



**FFTL**

**CONGRESS**

10 JANUARY 2024



**FFTL**<sup>®</sup>

Unidade no Desenvolve

Affiliated to the Fédération International de Football Association

## **MINUTES**

of the

### **9<sup>th</sup> FFTL Congress 2024**

at the Hotel Timor, Avenue, Colmera, Rua dos Mártires da Pátria, Dili

**Wednesday, 10 January 2024**

**10:00 - 16:00**



10 January 2024

Ref: Legal/Congress 2024

**MINUTES OF THE FFTL CONGRESS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2024, 10:00 TLT AT THE HOTEL TIMOR, COLMERA, RUA MÁRTIRES DA PATRIA, DILI, TIMOR-LESTE**

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**PRESENT:**

FFTL MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS (listed alphabetically):

Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili Leste, Dili Oeste, Ermera, Lautem, Liquiça, Manatuto, Manufahi, Oe-Cusse, Viqueque, Coaches Association, Referees Association, Women's Football Association.

FFTL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

<b>FFTL Executive Committee</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Let. Gen. Domingos Raul "Falur Rate Laek"	Acting President
Mrs. Engracia Pimentel Fernandes	Member
Mr. Marito da C. Belo	Member
Mr. Henrique da Costa	Member
Mr. Faustino Godinho da Costa	Member

In attendance:

H.E. Mr. Nélyo Isaac Sarmiento	- Minister of Youth, Sport, Art and Culture
Mr. Macario Sanches	- President of All Sports Confederation Timor-Leste
Mr. Ahmed Harraz	- FIFA Representative
Mr. Lavin Vignesh	- FIFA Representative
Ms. Nhodkeo Phawadee	- AFC Representative
Ms. Siti Zuraina Abdullah	- AFC Representative
H. E. Major General Khiev Sameth	- AFF President
Mr. Winston Lee	- AFF General Secretary
Mr. Nilton Telmo Gusmão dos Santos	- Candidate for the Position of FFTL President

Absent with apologies:

H. E. Mr. Francisco Kalbuady Lay – One (1) of the FFTL President's Candidate



## **1. OPENING REMARKS - ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT, ART AND CULTURE;**

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Minister Nelyo Isaac Sarmento officially opened the 9<sup>th</sup> FFTL Congress, emphasizing the government's support and FFTL's importance in Timorese football development.

- He urged the congress to prioritize organizational rules and collective goals over personal interests.
- He affirmed the government's role as facilitator and supporter of sports organizations, including FFTL.
- He expressed optimism for the congress's success and encouraged participants to have productive discussions for FFTL's future.

## **2. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION THAT THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN CONVENED AND COMPOSED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATUTES OF FFTL;**

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The General Secretary proceeded to roll call in alphabetical order of the 21 members of FFTL, 21 members were present, 21 of whom were entitled to vote.

The Acting President declared that the 9<sup>th</sup> FFTL Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of FFTL.

## **3. APPOINTMENT AND APPROVAL OF THREE SCRUTINEERS TO VERIFY THE VOTES;**

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The General Secretary proposed the following individuals be appointed:

1. Eurogio Antonio Pereira Sarmento, Aileu Football Association
2. Norberto Michael Castro Legimal, DIT FC
3. Jose Guterres, Bobonaro Football Association

The General Secretary requested the delegates to vote by raising their cards and the results were as follows:

Member Associations present	:	21
Member Associations present and entitled to vote	:	21
Valid votes cast	:	21
Votes required for a simple majority	:	11
Votes in favor	:	21
Against	:	0
Abstain	:	0

DECISION: The FFTL members approved the proposed individuals to be appointed as Scrutineers.



#### **4. APPOINTMENT AND APPROVAL OF THREE DELEGATES TO CHECK THE MINUTES;**

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The General Secretary proposed the following individuals be appointed:

1. Gelasio Monteiro, Ermera Football Association
2. Van Basten Koi, Coaches Football Association
3. Carmelita Bene, Oe-Cusse Football Association

The General Secretary urged the delegates to express their votes through the act of raising their cards, and the results were as follows:

Member Associations present	:	21
Member Associations present and entitled to vote	:	21
Valid votes cast	:	21
Votes required for a simple majority	:	11
Votes in favor	:	21
Against	:	0
Abstain	:	0

DECISION: The FFTL members unanimously approved the proposed individuals to be appointed as Minute Checkers.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA;**

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The General Secretary called for the voting.

Member Associations present	:	21
Member Associations present and entitled to vote	:	21
Valid votes cast	:	21
Votes required for a simple majority	:	11
Votes in favor	:	21
Against	:	0
Abstain	:	0

DECISION: The agenda was put to the vote and the FFTL members fully approved the Congress Agenda.



