

**The Secretary of State for the Council of Ministers and
Official Spokesperson for the Government of Timor-Leste
Ágio Pereira**



**November 4, 2009
Dili, Timor-Leste**

**Government of Timor-Leste Congratulates Ego Lemos on
Songwriters Award**

The Prime Minister, His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão on behalf of the Government, and the people of Timor-Leste, wish to extend their congratulations to Timorese musician, singer and songwriter Ego Lemos; the first Timorese musician to win Best Original Song Composed for Screen at the 2009 APRA Screen Music Awards.

Lemos performed his song Balibo, written for the feature film of the same name, at the Awards presentation in Sydney, Australia on Monday November 2, 2009. The Honorable Peter Garrett AM MP, Australian Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts presented the award to Mr. Lemos.

The debut album “O Hele Le” has also been released; a profound and moving compilation of folk songs in Tetum about the land and the people of Timor-Leste.

After receiving the award, Lemos has been interviewed multiple times about his songs, his nation and the importance of preserving and cultivating the inherent beauty of the Timorese culture through music.

The music and achievements of Ego Lemos will not only encourage others around the world to seek a deeper understanding of Timor-Leste but set an example for other young artists in the nascent nation to find their voice, express their talents and uphold their heritage through creative explorations.

The Secretary of State for the Council of Ministers and Official Spokesperson for the Xanana Gusmão Government, Ágio Pereira noted “We hope the award of Mr. Lemos is the first of many for him and the beginning of many other awards to come for the emerging young artists of Timor-Leste. We give him our sincerest and warmest congratulations.”

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