

Law no. 2/2007
January 18th

Symbols

Following the end of colonization after more than four hundred years, the historical process of independence was abruptly interrupted by a foreign invasion and occupation that lasted for over twenty-four years.

The conviction and determination of the people and the youth in general constituted the permanent and unfailing source of the spirit of sacrifice inherent to the struggle for the concretization and recognition of a motherland definitively free, where the historical and cultural identity of a nation can now be freely asserted.

Freedom, democracy, independence, and the right to life are the reasons and values that constituted the foundation of a difficult struggle along which countless anonymous citizens, our national heroes, perished.

Resistance to suffering, on the one hand, and solidarity, on the other, went hand in hand with the hope that survived through successive generations in the struggle for human dignity and recognition of the identity of the Timorese people.

The need arises now to define and dignify the symbols depicting Timor-Leste as an independent and sovereign State as provided for in article 14 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste which establishes the flag, the emblem, and the national anthem as the national symbols and determines that the last two symbols are to be approved by law.

It is thus incumbent upon the ordinary legislator to approve the law relating to national symbols, including, namely, the norms that shall govern their display, use, and performance, it being certain that the national flag is described in article 15 of the Constitution.

Thus, pursuant to article 14, to article 92.2 (c), and to article 95, of the Constitution of the Republic, the National Parliament enacts the following to have the force of law:

CHAPTER I
Preliminary provision

Article 1
National symbols

1. The following are national symbols:
 - a) The national flag;

- b) The national anthem;
 - c) The national emblem.
2. The gradation of the hierarchy and precedence of the national symbols, including the respect towards them, shall follow the order indicated in paragraph 1 above.
 3. National symbols are exclusive attributes of the State and their use by individuals shall be conditional upon a general or specific authorization and the strict compliance with the norms in force and their faithful reproduction.
 4. The national archives shall keep official specimen of each of the national symbols authenticated by the highest holders of the organs of sovereignty.
 5. The reproduction of national symbols shall respect the drawing, the colors, the text, and the proportions defined in the present law.
 6. The national archives shall keep all the flags with historic significance which, as per their condition, are no longer suitable for use.
 7. The name of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RDTL) is the exclusive property of the State, and the use of words that have a direct relation with the attributes of the State constitutes its exclusive right.

CHAPTER II

Shape of the national symbols

Section I

Symbols in general

Article 2

Standard samples

The samples of national symbols described in accordance with the formal specifications established in the present law shall constitute the official standard samples of the national symbols.

Section II

National Flag

Article 3

Shape, composition, and meaning

1. The standard sample of the national flag shall be the one described in article 15 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

2. The graphical composition of the national flag shall be the one presented in the Annex A to the present law, which contains the official picture of the national flag.

3. Without prejudice to the meaning of the drawings and colors that compose the standard sample provided for in paragraph 1 above, the national flag shall represent the sovereignty of the nation, the independence, the unity of the State, and the integrity of the territory.

Article 4 Types of national flag

1. The shape of the national flag for use in public offices in general, as well as in barracks and in public and private schools, shall be made of a material that complies with one of the following types:

- a) Type 1, with a piece of cloth measuring 45 centimeters width;
- b) Type 2, with two pieces of cloth width;
- c) Type 3, with three pieces of cloth width;
- d) Type 4, with four pieces of cloth width;
- e) Type 5, with five pieces of cloth width;
- f) Type 6, with six pieces of cloth width;
- g) Type 7, with seven pieces of cloth width;

2. The national flag can take other shapes, with smaller, intermediate, or larger dimensions, depending on the conditions of use, provided the necessary proportions are maintained.

Section III National Anthem

Article 5 Composition and lyrics

1. The national anthem, referred to as Pátria (Motherland), shall be composed of a song by Afonso Redentor de Araújo and lyrics by Francisco Borja da Costa.

2. The musical staff of the national anthem shall obey the original instrumentation and respective recuperation by Paulo Pereira dos Santos and Abílio Araújo and shall be the one presented in Annex B to the present law.

