

DECREE-LAW NO. 44/2008
of 31 December

JURIDICAL REGIME FOR PASSPORTS

The need to fully implement a policy of security insofar as identity as well as travel documents are concerned determines that a new model of passport must be adopted that is adjusted, both in its physical form and in its use with new technology, to security requirements defined internationally.

Experience gained over the last years as a result of applying Decree-Law No. 2/2002 of 20 September as amended by Decree-Law No. 5/2003 of 10 March, has enabled to identify existing shortcomings and gaps.

Thus, the objective of the present statute is to pinpoint some of the concepts and arrange the articles more systematically, thereby guaranteeing a more coherent system and introducing new rules on granting passports. The aim of these changes is to achieve more and better security in issuing passports.

To this end the passport is configured as an individual document that will help to clearly identify its bearer and avoid the difficulties created by collective passports when those included in them wish to travel alone.

The security conditions to be observed by the passport have also been contemplated. Firstly, a form of passport is adopted that can be read optically. This means that no additional entries can be put in the passport and the conditions are laid down for issuing passports for minors.

Despite security factors, that may not be, and should not be, overlooked, solutions are being sought to reduce bureaucracy such as the possibility of passports being applied to without the need for applicants to fill in any form or submit photographs.

Situations are also covered in which the applicant is physically handicapped due to illness, making it impossible for him or her to get to passport issuing centres.

Lastly, provisions are planned for applying sanctions adequate for controlling the judicial goods to be protected under cover of this law.

Thus:

Pursuant to subparagraph b) of articles 115.1 and 115.3 of the Constitution of the Republic, the Government enacts the following, to have the force of law:

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Object, function and general provisions

1. The passport is an individual travel document that allows the bearer to enter and leave the national territory, as well as the territory of other States that recognise it for this purpose.
2. For a passport to be granted the principle of legality is observed, as well as the principles of authenticity, veracity and reliability of the information contained in it.
3. The passport is the property of the Timorese State and its violation or incorrect use is punishable by law.

Article 2 Categories

1. The passport may fall into one of the following categories, depending on the case:
 - a) Common passport;
 - b) Diplomatic passport;
 - c) Special passport;
 - d) Passport for foreigners.
2. The passport may be replaced, in the conditions envisaged in the present statute, by a single travel permit.

Article 3 Identification, characteristics and control of authenticity

1. The Timorese passport, optically read, is constituted by a booklet with 48 numbered pages, with the second page being the information page, and identified by an alpha-numeric set formed by a letter and seven digits:
 - a) Printed on the first page of the booklet and engraved on the information page;
 - b) Perforated on the remaining pages.

2. The horizontal model of passport may be read optically using adequate technical means, and the personal information, the photograph and signature of the bearer are digitally entered on a laminated page, covered by a security skin.
3. The operations referred to in the preceding paragraph are planned and executed in accordance with the specifications provided for in the legal instruments of international law with a view to ensuring that the optical reading area may be read by using adequate technical equipment.
4. The finger print corresponding to the right index finger is digitally entered on the page opposed to the information page.
5. Whenever the finger print referred to in the preceding paragraph cannot be collected because the index finger is either entirely or partially unavailable, this circumstance as well as the alternate finger used for the same purpose, preferably the right thumb, the left index, or the left thumb, shall be mentioned in the passport.

Article 4
Entries and validity period

1. No entries may be added after the passport has been issued.
2. The validity period of the passport shall comply with the ruling for each one of the categories, and may not be extended.

Article 5
Conditions of validity

1. The passport is only valid if all the spaces used for entering information have been filled in, or made unfit for use, and no amendments, deletions or between-line entries of any nature are allowed.
2. The passport must contain the signature of its bearer, unless the issuing body mentions in the respective space that the holder does not know, or cannot, sign.

Article 6
Requisition and control of use

1. The requisition for printed passports and the control of the use of the same shall lie with the National Directorate of Registry and Notary Services of the Ministry of Justice (DNRN/MJ).
2. The requisition for printed forms for single travel permits and the control of the use of the same shall lie with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Article 7
Models of forms and quality control

1. The model of printed passports and that of the single travel permits shall be approved by joint Ordinance of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Justice.
2. It shall be incumbent upon the Director of the National Directorate of Registry and Notary Services of the Ministry of Justice (DNRN/MJ) to ensure the quality of the printed passports and single travel permits referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Article 8
Issuing costs

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports are exempt from any issuing charge and the cost of the respective forms shall be borne by the services requesting such passports.
2. The system for managing and collecting fees to be paid in respect of common passports and those for foreigners as well as applicable Government members in charge of Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Finance, which shall also establish the rules for allocating the revenues resulting from the fees.
3. The passport issuing fees shall constitute revenues consigned to expenses, and the proceeds resulting therefrom shall revert to the entities competent for granting passports in the percentage established by the ministerial ordinance referred to in the preceding paragraph.
4. When abroad, the applicable charges shall be those referred to in the preceding paragraph as well as those laid down in the Table of Consular Fees.
5. Proceeds from the sale of printed passports and single travel permits issued by the consular services and other competent bodies shall become revenues for the State.

Article 9
Dispatch of passport

The passport may be sent to the bearer by registered mail against prior payment of postal and packing costs established by a joint ministerial statute of Government members in charge of Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Finance.

Article 10
Complaints

1. A new passport will be issued where a complaint from the interested party is accepted following an error made by the issuing services or a manufacturing defect.
2. The passport issue envisaged in the preceding paragraph shall be free of charge, provided the complaint has been made within 30 days from the date of delivery of the passport.

Article 11
Subsidiary application

The rules established for the common passport shall be subsidiarily applicable to the other categories of passports.

CHAPTER II
CATEGORIES OF PASSPORT

SECTION I
COMMON PASSPORT

Article 12
Holder

Citizens of Timorese nationality have the right to hold a common passport.

Article 13
Competency to grant and issue

The Ministry of Justice shall be competent to issue common passports, although he or she may delegate and sub-delegate such competency.

Article 14
Submission of application

1. Granting of common passports shall be applied for in person by the bearer, and confirmation shall be made of the respective personal information contained in his or her identity card, civil registration card, or national citizen birth certificate, including collection of the respective signature and personal data pursuant to article 3.2 of the present statute.

2. Application for a common passport for a minor, an interdicted or disabled person shall be made by whoever has legal paternal custody, guardianship or court appointed guardianship against presentation by the respective representative of the documents certifying such legal capacity.
3. In the cases referred to in the preceding paragraph, the signature of the holder of the common passport should always be entered whenever possible.

Article 15 **External service**

1. Information required for issuing a common passport may be collected by going to the location of the applicant if the latter can produce sufficient proof of illness preventing him or her from going to the issuing services independently.
2. An added charge shall be made for using the external service, and the applicant shall pay the transport costs to his or her whereabouts.

Article 16 **Proof of identity**

A person applying for a common passport should give proof of identity by showing his or her Timorese identity card, civil registration card, or birth certificate.

Article 17 **Additional proof**

1. Whenever there is any doubt about the veracity of the information contained in the identity card, the civil registration card, or the birth certificate, or about the authenticity of these documents, the competent services for issuing common passports must undertake the necessary measures to certify such information and may demand the applicant to submit additional proof.
2. Services in charge of civil identification and other services the competence of which is relevant for the purposes of the preceding paragraph shall provide adequate cooperation so that necessary measures can be taken as soon as possible.

Article 18 **Obstacles to issuing passports**

A common passport may not be issued where any of the following situations occur regarding the applicant:

- a) Opposition by either of the parents, in the case of an under-age minor, until such time as this has been judicially decided or the respective paternal custody has been removed;
- b) A decision from judicial bodies exists preventing a passport from being granted;
- c) A failure to pay charges owed to the State, as referred to in article 23.4.

Article 19
Issuance of passports

- 1. The issuance of Timorese passports, including its production, personalization and dispatch, shall be the responsibility of the Passport Section of the National Directorate of Registry and Notary Services.
- 2. The deadline for issuing common passports shall be 10 working days counted from the date of submission of applications.
- 3. Whenever possible, the passport issuing body shall issue the passport in less time than that envisaged in the preceding paragraph.
- 4. In emergency cases, the passport issuing body may, at the request of the applicant, issue the passport in less time than that envisaged in paragraph 2, in which case it shall charge an emergency rate contained in the table to be approved by the joint ministerial ordinance envisaged in article 8.2 of the present statute.
- 5. Where the applicant is not notified of the decision made on a request made within a period of 15 days from the date of submission, the application is considered rejected, for purposes of judicial objection, pursuant to subparagraph 2 of this article.

