

**DECREE-LAW NO. 6/2005
OF 14 SEPTEMBER**

RECOGNITION OF THE TIMOR-LESTE RED CROSS

The Red Cross provided humanitarian services to the population of Timor-Leste during the Portuguese era through an infantry. It also provided some basic health services. After 1974, in addition to those services, it also provided laboratory services and developed blood donation activities.

The International Committee of the Red Cross also provided an important humanitarian aid to the population from 1974 to 1999, with the development of water projects in rural areas in ten districts, people search services and family regrouping, delivery of food to people living with hunger in several districts, distribution of messages and protection to population in jail.

As from June 2000, the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of the Timor-Leste Red Cross launched an appeal for the establishment of a National Society of the Red Cross in the new country, having received the support of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Thus, pursuant to subparagraph e) of article 115.1 of the Constitution of the Republic, the Government enacts the following to have the force of law:

**Article 1
Constitution and recognition**

1. The Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Red Cross), hereinafter referred to in short as CVTL, is recognised as a corporate body of private law and public utility.
2. CVTL shall be the sole national Society of the Red Cross or Red Crescent recognised in Timor-Leste and shall conduct its activities throughout the national territory.
3. In the framework of its mission of assistance, CVTL shall act as an auxiliary of the public authorities in Timor-Leste and shall support the institutions of the Government in the management of catastrophes.

4. CVTL is hereby recognised and authorised to provide assistance to the medical services of the defense force at times of armed conflict, based on the Geneva Conventions of 2 August 1949 and its additional Protocols of 8 June 1977 (of which the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is a part).

Article 2

Definitions

1. CVTL shall be a non-profit, voluntary humanitarian aid society, and shall enjoy full juridical capacity to achieve its objectives.
2. CVTL shall be subordinated to the laws of Timor-Leste and to the Geneva Conventions and its additional Protocols.
3. CVTL shall conduct its activities by respecting the Fundamental Principles of the Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross of 1965.
4. The public authorities of Timor-Leste shall always respect the adherence of CVTL to the fundamental Principles contained in its by-laws as required by Resolution 55 (1) of the United Nations General Assembly and by article 2.4 of the By-laws of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, adopted by the States parties to the Geneva Conventions during the 25 International Conference of the Red Cross in Geneva in 1986.

Article 3

National head office

The national head office of CVTL shall be in Dili.

Article 4

By-laws

CVTL shall always act on the basis of its by-laws. The by-laws may only be amended by the General Assembly, in consultation with the Government, and the amendments shall enter into force following a decision of the General Assembly.

Article 5

Duration

CVTL shall be established for an indefinite period of time.

Article 6

Objectives

1. The general objectives of the Society shall be as follows:
 - a) To prevent and alleviate human suffering in an entirely impartial manner, without discrimination as regards nationality, race, religious belief, language, social class or political opinion.
 - b) To develop humanitarian ideals among the population by promoting the fundamental principles of the Movement and those of international humanitarian law.
 - c) To promote the volunteering spirit.
2. In order to achieve its objectives, CVTL shall comply the duties defined in its by-laws, submitting itself to the international treaties of which the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is part as well as to the resolutions adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and the Council of the delegates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
3. The Society shall perform its duties as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and as member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 7

Assets and privileges

1. CVTL shall be formed of assets inherited from similar organizations existing in Timor-Leste up until October 1999 to be made available by the Government.
2. In order to achieve its objectives, CVTL may, on its own or by donation, acquire, alienate and manage any assets in conformity with the objectives defined in its by-laws.

3. CVTL may, within the limits of its objectives and duties, accept without restriction donations and support from groups or individuals, and public and private authorities. CVTL may possess, manage or request funds or assets. CVTL shall not accept any donations originating from revenues obtained from activities that are contrary to the fundamental principles or the objectives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
4. CVTL may establish and manage any immaterial assets, insurances and other real estate funds for the benefit of its staff or its humanitarian activities.
5. In order to carry out its activities, CVTL shall benefit from exemption on all taxes, including on import taxes, and from all advantages applicable to social solidarity institutions.
6. Donations made to CVTL collectively, either by individuals or corporations, shall imply the benefit of fiscal exemption.
7. In order to achieve its humanitarian objectives, CVTL may conduct fund-raising activities as well as income-generating activities. Activities such as lotteries shall be regulated by specific legislation.

Article 8

Emblem and identification

1. The designation “Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Red Cross)”, the acronym “CVTL”, the emblem as well as the remaining symbols of identification of CVTL used in compliance with the law in Timor-Leste shall be exclusively reserved for CVTL.
2. The emblem of CVTL shall consist of a red cross with the text CRUZ VERMELHA DE TIMOR-LESTE (TIMOR-LESTE RED CROSS) inserted in black letters above the cross which lies over a white background delimited by a red line.
3. The emblem shall be used for all the purposes identified by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, in compliance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional Protocols of 1977, the Rules on the use of the emblem by the national societies as adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 1965 and

reviewed in 1991, and the Law of the emblem to be promulgated by the competent authorities of Timor-Leste.

4. Any use of the emblem of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which is not provided for in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 or in paragraph 3 of this article shall be prohibited and punished pursuant to the legislation in force in Timor-Leste.

Article 9 **Entry into force**

This Decree-Law shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on 17 August 2005.

The Prime Minister

Mari Bim Amude Alkatiri

The Minister of Health

Rui Maria Araújo

Enacted on 5 September 2005.

For publication.

The President of the Republic

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão