

Millennium Challenge Account Vanuatu  
Constitution Building  
Lini Highway  
PO Box 192  
Port Vila, Vanuatu  
Tel: (678) 26918 / 26415  
Fax: (678) 26419  
Email: mcavanuatu@vanuatu.gov.vu



Compte de Défi de Millénaire Vanuatu  
Bâtiment de Constitution  
Lini Route  
BP 192  
Port Vila, Vanuatu  
Tel: (678) 26918 / 26415  
Fax: (678) 26419  
Email: mcavanuatu@vanuatu.gov.vu

## **MCA-Vanuatu Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

Type of Meeting: Regular Steering Committee

9:00am 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Millennium Challenge Cooperation (MCC) Conference Room  
VNPF Building

### **Board Members:**

#### ***Present:***

Simeon Athy	Chairman	Director-General Prime Ministers Office
Gregoire Nimbtik	Member	Director of Strategic Management
George Maniuri	Member	Director General Ministry of Finance & Economic Management
Wilson Vuti	Member	Director General, Ministry of Public Utilities
Betty Toa	Member	Acting Director, Department of Finance
Allen Faerua	Member	Director of Public Works
Henry Vira	Member	Secretary General VANGO

#### ***MCA Vanuatu Program Management:***

Tony Sewen	Acting Director & Economist
Catherine Malosu	Environment & Social Impact Officer
Dolsie Amos Kalo	Administrative Personnel

#### ***MCC Representative:***

Chris Cookson	MCC Deputy Country Resident Director
Charles Sethness	MCC Country Resident Director

#### ***Absent:***

Henry Vira	Member	
John Aruhuri	Member	General Manager Chamber of Commerce
Michael Busai	Member	A/c Director, Economic Research Analysis Expenditure Unit
Simil Johnson	Member	Government Statistician

#### ***Apologies:***

Russel Nari	Member	Director General, Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources
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#### ***Quorum present? YES***

The meeting was quorate, Non government was present at the meeting.

***Person Acting as Chairman:*** Director General, Office of the Prime Minister

***Person Acting as Secretary:*** Acting Director, MCA Program Management

## **Proceedings:**

The meeting called to order at 9:30am by Director General of the Prime Minister's Office who is also the Chairman of the MCA Vanuatu Steering Committee

Opening Prayer by Director of Public Works Department

### **Welcome and Introduction by Chairman**

#### **A: Approval of Agenda**

- 1) International Program Director – Proposed by MCC**
- 2) Restructuring of Governance Agreement**
- 3) Amended Charter to be recommended to the COM**
- 4) Disbursement Request for Jan – March due 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008**
- 5) Staff Vacancy for Program Officer**

#### **1. Discussion of MCC Decision to Restructure MCA and Governance**

MCC had proposed to the SC meeting, the proposal to hire an International Consultant as the Program Director. Discussions continued as from the last SC meeting. MCC concerns mainly on the underlying causes of the slow process of recruiting a full time Program Director and full time Infrastructure Analyst (Engineer). The Steering Committee too busy and no quorums, late and slow decisions and approval. With the Disbursement Request due in December 10<sup>th</sup> there may not be funds disbursed as a 'fully functioning MCA' may be a condition precedent.

The Acting Director emphasises that with or without the International Consultant, the underlying causes of slow processes will still be the same. MCA Vanuatu is a project that works with a lot of Government Institutions that have procedures in place to get results. He went on to say the Steering Committee is the main decision maker for the Vanuatu Government and every decision will have to get the SC approval. He pointed out the lack of human resource within the management unit. Capacity building is required, if MCC proposed to hire an international consultant they will have to review their proposal as this will not make any difference.

There were many options given, the Steering Committee concluded with the following:

##### **(a) Recruit a local Program Director**

MCA Vanuatu panel to complete the evaluation of the re-advertised applications and provide report for the next SC meeting.

##### **(b) Recruit an International Consultant as the Engineer & Advisor**

MCC to provide a Terms of References (TOR) and forward to the Director PWD and the Director General, and forwarded to the State Law office before the next Steering Committee meeting

##### **(c) Governance Agreement changes to reflect these structure**

Changes made above will need to be reflected in the Charter and the Governance Agreement. The draft changes will be forwarded to the next SC meeting.

##### **(d) Delegation**

The SC to provide some lines of authority and approval to the Management unit. This will also be reflected on the Governance Agreement and the Charter. Changes on the Governance Agreement and the Charter will need to be forwarded to the State Law for legal advice. The Steering Committee agreed for the Director of Strategic Management to work with State Law Office to seek legal advice on these changes.

MCC will provide a response on this by next couple of hours if they will provide costing on this.

MCA Vanuatu Disbursement request is due on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December; options above will require all of the above issues to be sorted before submitted to MCC for no objection. MCA is preparing a presentation for next SC meeting.

This is an outstanding issue, the SC recommends the MCA management prepare Options forward the next Steering Committee meeting.

The MCA Vanuatu Steering Committee meeting officially closed 12.15pm by a prayer.

**Acknowledged by:**                     /S/                      
**Chair of the Steering Committee**