Article 20
Passport for minors

- 1. Where they are not accompanied by whoever has paternal custody, minors may only enter and leave the national territory by showing authorization for the purpose.
- 2. The authorization referred to in the preceding paragraph should appear in a written document, dated and with the signature of whoever has paternal custody, recognised by a notary, granting the power for third parties, duly identified, to accompany the minor.

3. The authorization may be used on as many occasions as required within the validity period of the document, which, however, may not exceed one calendar year.
4. Where no other deadline is mentioned, the authorisation shall be valid for six months counting from the respective date.

Article 21
Validity and issuance of new passport

1. The common passport shall be valid for a period of 10 years if, on the date of issuance, its holder is 25 years of age or over.
2. In the case of those under the age of 25, the validity of the common passport is for five years, and for minors under the age of five the validity of the passport is for:
 3. Two years for minors two years of age or younger;
 4. Three years, for minors over the age of two but under the age of five.
5. The granting of a new common passport due to the validity expiring may be requested in the six months prior to or, in exceptional cases that are duly justified, in the year preceding the respective expiry, or because any of the situations described in article 22 of this statute exists.
6. A new common passport is granted against delivery of the previous passport.

Article 22
Replacement of valid common passport

1. A new common passport issued to an individual who is the bearer of a valid passport is possible, in exceptional situations, in the following cases:
 - a) When the pages in the passport used for visas have been completely filled;
 - b) When the passport is in a poor state or not usable, once checked by the issuing services;
 - c) In cases of loss, destruction or theft, declared by the bearer;
 - d) In cases where there is a change in the information that identifies the bearer of the passport.

2. In the situations referred to in sub-paragraph c) of the preceding paragraph, the applicant must submit a declaration, on his or her person's honor, made on a specific form, justifying the application and undertaking not to use the original passport and to return it to the issuing services if it is found.
3. Should there be any doubt as to the justification given for issuing a replacement passport, the issuing bodies may ask for additional proof.

Article 23 **Cancelling and apprehending passport**

1. The holder of a passport that has been lost, destroyed or stolen should immediately notify the issuing agent of this fact for the purposes of canceling and apprehending the passport.
2. The legal representatives of minors and disabled may request the issuing body to cancel and apprehend the passport issued on their behalf.
3. The issuing body shall request the border authorities to apprehend the passport referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article.
4. The consular authorities, when requested to pay the cost of repatriating nationals bearing a passport, will withhold the passport and return it only at the destination after the cost incurred by the State has been repaid.
5. In the situation envisaged in the preceding paragraph, the person being repatriated shall return to Timor-Leste supplied with a single travel permit.

Article 24 **Granting a second passport**

1. In exceptional circumstances that are duly justified, a second passport may be granted to the individual bearer of a passport that is still valid, when, after careful appraisal of the situation, it is concluded that the issue of the passport is in the national interest or in the legitimate interest of the applicant, arising from the relations between third countries.
2. The competent authority will ensure that the second passport is only used in the situations that gave rise to it being granted.

Article 25 **Expiry of passport**

1. The loss of Timorese nationality by a person who has been issued with a common passport shall determine the expiry of this document.

2. Notification of loss of Timorese nationality must be made by the National Directorate of Registry and Notary Services/Ministry of Justice to the Migration Department by the 30th day following the respective registration.

SECTION II DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT

Article 26 Object and general principles

1. The present section establishes the juridical regime for granting, issuing and using the Timorese diplomatic passport.
2. Diplomatic passports shall confer its bearers the rights, and subject them to the duties, applicable to diplomatic agents and to individuals internationally protected under national legislation and international law.
3. Diplomatic passports shall be granted and issued pursuant to the present decree-law, without prejudice to its granting to bodies envisaged in specific provisions.
4. Diplomatic passports shall be governed subsidiarily by the provisions for the general regime of passports provided for in the present statute.