**6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING CONGRESS;**

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The motion to ratify the minutes of the FFTL Extraordinary Congress 2023, convened in Hotel Timor, Díli, Timor-Leste on 10 November 2023 and verified by the selected minute checkers, has been formally endorsed. The details of votes cast from Member Associations are as follows:

Member Associations present	:	21
Member Associations present and entitled to vote	:	21
Valid votes cast	:	21
Votes required for a simple majority	:	11
Votes in favor	:	21
Against	:	0
Abstain	:	0

DECISION: The FFTL member associations unanimously approved the Minutes of the FFTL Extraordinary Congress 2023.

**7. OPENING ADDRESS - ADDRESS BY THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF FFTL;**

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Opening Remarks:

- The Acting President opened the 9th FFTL Congress by welcoming guests and Member Associations, expressing hopes for a productive and successful outcome.
- The speech highlighted the importance of football in Timor-Leste, a nation passionate about the sport, demonstrated by its enthusiasm during major international tournaments like the World Cup, EURO, Champions League, Premier League, La Liga, and domestic leagues.
- The President emphasized football's inspirational role, particularly for youth, and its contribution to building a strong community.

Challenges and Strategies:

- Acknowledging the need for development, the President addressed challenges including infrastructure improvement, and training for managers, coaches, referees, and administrators.
- FFTL outlined a five-point strategy for prioritizing football development:

1. Infrastructure:

- Investing in robust infrastructure is crucial for fostering football talent and achieving broader success.
- The Strategic Framework, aligned with FIFA Forward 2023-2026, allocates USD 7,250,000 to infrastructure projects across three tiers:
  - FIFA Forward 1.0: USD 2,250,000
  - FIFA Forward 2.0: USD 2,000,000
  - FIFA Forward 3.0: USD 3,000,000



- Progress includes:
  - USD 56,848.33 used for a Campo Democracia study (remodelling, mini-fields, floodlights) undertaken by RMS Company
  - Project approved by FIFA Development Committee on December 19, 2023
  - Construction contract with Edel Grass; completion targeted for December 31, 2024 with the total amount of **USD 1,855,000.00**
  - Mini-stadium project estimated at USD 2,338,151.67
  - FIFA and FFTL committed to exhausting allocated FIFA Forward 1.0 and 2.0 funds in 2024
  - FIFA Forward 3.0 funds to be directed towards Dili Stadium, with details communicated later
- USD 641,428.85 from AFC allocated for 2023-2026 to modernize the FFTL building, Xanana Sport Center, and build a new warehouse.

## 2. Workshops:

- Conducting workshops with national football experts to create a national football philosophy.

## 3. Coaches Development:

- Plan to conduct the AFC A License Coaching Course in Timor-Leste, following successful AFC C and B level courses.

## 4. Player Development:

- Emphasis on developing players with a clear pathway for improvement.

## 5. Governance:

- Maintaining transparent and efficient governance within FFTL, supported by a strong team and leadership.

## Leadership and Conclusion:

- The Acting President addressed the ongoing democratic process for selecting a new president, hoping for leadership that elevates Timor-Leste football both nationally and internationally.
- The goal is to establish strong domestic competition producing high-quality players.
- The role of players and fans in football development was emphasized, urging unity and support for the sport, regardless of age or skill level.
- The Acting President concluded with a quote: "The development of football is more than just boosting morale, field skills, and building communities; it's about inspiration and the power of friendship."



**8. SUBMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS' APPOINTMENT (Primo's Boot);**

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The General Secretary asked the delegates to vote for the appointment of External Auditor by raising their cards, and the results were as follows:

Member Associations present	:	21
Member Associations present and entitled to vote	:	21
Valid votes cast	:	21
Votes required for a simple majority	:	11
Votes in favor	:	21
Against	:	0
Abstain	:	0

DECISION: The FFTL members unanimously approved the appointment of the Independent Audit - Primo's Boot.

**9. APPROVAL OF FFTL ACTIVITY REPORT 2022;**

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The General Secretary requested the Member Associations to vote for the FFTL Activity Report 2022. The details of votes cast from Member Associations are as follows:

Member Associations present	:	21
Member Associations present and entitled to vote	:	21
Valid votes cast	:	21
Votes required for a simple majority	:	11
Votes in favor	:	21
Against	:	0
Abstain	:	0

DECISION: The FFTL members fully approved the FFTL Activity Report 2022.

**10. THE ELECTION OF THE FFTL PRESIDENT AND ONE (1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER;**

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The Acting President informed the assembly about a communication received from a member association regarding the Appeals Committee's decision to grant voting rights to the Presidents of three Associations. It was stated in the communication that this decision was not in line with the provisions outlined in the FFTL Statutes and Electoral Code. Considering this issue, the Acting President urged the Electoral Committee to address the matter of delegates' voting eligibility before proceeding with the election agenda. Consequently, the Acting President assigned the Electoral Committee the responsibility of resolving the issue according to the FFTL Statutes and Electoral Code.