3. The lyrics of the national anthem shall be the following:

“Motherland, Motherland!
Timor-Leste, our Nation,
Glory to the People and to the Heroes,
Of our liberation.

We defeated colonialism,
We shout: down with imperialism!
Free land, free People,
No, no, no to exploitation.

United we move,
Firm and resolved,
In the struggle against imperialism,
The enemy of the Peoples,
Until final victory,
On the path of the Revolution.

Motherland, Motherland!
Timor-Leste, our Nation,
Glory to the People and the Heroes,
Of our liberation”.

...

“Pátria, Pátria!
Timor-Leste, nossa Nação
Glória ao Povo e aos Heróis,
Da nossa libertação.

Vencemos o colonialismo,
Gritamos, abaixo o imperialismo,
Terra livre, Povo livre,
Não, não, não à exploração.

Avante unidos,
Firmes e decididos,
Na luta contra o imperialismo,
O inimigo dos Povos,
Até à vitória final,
Pelo Caminho da Revolução.

Pátria, Pátria!
Timor-Leste, nossa Nação,
Glória ao Povo e aos Heróis,
Da nossa libertação.”

Section IV National emblem

1. Description of the national emblem:

- a) The insignia of the national emblem shall be composed of one circumference bordered by two parallel flanges reproduced in ruby;
- b) The inscription “DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE” shall be reproduced in ruby, on a white background, in the upper side of the area that exists between the two flanges, and such inscription shall cover the space from the lower left side to the lower right side of Mount Ramelau, with the acronym “RDTL” reproduced beneath it.
- c) The centre of the lower circumference shall be reproduced on a white background;
- d) The Mount Ramelau insignia shall be reproduced on the white field at the centre of the inner circumference and shall be painted in ruby in its periphery and in black in its central part, this latter part being contoured by a line reproduced in golden yellow;
- e) The Mount Ramelau insignia referred to in sub-paragraph d) above shall be pyramidal in form and shall be composed of four angles, with three angles in the lower side, turned downwards, and one angle in the upper side, turned upwards, and their sides shall be curved;
- g) A white star with five ends shall be reproduced at the centre of the upper angle of Mount Ramelau insignia, and one of the vertices of the star shall be aligned with the corner of the upper angle of the central part of Mount Ramelau insignia without however touching the lines of the angle;
- h) Five white rays irradiate from the star referred to in sub-paragraph g) above in a pyramidal form ending at the upper side of the book referred to in sub-paragraph i) below;
- i) The upper side of the black portion of Mount Ramelau insignia shall have the picture of an open book with a ruby cover and golden yellow borders and containing four lines in its right side page and five lines in its left side page, black in color, and a golden yellow strip in the foot of the page.
- j) The book described in sub-paragraph i) above is superimposed on a golden yellow toothed wheel seated on a base of a similar color.
- l) The set of pictures described in sub-paragraphs g) to j) above shall be sided, to its right, by the insignia of *hare fulin* composed of two leaves and eleven spikes and, to its left, by the *batar fulin* composed of two golden yellow leaves with their upper ends turned downwards;
- m) The lower central part of the black portion of Mount Ramelau insignia shall depict one golden yellow *rama-inan* with the respective rope turned upwards.

n) Over the picture described in sub-paragraph m) above, laid with the butt turned to the left and the barrel turned to the right, there shall be an automatic rifle (AK-47/Galaxi model) reproduced on a black field with white contours and in a higher position than the butt without however touching the base of the toothed wheel;

o) The *Diman*, in golden yellow, shall be laid in diagonal position under the rifle, with the respective arrow turned to the left;

p) On the white field at the centre of the circumference referred to in sub-paragraph b) above and beneath the Mount Ramelau insignia, there shall be the words “UNIDADE ACCÇÃO PROGRESSO”, laid in a curved form in parallel with the lines of Mount Ramelau insignia, inscribed in capital letters in ruby over an ondulated strip on a white field with light red contours.

2. The insignias described in item 1 above shall have the following meanings:

a) The national emblem described in item 1 above and reproduced in the picture presented in Annex C to the present law shall be called *belak*;

b) *Belak* shall symbolize the land globe where the territory of Timor-Leste is included and shall be the symbol of national unity;

c) The white color of the centre of the circumference, the star, and the rays shall symbolize peace;

d) The light yellow in the contours of the black portion of Mount Ramelau, the strips and borders of the book, the *batar fulin* and the *háre fulin*, the toothed wheel, the *ramanin*, and the *diman* shall symbolize the wealth;

e) The black color in the central part of Mount Ramelau, the automatic rifle, and the letters of the book shall symbolize the obscurantism that needs to be overcome;

f) The light red of the Mount Ramelau, the letters, the hoops, the contours of the strips, and the book shall symbolize the love for the motherland and the struggle for national liberation;

g) The white rays of the star shall symbolize the light of solidarity and the determination to bring about peace all over the world.

h) The set of four angles referred to in the Mount Ramelau insignia shall symbolize the principles of the separation of powers and the interdependence of the organs of sovereignty of the State;

i) The five ends of the white star shall symbolize the light of generosity and honesty that guide the People towards Peace;

j) The set composed of the open book, the toothed wheel, the *batar fulin* and the *háre fulin* shall symbolize the wisdom and capacity of the people in the context of development in the areas of education, culture, social justice, agriculture and industry;

k) The set composed of the AK-47/Galaxi automatic rifle, the *rama inan*, and the *diman* shall symbolize the values of centuries of struggle of resistance of the people for national liberation and the people's self-defence for the honor and dignity of the sovereignty of the State;

n) The motto "UNIDADE, ACCÇÃO, PROGRESSO" (UNITY ACTION PROGRESS) shall represent the basic values of politics and moral underpinning the life of the nation and the people.

3. The standard sample of the national emblem shall be the one presented in Annex C to the present law.

CHAPTER III

Display and use of national symbols

Article 7

General use

The national flag may be used in all manifestations of Timorese patriotic sentiment of an official or private nature.

Article 8

Display

The national flag may be displayed as follows:

a) Hoisted in a flagpole or mast, in public or private buildings, temples, sports facilities, offices, classrooms, auditoria, ships, streets and malls, as well as at any place where the respect and dignity for the flag are ensured.

b) Distended and without a flagpole, carried by an aircraft or a balloon, applied on a wall or held in a horizontal cable linking buildings, trees, poles or masts;

c) Reproduced on walls, windowpanes, vehicles and aircrafts;

d) Together with another flag, a panoply of flags, a coat or a similar piece;

e) Carried in an array of troops, parade, or individually;

f) Covering a coffin until interment.

Article 9
Places where flag use is mandatory

The national flag shall be hoisted daily at the following places:

- a) The palace or the headquarters of the Presidency of the Republic and the official residence of the President of the Republic;
- b) The headquarters of the National Parliament;
- c) The palace or the headquarters of the Government or the head-building of the ministries, where the latter operate from separate facilities;
- d) The head-buildings of the courts;
- e) The headquarters of administrators, of PNTL and F-FDTL, the headquarters of the sucos and the national headquarters of legally registered political parties;
- f) Border posts;
- g) Diplomatic missions, missions with international organizations and career consular offices, with due respect for the local customs of the countries where they are located;
- h) Merchant marine units, pursuant to the laws and regulations on navigation of the naval police and to international praxis;

Article 10
Obligation to hoist the flag

1. It shall be mandatory for the national flag to be hoisted on holidays and on feast days or on days of national mourning in all public departments, schools, and trade unions.
2. The solemn hoisting of the national flag shall be mandatory in public or private schools at least once per week during the academic year.