Article 27 Holders

1. The following shall be holders of diplomatic passports:
 - a) The President of the Republic;
 - b) The Speaker of the National Parliament;
 - c) The Prime Minister;
 - d) The President of the Supreme Court of Justice;
 - e) The President of the Supreme Administrative, Fiscal and Audit Court;
 - f) The members of Government (Ministers, Vice-Ministers and Secretaries of State);
 - g) Members of the National Parliament;
 - h) The Prosecutor-General;

- i) The Provedor of Human Rights and Justice;
 - j) The Deputy-Speakers of the National Parliament;
 - k) The General Officers of the Defense and Security Forces;
 - l) The Deputies Prosecutor-General;
 - m) Functionaries of the diplomatic service of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
 - n) People accredited by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation to undertake missions with foreign government or international organisations;
 - o) Other people provided for in law.
2. The following may also be the bearers of diplomatic passports where they have Timorese nationality:
- a) The spouse and under-age children of entities envisaged in paragraphs a) to m) of the preceding paragraph;
 - b) The spouse and under-age children of the entities referred to in subparagraph n) of the preceding paragraph where they have to travel together for professional reasons of the latter;
 - c) Without prejudice to the provisions of subparagraph a), the relatives of the entities referred to in subparagraphs l) and m) of the preceding paragraph, where they live together with the entities, do not exercise any profession, find themselves under their custody and have to travel for professional reasons of the latter.

Article 28 **Exceptional situations**

1. Granting of diplomatic passports may be authorised exceptionally to entities other than those referred to in the preceding article by ordinance of the Minister for Foreign Affairs whenever where a situation of relevant public interest exist or where special passports reveal themselves to be insufficient.
2. Where reasons of Timorese external policy so justify, the Minister for Foreign Affairs may authorise, on an exceptional basis, that a foreign national be granted a diplomatic passport.

Article 29

Model

Diplomatic passports shall have the characteristics envisaged in article 3.2 of the present statute which include, in a well visible manner, the identification of the passport as being a diplomatic one, the identification of the quality of its bearer or of the mission he or she is entrusted with, the legal provisions that enabled its granting as well as a statement, in Portuguese and English languages, as contained in the annex to the present decree-law.

Article 30

Competence for granting passports

1. The granting of diplomatic passports for the entities referred to in subparagraphs a) to k) and in subparagraph n) of article 27.1 shall not require authorisation and shall take place against requisition by the interested service submitted to State Protocol and accompanied by a document certifying the office held by the entity.
2. The granting of diplomatic passports for the entities referred to in subparagraphs l) and m) of article 27.1 and in article 27.2 shall be the competence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs who shall have the possibility to delegate this power, save where the beneficiary is the Minister himself or herself, against requisition addressed to the State Protocol.

Article 31

Issuance

Issuance of diplomatic passports, including its production, personalisation and dispatch, shall be the responsibility of the Passport Section of the National Directorate of Registry and Notary Services/Ministry of Justice.

Article 32

Validity

1. Diplomatic passports referred to in subparagraphs a) to k) and in article 27.1 shall be valid for the entire period of the respective term, without prejudice to forfeiture of the passport due to expiration or suspension of the functions of its holder or to any other cause.
2. Diplomatic passports referred to in subparagraph l) of article 27.1 shall be valid for four years, without prejudice to forfeiture of the passport due to cessation or suspension of the functions of its holder or to any other cause.
3. Diplomatic passports referred to in subparagraph m) of article 27.1 shall be valid for the period of time corresponding to the likely duration of the mission for

which their bearers have been appointed to, but shall never exceed four years and shall forfeit as soon as their bearers cease the functions or the mission that determined their granting comes to an end.

4. Diplomatic passports referred to in article 27.2 shall be valid for the period of time established in the preceding paragraphs, as applicable, provided the requirements that originated their granting remain the same.

Article 33

Use

1. A diplomatic passport may only be used where its bearer is traveling in the capacity that justifies the granting of such a passport.
2. Bearers of diplomatic passports which are no longer valid for any reason stipulated in the present decree-law shall return it immediately to the service which granted it.
3. The persons referred to in subparagraph m) of article 27.1 shall also return the passport to the body that granted it immediately after the mission for which they have been appointed comes to an end.

Article 34

Apprehension

Diplomatic passports that do not meet the requisites contained in the present decree-law as well as those that have ceased to be valid for any cause stipulated in the present decree-law shall be apprehended by the authorities that take knowledge of such facts and shall be immediately forwarded to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs under the custody of the State Protocol.

SECTION III SPECIAL PASSPORT

Article 35

Holders

1. The following shall be entitled to a special passport:
 - a. Members of the Civil Staff and the Military Staff of the President of the Republic;
 - b. Judicial magistrates and public prosecution magistrates;
 - c. Directors of Services of Ministries or equivalent, when on official mission;

- d) Technical Officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, when on official mission;
2. The following may also be entitled to a special passport:
- a) Civil or military entities as proposed by the President of the Republic;
 - b) Individuals expressly entrusted by the Timorese State with a public service mission, where the nature of such mission does not require the granting of a diplomatic passport;
 - c) Functionaries of the staffing table of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs when, on public service mission, are not entitled to a diplomatic passport;
 - d) Honorary consuls, where they are Timorese nationals and do not possess the nationality of the country where they exercise their functions.
3. The granting of special passports may be extensive to spouse and under-age children, where the latter travel with the bearer of the passport and are Timorese nationals.

Article 36 Granting

1. The following shall be competent to grant special passports, with possibility to delegate and sub-delegate this power:
- a) The Minister of Justice;
 - b) The Minister for Foreign Affairs, whenever the situation occurs outside of the national territory;
2. The passport shall be granted on requisition or justified proposal, depending on whether the holder is in regular public office or in other situations.
3. The proposal for granting the passport shall be accompanied by a document proving the situation or public service or mission with which the holder has been charged, indicating its likely duration.
4. Pursuant to subparagraph 1, the following may grant special passports:
- a) Timorese services and embassies designated by ordinance of the Minister for Foreign Affairs;

- b) The Passport Section of the National Directorate for Registry and Notary Services of the Ministry of Justice;
5. Granting of special passports by embassies shall be immediately communicated to the Passport Section of the National Directorate for Registry and Notary Services of the Ministry of Justice.

Article 37
Issuance

The issuance of special passports, including their production, personalisation and dispatch, shall be the responsibility of the Passport Section of the National Directorate for Registry and Notary Services/Ministry of Justice.

Article 38
Use

The special passport should only be used where its holder is traveling in the quality that justifies granting the passport.

Article 39
Validity

1. The special passport shall be valid for the period fixed in it by the authority competent to grant it, in accordance with the nature and probable duration of the mission entrusted to him or her or to the situation that permits it being granted, but never for a period longer than four years;
2. The special passport shall expire as soon as its holder loses the position or ceases the mission or the situation that determined the respective issuance.
3. Expiry of the special passport shall mean that the requesting service or the proponent must immediately apprehend the passport and return it to the issuing body.

SECTION IV
PASSPORT FOR FOREIGNERS

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Article 40
Holders

The following may be holders of a passport for foreigners:

- a) Individuals who, having been authorised to reside in the national territory, are stateless or nationals of countries without diplomatic or consular representation in Timor-Leste or who demonstrate unequivocally that they cannot obtain any other passport;
- b) Foreign individuals who, without their own passport, seek Timorese consular or diplomatic protection abroad under cover of agreements for consular cooperation signed between Timor-Leste and their country of origin;
- c) Foreign individuals who are outside of the national territory when exceptional reasons recommend granting the passport to foreigners.

Article 41 Granting

Granting of passport to foreigners shall be applied for in person by the holder, with the respective biographical information contained in a document certifying his or her residence in the national territory as issued by the Migration Department being confirmed, including the collection of his or her signature and on his or her personal data, pursuant to article 3.2 of this statute.

Article 42 Issuance

1. The issuance of passports for foreigners, including their production, personalisation and dispatch, shall be the responsibility of the Passport Section of the National Directorate for Registry and Notary Services of the Ministry of Justice.
2. The deadline for issuing passports for foreigners shall be 10 working days counted from the date of submission of the application together with all the necessary documents.

Article 44 Validity

1. The passport for foreigners shall be valid for a maximum period of two years.
2. The passport referred to in the preceding subparagraph, when issued in the national territory, may guarantee or prevent the right to return to Timorese territory, depending on the entry made therein.