The Electoral Committee informed the assembly that they were ready to proceed with the election process. However, they also addressed a matter concerning a lapse in the appeal process. According to the Electoral Code, the appeals should have been submitted within three days of the decision, and the Appeals Committee should have issued a decision within four days.



The Electoral Committee has acknowledged lapses in the decision made by the Appeals Committee. This revelation has sparked strong protests from delegates, including Mr. Amandio de Araujo Sarmiento and Mr. Aleixo da Silva Gama from the East of Dili Football Association, as well as Mr. Aleixo Monteiro from the West of Dili Football Association. The chaos and disorganization during the Congress were evident, with delegates from various factions, including Mr. Fernando Baptista Xavier from the Futsal Association, Mr. Aniceto Gouveia from the Referee's Association, and Mr. Crisogno da Costa from the Ainaro Football Association, involved in uncoordinated and disruptive interventions.

The Acting President sought assistance from FIFA and AFC delegations to guide and provide solutions to the ongoing issue at hand. In accordance with this, a five-minute break was granted to allow the Electoral Committee and FIFA and AFC delegations to convene an urgent meeting.

During this meeting, it was proposed that the three associations internally appoint a voting delegate. Regrettably, no positive results were achieved from the three (3) associations. Consequently, Mr. Ahmad Harraz, a representative from FIFA, attempted to explain this to the member associations and unfortunately, the interventions from the delegates continued.

Following the decision to exclude the three associations, a 45-minute break was provided for all congress members and guests to have lunch.

Upon resumption of the election process, the Electoral Committee announced the decision to cast the votes of the three excluded associations by the President from the three (3) associations, by FFTL Statute, Article 26.4 on Delegation and Votes.

This decision prompted interventions from the member associations, as they deemed it inconsistent. Mr. Nilton Telmo Gusmão dos Santos, a presidential candidate for FFTL, expressed his concern and stated, "I would like us to communicate openly and transparently within our community. Even though we often see ourselves as a close-knit Football Family, the current situation does not align with that ideal. The trust in this congress has eroded, leading me as a candidate to step back from participating in an election that lacks credibility. Therefore, I have decided to withdraw from this congress. I believe in avoiding unnecessary conflicts, hoping that putting the integrity of football first is more important than personal ambitions."

In response to this, the Acting President intervened once again, bringing all Executive Members together and requesting congress members to decide on maintaining and leading FFTL's structure until the next Congress.

At this juncture, certain congress members proposed the dismissal of the Electoral Committee and the Appeals Committee.

## **11. CLOSING CONGRESS BY THE ACTING PRESIDENT**

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The Acting President, in collaboration with the members of the Electoral Committee, has collectively decided to postpone the elections and conclude the Congress. This decision was prompted by an inconducive situation that occurred during the proceedings. The Acting President officially declared the postponement of the congress and requested the member associations, including Ramelau Ainaro Football Association, Viqueque Football Association, and Referees' Association to conduct their congresses. The main purpose of the congresses would be to undertake a comprehensive restructuring of their respective associations.

The Acting President emphasized the importance of fair and transparent representation from all member associations to move forward with the decision-making process effectively.



The exact date and time for the reconvening of the congress will be communicated to all member associations once the restructuring has been completed.

## 12. NEXT CONGRESS

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The General Secretary informed the member associations that the next FFTL Congress will be informed in due course.

In confirmation and approval by the following minute's checkers:

1. Gelasio Monteiro Carvalho Babo, Ermera Football Association
2. Van Basten Koi, Coaches Football Association
3. Carmelita Bene, Oe-Cusse Football Association

Dili, 10 January 2024

**Gregorio Correia**  
General Secretary

## CONGRESS PHOTOS



*Fig.1. Chairperson of the Congress*



*Fig.2. Representatives from FIFA and AFC*



*Fig.3. Representatives from AFF*



*Fig.4. FFTL Member Associations*



*Fig.5. Welcome Remarks from the Minister of Youth & Sport, Art and Culture, H. E. Mr. Nelyo Isaac Sarmento*



*Fig.6. Opening Remarks by the Interim President of FFTL*



*Fig.7. Judicial Bodies*



*Fig.8. Electoral Committee*



*Fig.9. Intervention by the FFTL Member Association as well as former officials at FFTL*



*Fig.10. Intervention by the FIFA Representative, Mr. Ahmad Harraz*



*Fig.11. Withdraw from the Congress, Candidate for the Position of FFTL President, Mr. Nilton Gusmão Telmo*



*Fig.11. Close the Congress by the Interim President, Ten. Gen. Domingos Raul 'Falur Rate Laek'*