



PRESIDÊNCIA DA REPÚBLICA

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President José Ramos-Horta welcomes Rosa Mota to the Dili Marathon

Dili, 14 Jun (PPR) – The Portuguese athlete Rosa Mota, who has won the Boston Marathon three times, the World Championships and the Olympic Gold in this event arrives at the Nicolau Lobato International Airport on Tuesday the 15th of June, on the invitation of H.E. the President of the Republic.

President of Timor-Leste and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, José Ramos-Horta, has announced:

“It is my honour to welcome, on behalf of the State, one of athletics’ biggest legends to the Dili Marathon. This is an inaugural event, which will help place Timor-Leste in its rightful place on the world stage. Rosa Mota, who is the most famous female marathon runners of all time, has shown solidarity and belief in our ability to host what will be a world famous event in the future by supporting our first ever marathon. The Dili Marathon will be an incredible experience for everyone involved. As an annual event it will show the world that Timor-Leste’s doors are open and its people are ready to welcome visitors to this beautiful nation.”

Mrs Mota will be present during the Dili Marathon and is expected to stay a week in Timor-Leste. She will also join the President on the course on the day and prior to the event will be spending time with the Timorese National squad.

Over 1000 runners are anticipated to participate in the inaugural event. Runners of all levels are encouraged to join the running festival, which features a half-marathon (21km), 10km and 5km events in addition to the grueling 42.195km headline distance. Registration for the event closes on 19th June.

H.E. Dr. J. Ramos-Horta will act as patron of this event as well as being one of the participants in the 5 km fun run. President Ramos-Horta said of the event:

"It is with great pride and pleasure that I welcome participants to Dili Marathon. I hope that this event will draw attention to the great potential our athletes possess and give encouragement to all Timorese – young or old, men or women, girls or boys. You too can achieve greatness here in Timor-Leste and on the world stage as well. Self-belief and dedication are the most important characteristics needed to succeed, in sport and in life. Most importantly this initiative will give a chance of recognition for our future generations."

Anyone can register for one of the four events either in person in front of the Palacio Governo every Friday and Saturday (on the 19th at the Mercado Lama) or online through the event’s website.

Visit the official website: www.dilimarathon.com for more info.

For further information contact: Media Officer for President of the Republic Mr. Joel Pereira on +6707230160

The Dili Marathon Media Coordinator: media@dilimarathon.com or call Sean Ferguson-Borrell on +670 7382208