Article 11
Time for hoisting and lowering the flag

1. The national flag may be hoisted and lowered at any time of the day or night.
2. The national flag shall normally be hoisted at 8:00 a.m. and lowered at 6:00 p.m.
3. On the date established by law for commemorating Independence Day, the hoisting of the national flag shall be at 10:00 a.m. with special solemnities.

4. At night, when hoisted, the national flag shall be duly illuminated.

Article 12
Plurality of flags

Where several flags are hoisted or lowered simultaneously, the national flag shall be the first to reach the top of the flagstaff and the last to be lowered.

Article 13
Use of the flag in funerals

1. When in funerals, the national flag shall be flown at half-pole or half-mast position.
2. In the case provided for in item 1 above, the national flag, when being hoisted or lowered, shall first be hoisted to the peak of the flag-pole for an instant and then lowered to the half-pole position.
3. When carried in a march, the sign of mourning shall be indicated in the flag through a crape lace tied to the spear.

Article 14
Place of use in funerals

In funerals, the national flag shall be hoisted in the following instances, as long as such instances do not coincide with days of national feast:

- a) All over the country, when so enacted;
- b) At the headquarters of the National Parliament, when so determined by the respective Speaker, following the passing away of one of its members;
- c) At the headquarters of the courts, when so determined by the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, following the passing away of one of its members;
- d) At the palace or the headquarters of the Government or at the head-building of the ministries, when an official mourning has been determined by the competent authority;
- e) At the headquarters of diplomatic missions, in accordance with the norms and customs of the host countries.

Article 15
Place of honor

1. Whenever displayed in the national territory, the national flag shall occupy a place of honor, meaning:

a) Placed in a central position or in a position that is closest to the centre and to the right of the centre, when the national flag is displayed with another flag, pennant or banner, panoply, coat or similar piece;

b) Placed in a prominent position in front of another flag, when passing in a review or on parade;

c) Placed to the right side of platforms, pulpits and meeting or working tables.

2. Right side of a set of flags shall mean the right side of a person near the set of flags and turned towards the street, the audience, or the public looking towards the set of flags.

Article 16 Keeping the flag

When not in use, the national flag shall be kept in a dignified place.

Article 17 Hoisting a flag placed on the floor

In public offices and military organizations, when the national flag is hoisted in a flagpole placed on the floor, its width shall not be more than one fifth nor less than one seventh of the height of the respective flagpole.

Article 18 Flag distended without a flagpole

When distended and without a flagpole, the national flag shall be placed in such a manner that its bigger side shall be in horizontal position and the star shall be on the left, and no part of the flag shall be occulted, even if partially, by anybody seating close to it.

SECTION II National Anthem

Article 19 Execution

Performance of the national anthem shall obey the following rules:

a) In metronomic cadence of a quarter note equal to 2/4;

b) For simple instrumental performance, it shall be mandatory to apply C major as equivalent to Do;

- c) The song shall be performed in unison;
- d) In cases of simple instrumental performance, the song shall be integrally interpreted, but without repetition;
- e) In cases of vocal performance, all parts of the poem shall be sung;
- f) When saluting the President of the Republic, exclusively for military ceremonial purposes, only the introductory and the final chords shall be performed, in accordance with the specific regulation;

Article 20

Behaviour during performance of the national anthem

1. The national anthem shall be performed:
 - a) In position of salute to the national flag and to the President of the Republic, the National Parliament, the Government and the courts, and in the other cases expressly determined by the regulations on salute or on ceremonies of international courtesy;
 - b) When hoisting the national flag, as provided for in item 2 of article 10;
2. Performance of the national anthem shall be instrumental or vocal, depending on the ceremonial planned for each case;
3. Performing the national anthem in position of salute outside of the cases provided for in the present law shall be prohibited.
4. Performing the national anthem during civic session opening ceremonies, religious ceremonies associated to a patriotic sense, and during opening or closing ceremonies of radio and television daily broadcasts, including for expressing public satisfaction on festive occasions, shall be optional.
5. Where a foreign national anthem is to be performed in a ceremony, the foreign national anthem shall be the first to be performed.

