participation;
- b) Between fifteen and less than twenty years of participation;
- c) Between twenty and less than twenty-four years of participation;
- d) Twenty-four or more years of participation.

5 – It shall be mandatory for the medals to incorporate visual and symbolic representation elements allowing a distinction between the different degrees on the one hand, and the different periods of participation in the struggle on the other hand.

6 – For the purposes of hierarquization in accordance with the time of participation in the struggle, the National Liberation Veteran Combatants referred to in paragraph b), item 1, of Article 7 above shall be classified in the group of twenty-four or more years of participation.

7 – The insignias or emblems of the medals and the remaining elements constituting the physical representation of the National Liberation Order shall be approved by decree of the President of the Republic on proposal of

the Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission and after hearing the opinion of the Government.

8 – For the preparation of the proposals referred to in item 7 above, the Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission may resort to the services of companies or institutions specialized in medalistics.

9 – In determining whether a National Liberation Combatant should be decorated as a military or as a civilian, consideration shall be given to the capacity in which he or she participated in the struggle for the longest period of time.

#### Article 26-A Supporters of the National Liberation Struggle

1 – Governments and institutions, including national or foreign citizens, who have given a relevant contribution to the struggle for national independence outside the purview of Articles 3 to 9 of the present law may be recognized the honorific title of “Supporter of the National Liberation Struggle”.

2 – The recognition of governments, institutions and citizens in accordance with item 1 above shall be made by the National Parliament on proposal of the President of the Republic, of the Government, or of at least one fifth of the elected Deputies.

#### Article 27 Duties

The following are duties of the National Liberation Combatant:

- a) To contribute to national development, peace, and social stability;
- b) To honour and perpetuate the traditions of the National Liberation Struggle and the memory of the Heroes and Martyrs of the Motherland;
- c) To demonstrate an exemplary social conduct that is in line with the dignity of a National Liberation Combatant;
- d) To uphold the good name and reputation of the National Liberation Combatants;

e) To collaborate in the education of the new generations on the spirit and values of the Resistance and the Struggle for National Independence.

#### Article 27-A

##### Consultative Council of the National Liberation Combatants

1 – The Consultative Council of the National Liberation Combatants shall be a consultative organ of the Government for matters relating to the provisions contained in the present law and for other matters of interest to the National Liberation Combatants.

2 – It shall be incumbent upon the Government to decide on the opportunities and matters on which to hear the Consultative Council of the National Liberation Combatants the opinion of which shall under no circumstance bind the Government.

3 – The Consultative Council of the National Liberation Combatants shall be composed of seven to fifteen members nominated by the Prime Minister from among the National Liberation Combatants.

4 – The Consultative Council of the National Liberation Combatants shall be convened and presided over by the Prime Minister or by a member of the Government delegated by him.

5 – The exercise of the function of member of the Consultative Council of the National Liberation Combatants shall not be remunerated. The Prime Minister may grant an allowance whenever a National Liberation Combatant travels to participate in a meeting of the Consultative Council.

6 – So long as the Tribute, Registration Supervision and Appeals Commission is in function, no opinion of the Consultative Council of the National Liberation Combatants shall be sought with respect to matters falling under the competencies of that Commission.

CHAPTER V  
HISTORY OF THE RESISTANCE AND THE NATIONAL LIBERATION  
STRUGGLE

Article 28  
History of the National Liberation Struggle

The Government shall establish an Independent Scientific National Commission for the History of the National Liberation Struggle composed of personalities of recognized competence and scientific merit whose mandate shall be to draft the recent history of the Timorese Resistance against foreign occupation.

Article 29  
Museum and Archives of the National Resistance

1 – The Museum and Archives of the National Resistance is hereby established as a means to preserve and disseminate the traditions, values, and heroic feats of the National Liberation Struggle.

2 – The Government shall regulate and decide on all the necessary measures for the installation and functioning of the Museum and Archives of the National Resistance.

CHAPTER VI  
FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 30  
Demobilization of the Former FALINTIL Combatants

1 – The State of Timor-Leste shall organize an official, public and solemn ceremony to confer military ranks and demobilize former FALINTIL combatants who were on active duty on 25 October 1999.

2 – The Government shall define the ranks to be conferred to each and every former FALINTIL combatant on proposal by the Chief of General Staff of the Defense Force and observing a criterion identical to the one applied to the former combatants incorporated in the FALINTIL-FDTL.

3 – The President of the Republic shall preside over the demobilization ceremony.

Article 31  
Power to regulate

In addition to the foregoing, it shall be incumbent upon the Government to legislate on every matter it deems necessary to enable it comply with the provisions of the present law.

Section 32  
Implementation measures

1 – The rights and other measures contained in the present law shall be the object of gradual implementation, depending on the financial possibilities and institutional capacity of the State, and it shall be the responsibility of the Government to determine the priorities in accordance with criteria based on the degree of the needs or vulnerabilities of the beneficiaries as well as on other ponderable reasons.

2 – The Government is hereby immediately authorized to adopt the budgetary measures deemed necessary for the execution of the present law and respective regulatory norms.

Article 33  
Entry into force

The present law shall enter into force on the day immediately after its publication.

Approved on 13 March 2006.

The Speaker of the National Parliament.

Francisco Guterres “Lu-Olo”.