SECTION V
SINGLE TRAVEL DOCUMENT

Article 45
Granting and issuance

1. The single travel permit shall be issued to individuals of Timorese nationality, duly confirmed, who find themselves abroad without documents and for whom there is no time to provide sufficient proof of identification.
2. Requisition of single travel permit forms and control of their use shall be the responsibility of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Article 46
Validity

Single travel permits shall be strictly for enabling the return to Timor-Leste.

CHAPTER III
PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

Article 47
Purpose, organisation and structure of the Timorese passport information system

1. The purpose of the Timorese Passport Information System is to register, store, process, up-date, validate and make available, pursuant to the law, the information associated to the process for granting the different categories of passports.
2. The Timorese Passport Information System shall be governed by the principles of security and information control, ensuring levels of access, modification, addition or removal of data, as well as ways of communicating this data.
3. The Timorese Passport Information System shall ensure the combination of all structures and procedures for obtaining data as well as the articulation of all entities participating in the physical and logical registration of the collected data.

Article 48
Entity responsible for the Timorese Passport Information System

1. The National Directorate for Registry and Notary Services shall be the body responsible for the Timorese Passport Information System.
2. The Timorese Passport Information System shall comply with legally specified technical specifications for the protection of digitalized personal data, to be defined in specific legislation.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the Director of the National Directorate for Registry and Notary Services to decide on the complaints made regarding access to personal information contained therein, and its decisions can be appealed against.

Article 49

Access to the Timorese Passport Information System by External Entities

1. The following shall have the right to accede to information contained in the Timorese Passport Information System:
 - a) Migration Department;
 - b) Consular Affairs Department.
2. The levels of access, form and interconnection of the different information systems of the Timorese Passport Information System shall be defined by a joint ministerial statute between the Minister of Justice and the Minister in charge of the respective Department Directorate.

Article 50

Credentiation and secrecy

1. Functionaries and agents of State bodies with access to the Timorese Passport Information System shall require authorisation to that effect from the directors of their respective services.
2. Functionaries and agents who, in the exercise of their functions, come into contact with the personal data registered in the Timorese Passport Information System must maintain professional secrecy.

CHAPTER IV

PROVISIONS ON SANCTIONS

Article 51

Violation of rules on files

Violating regulations on computerized files used for issuing passports shall be punished pursuant to the law.

Article 52
Incorrect use of passport

Incorrect use of any type of passport is a punishable administrative offense carrying a fine of 200 to 500 American dollars, and an accessory sanction of passport seizure can also be applied.

Article 53
Non-conforming passports

Passports that do not conform to the law shall be apprehended by the competent authorities.

Article 54
Fraudulent obtention and use of passport

Making false statements to obtain a passport, falsifying a passport or the respective specific forms, using a falsified passport, as well as using another person's passport, shall be punished pursuant to the penal code.

Article 55
Competency

1. The National Directorate for Registry and Notary Services of the Ministry of Justice shall be competent to open and examine cases of administrative offenses provided for in article 52 relating to common passports, special passports and passports for foreigners.
2. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs shall be competent to open and examine cases of administrative offenses provided for in article 52 relating to diplomatic passports and single travel permits.
3. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the application of fines and accessory sanctions shall be the responsibility of the top-ranking official of the respective entity.
4. The proceeds from the fines referred to in article 52 shall revert to the following entities in the percentages indicated below:
 - a) 80% for the State;
 - b) 10% for the entity competent for granting the passport;
 - c) 10% for the entity in charge of opening the case of administrative offense.

CHAPTER V
FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 56
Transitional regime

Diplomatic and special passports issued up to the date of entry into force of the present decree-law shall retain their validity, without prejudicing a request for their replacement against the delivery of the passport to be replaced.

Article 57
Revocation

Decree-Law No. 2/2002 of 20 September and Decree-Law No. 5/2003 of 10 March are hereby revoked.

Article 58
Entry into force

The present Decree-Law shall enter into force on the day immediately after its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on 15 October 2008.

The Prime Minister,

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

The Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Zacarias da Costa

The Minister of Justice,

Lúcia Lobato

Promulgated on 18 December 2008.

For publication.

The President of the Republic,

José Ramos-Horta