SECTION III

National emblem

Article 21

Use

1. Reproduction of the national emblem shall correspond faithfully to the standard sample provided for in article 6 of the present law.

2. The national emblem shall be used on official, state and district documents, either isolated or together with the emblem corresponding to the state or district institution where the document originates from, as well as on diplomas and certificates issued by official teaching institutions or institutions recognized as such.

3. The use of the national emblem on private documents shall be prohibited.

4. The national emblem may be used on official vehicles of representatives of the organs of sovereignty.

CHAPTER IV

Respect due to the national flag and the national anthem

Article 22

Attitude of respect

1. During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the national flag and when the flag is passing on parade or in a review, or when the national anthem is being performed, all citizens present shall have an attitude of respect by standing to attention and keeping silent, with civilian males removing their headgear and those in uniform rendering the military salute in accordance with the regulation of the respective institution.

2. Any other form of salute shall be prohibited.

Article 23

Manifestations of disrespect

1. The following conducts shall be considered manifestations of disrespect to the national flag:

a) Displaying a flag that is in bad condition;

b) Changing the shape, colors, proportions or the motto of the flag, or adding inscriptions to it;

c) Using the flag as a piece of clothing, drapery, stage curtain, table cover, tribune cover, or as a covering for a commemorative plaque, picture, or monument at unveiling ceremonies;

d) Reproducing the flag in a label or container for products exposed for sale;

Article 24

Flags in bad condition

A national flag in bad condition shall be handed over to any military unit for the purpose of incineration in accordance with the ceremonial to that effect.

Article 25
Plurality of flags

No flag of another nation may be flown in the country without that flag having to its right side a national flag of equal size and in a position of prominence, save at the headquarters of a diplomatic or consular mission.

Article 26
Performing of adaptations to the national anthem

No performance of instrumental or vocal artistic adaptations to the national anthem shall be allowed unless such adaptations have been authorized by the National Parliament.

CHAPTER V
Penalties

Article 27
Nonfulfillment

Without prejudice to the criminal liability that may result, violation of any provision contained in the present law shall be considered contravention, and the offender shall be subject to a penalty of fine from \$100 to \$500, which shall be doubled in case of reincidence.

Article 28
Offences proceeding

The proceeding regulating to the offences referred to in article 27 above shall obey the provisions contained in the procedural norms regarding the application of contraventions in general.

CHAPTER VI
General provisions

Article 29
Mandatory teaching of the national symbols

The teaching of the standard sample and meaning of the national flag, as well as of the song and interpretation of the lyrics of the national anthem in public or private teaching institutions at any level of education, shall be mandatory.

Article 30
Knowing the national anthem

Nobody may be accepted as a civil servant or integrated in a public service under any working regime whatsoever without showing knowledge of the entire lyrics of the national anthem.

Article 31
Dissemination and recording of the national anthem

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports shall promote the definitive official edition of all the partitions of the national anthem, the recording in digital disc of the instrumental and vocal performance, and of the declaimed lyrics.

Article 32
Reduction of the partition of the national anthem

It shall be incumbent upon the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports to organize competitions among national authors for reducing of the partition of orchestras of the national anthem for restrict orchestras, and the latter shall obey the provisions of article 19 above.

Article 33
Ceremonial

The Government shall regulate the details of the ceremonial relating to national symbols.

Article 34
Use of the national flag in the Defence Force

The use of the national flag in the Defence Force shall obey the norms of the respective regulations where it does not collide with the present law.

Article 35
Other official symbols

Without prejudice to the above articles, the organs of sovereignty may adopt specific symbol, insignias, or logotype identifying them as such, as long as they are approved through a normative statute.

Article 36
Entry into force

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

Approved on 7 November 2006.

The Speaker of the National Parliament

Francisco Guterres “Lu-Olo”

Promulgated on 17 January 2007

For publication

The President of the Republic

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão.