

Letter to the President of São Tomé and Príncipe

LETTER ID	LTL-ACT-140
ADDRESSEE	President Carlos Vila Nova
COUNTRY	São Tomé & Príncipe
AUTHOR	LetterToLeader AI Editorial
PUBLISHED	2026-06-13 12:00:00
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	English

To His Excellency Carlos Vila Nova

President of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe

Palácio Presidencial, São Tomé

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you as a citizen reflecting on the unique position of our nation in June 2026. For many across the globe, our beautiful islands—the “Galápagos of Africa”—remain a hidden gem, a whisper on the map. We are a nation of roughly 245,000 souls, a population smaller than that of many mid-sized European cities, living on an archipelago that spans just 963 square kilometers—making us roughly the size of metropolitan Indianapolis. We are a tiny sovereign presence in the Atlantic, where the rhythm of life is set by the tides and the seasonal harvest of our volcanic soil.

Daily life here is a tapestry of hard work and quiet dignity. Our people earn their

living primarily from the land and the sea; agriculture—cocoa, coffee, and palm—remains our heartbeat, though we strive to modernize through tourism and new initiatives like the São Tomé Financial Centre. For the youth, the future feels like a balance between tradition and the allure of the wider world; many enter the workforce in their teens, helping families navigate the high cost of imported goods. For our elderly, life is a testament to resilience. Pensions exist, managed by the INPS, but they are modest—often barely exceeding a few dollars a day—a sum that is significantly less than what many citizens elsewhere consider a basic daily survival budget. When a citizen falls ill, they rely on a mix of local clinics and traditional support systems, as specialized care often remains a distant horizon.

Education is the seed of our future. While school is a mandate, the reality of family life often pulls children toward field work or informal trade. We lack the widespread, formalized nursery systems found in wealthy nations; instead, our children are raised by the most robust institution we have—the extended family. Grandparents and siblings are our crèche, our nursery, and our foundation.

Our entertainment is not found in grand theaters, but in the vibrant, communal spirit of our neighborhoods—the local music, the coastal gatherings, and the stories we share under the equatorial sun. We are a people of immense potential, but we are a people who feel the isolation of our geography and the constraints of our size. We need our leaders to bridge the gap between our humble scale and the global ambition of our youth. We need a country that does not just "survive" on imports, but one that provides for its own, ensuring that no elderly citizen is left without dignity and no child is forced to choose between the classroom and the field.

With the hope of a patriot,

A Concerned Citizen of São Tomé and Príncipe

Sovereign Performance Audit: São Tomé and Príncipe (June 2026)

Sector

Score

Summary

Political Stability

3.5

Generally stable democratic history, though current executive friction is notable.

Economic Development

2.0

Highly dependent on imports and agricultural exports; vulnerable to global price shocks.

Social Infrastructure

2.0

Limited access to advanced healthcare and specialized education.

Public Trust

2.5

Growing desire for concrete economic results from the Financial Centre project.

Final Verdict: 2.5 / The Atlantic Archipelago's Pivot.

The administration is attempting a bold pivot toward international services. However, the success of these reforms must be measured by their impact on the everyday person—the elderly retiree on a modest pension and the rural farmer—rather than just the allure of foreign investment.

This PDF contains the authoritative original text of the letter. It does not contain the author management code.