



MEDIA RELEASE
CENTRAL BANK LAUNCHES R-TIMOR
(REDE TRANSFERÊNCIA IHA MOMENTU REÁL)

Dili, 30 April 2015.

Banco Central de Timor-Leste (BCTL) today announced the launch into live operation of a new system which will ultimately enable payments to be made electronically anywhere in Timor-Leste between any two individuals, companies or Government organisations. The system is called Rede Transferência iha Momento Reál (or R-TiMOR).

R-TiMOR is operated by BCTL and is connected to all the banks and the Ministry of Finance by a highly secure private interbank data network. Each of the system participants (including BCTL) will use R-TiMOR to send instructions to make payments to other participants. The system can handle any sort of payments for any amount, whether large or small. Payments are carried out by R-TiMOR which transfers funds between the accounts of the participants which are held within the system. Because these transfers are made at electronic speed, bank customers will receive funds in their accounts very quickly and normally on the same day the payment is sent. BCTL expects that within a short time a very great percentage of payments will be made electronically via R-TiMOR, particularly Government payments such as salaries and welfare payments.

The launch of R-TiMOR is the culmination of much hard work by a number of institutions apart from BCTL, particularly the commercial banks in Timor-Leste and the Ministry of Finance.

The project represents the first stage in the development of the National Payment System. BCTL has a dynamic vision for future developments building on the solid base of R-TiMOR to extend the range and types of payments which can be made electronically, and the institutions which can make them. The objective is to ensure that all citizens of Timor-Leste, regardless of their location or financial status, will have access to modern financial services, delivered electronically. Traditional forms of banking with bricks-and-mortar branches are becoming less relevant models in today's financial world. Technology can allow the introduction of branchless banking models where schools, local shops, clinics and even churches can perform basic financial and payment functions in partnership with the banks and licensed financial companies.

The Central Bank expects that services which from today will be provided by R-TiMOR and future complementary systems building on the base of R-TiMOR will significantly contribute to the economic development of our nation and to the welfare of all its citizens.

[ENDS]