

## **Provedor**

### **Virgílio da Silva Guterres**

**Mr. Virgílio da Silva Guterres** is a Provedor for Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça (PDHJ) Timor-Leste appointed by the National Parliament of Timor-Leste in 05 January 2023 for the term 2023 – 2027.

Before elected as a Provedor, Mr. Virgílio was a President of the Timor-Leste Press Council appointed by National Parliament of Timor-Leste for the period 2016 – 2020 & 2021 – 2022. In addition Mr. Guterres had been involved in the activities of journalists since 1998, as co-founder of Revista Talitakum and as the author of the Hori Otas Hori Wain column in Tétum. Next he was elected as a Chief Editor for Vox Populi Newspaper, CNTR Newspaper for the popular consultation campaign in August 1999 and at the same time, Mr. Virgílio was assume responsibility as Clandestine News Agency for “Si@ar News”. Then from 2000 – 2002 he founded Revista Lalenok and became the Chief Editor for Revista Lalenok, Revista Semanal which was initiated by Indonesia Students and public (community) in Tétum.

While pursuing journalism activities, Mr. Virgílio deepened his knowledge in the journalism area and participated in the journalistic training in several countries such as an internship at the Jakarta Post, Indonesia in 1998, an internship at Triple J Radio (ABC Australia), Darwin, participated in the Post Conflict Journalism Workshop, organized by Reuters Foundation at the University of Queensland, Australia in 2000 and participated in the journalism course on advanced reporting organized by the Tomson Foundation at Cardiff University, Wales United Kingdom in 2001.

With Mr. Virgílio involvement in journalistic activities and his existing knowledge, Mr. Virgílio together with other fellow journalist founded journalist association of Timor-Leste called AJTL and was elected as the first President of AJTL for period 2001 – 2011.

Moreover, Mr. Virgílio was also entrusted to leading Board of Timor-Leste Radio Television Public Administration Service (SP RTTL) in 2003 – 2005. At the same time, he was also entrusted to holding a position as Director General of Timor-Leste Radio and Television (RTTL) from 2004 – 2006. Mr. Virgílio was also trusted to represent Timor-Leste Journalist Association in the South East Asia Press Alliance (SEAPA) as a secretary from 2014 – 2016 and also re-elected for the same position for the period 2016 – 2020.

Virgílio was known as “Lamukan” during the resistance for Timor-Leste Independence, he was actively participated in all demonstration organized by the National Students of Timor-Leste (RENETIL), as an organization founded by Timor-Leste Students studied in Indonesia fight against Indonesia occupation in Timor-Leste. Virgílio became a member of RENETIL in 1990 as a secretary for RENETIL in 1995. In 1991, Virgílio as a political prisoner in Cipinang Prison from 1991 -1994, after participated in a demonstration organized by RENETIL on 19 November 1991 protest and solidarity for youth who died in Massacre Santa Cruz on 12 November 1991. As a former of political prisoner, Virgílio and others former political prisoner founded as association of political prisoner former and remain active as of today.

Virgílio as a former Mechanical Engineer Student of Institut Sains dan Teknologi (ISTN) Jakarta, Indonesia, was born in Lia-Oli, Venilale , 8 December 1966, married to Merina Úrsula Xareal e Guterres and has three children : Larasseso Antonio Gulmer Xareal Guterres, Kailale Norberto Freire Xareal Guterres and Kayla Maria Ivone Xareal Guterres.