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Reducing Poverty through Improved Infrastructure

Community Consultations:

Minutes of EFATE Rural Community Awareness & Consultation

30th January 2007

Paunagisu Village, North Efate

16:06 pm

SHEFA Representatives:

North Efate Councilor:	Kalmaire Kalmar
North Efate Shefa Area Secretary:	Kaltuk
SHEFA Senior Planner:	Michel Kalworai
SHEFA Physical Planner:	Stanley John

MCA Vanuatu Program Management Team:

Director	Lennox Vuti
Infrastructure Analyst	Allen Faerua
Economic Analyst	Tony Sewen
Environmental & Social Impact Officer	Catherine Malosu
Administration	Dolsie Amos Kalo

MCC

Resident Country Director	Jeffry Stubbs
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Attendees: See annex 1

Proceedings:

Welcome from the Community

The meeting called to order by the Chair of Paunagisu Village Council at 9.15am, with an opening prayer by Mr. Morris Archie. Village Council Chair, Mr Archie officially welcomed the consultation team to the village, and appreciates the effort in consulting them on the project before commencement. He made mention many stories have been told about tar seal roads in North Efate, consultation team was present to clear on any confusions the community members may have.

SHEFA Province introduces MCA Vanuatu:

SHEFA Senior Planner Mr Michel Kalworai officially introduces Lennox Vuti, Director MCA Vanuatu program Management and the delegation;

The purpose of this visit was to make known to the Efate rural Communities the MCA Vanuatu Efate Ringroad project funded by the MCC. The Senior planner Michel also stresses the importance of the community cooperation towards the Efate Ringroad project. After his speech, the Senior Planner officially welcomed the Director of the MCA Vanuatu to give his speech.



MCA Vanuatu Program presentations:

Director of the MCA Vanuatu program Management made talks to the community member's reasons why this awareness and consultation has to be done:

- To clarify any confusion the community members have regarding MCA funds and projects. Especially having politicians going around giving second hand information. MCA team is at hand to give information communities needed to know.
- A requirement to do community awareness before a team of US Congressmen pay a visit to Vanuatu to do due diligence checks on MCA activities.

History of the MCA Vanuatu Infrastructure Projects

Director Lennox Vuti gave an overview of the history of the program, how Vanuatu Government achieved its funding through Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The initiation of the project proposal by the Department of Economic & Sectoral Planning, through Vanuatu Government Investment Program and the Council of Ministers and the CRP Summit the proposal was approved and then submitted to the Millennium Challenge Corporation

How Vanuatu was eligible to achieve MCC funding:

Director MCA program Management made mention the history of the MCC Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). How it was announced in New Mexico by President George Bush in 2001. President Bush then made an announcement that He would like to reduce poverty in the whole world. By 2003 the US congress enacted the MCC Law and the Millennium Challenge Corporation was being set up.

In the year 2004, 16 countries were announced as eligible to receive MCC funding. Vanuatu was among the list of 16 Countries. The only Country in the Pacific region to be qualified to receive MCC funding. Vanuatu was qualified according to 16 set of criteria, based on three policies:

1) Ruling justly, 2) Encouraging Economic freedom and 3) Investing in People. The US government then justified Vanuatu based on these policies.

Millennium Challenge Account Vanuatu Office

In 2005 Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Vanuatu was set up under the Ministry of Finance & Economic Management. The Director was recruited in to manage the office and revisited the Vanuatu government proposal to MCC. The Director recruited Allen Faerua from the Public Works Department as the MCA Infrastructure Analyst, Tony Sewen as the MCA Economist Analyst from DESP, Dolsie Amos Kalo as the Administrative Support Officer, and Catherine Malosu as the Environment and Social Impact Officer.

Vanuatu Compact

In February 2006, the Vanuatu parliament ratified the Compact, gazetted by the State law office. The compact covers all the agreement signed between the Vanuatu Government and US Government. In March 2006 Vanuatu Prime Minister signed the Vanuatu Compact on behalf of the government of Vanuatu.

Project Implementation Plan

Director of the PMU explained the procurement process of the project. The three (3) contractor companies have been short listed and soon to be issued RFPs. The construction works will be started around August 2007.

Visit of the US Congress Men

Director of the MCA Vanuatu also made mention the importance of this community consultation, the US government Officials visiting the country will want to verify datas we (Vanuatu govt) supplied the MCC for this project, one of the key areas to this project is to make known to the communities is the economic impact this project will do, especially communities surrounding the Efate Ring road will be impacted through Tourism developments. Village Mama's will be sitting more comfortably in their market trips to town as there will be no more potholes, the need for people of be aware of Vanuatu government developments in the country.

MCA Vanuatu Projects

Director listed all projects in the Vanuatu islands, their specifications as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1) Efate Ring Road | 2) Santo East Coast Road |
| 3) Santo South Coast Road & Bridges | 4) Malekula Norsup Lakatoro Litlitz Road |
| 5) Malekula SWB Airstrip | 6) Pentecost – Loltong Wharf |
| 7) Tanna White sands road | 8) Epi Lamén Bay Wharf |
| 9) Ambae Road Creek Crossings | 10) Malo Road upgrading |
| 11) Wares (5) | |

The director also listed 36 pieces of equipments that will be procured for the Department of Public works for the maintenance of the roads.

Efate Ring road Project

Features of the Efate ring road was presented by MCA Vanuatu Infrastructure Analyst Allen Faerua. Efate Ring road is one of the largest in the budget MCA Vanuatu projects. The budget covers \$ 20.3 Million US. The communities were curious to know where it or which part of the Island the project will start. Allen responded by saying the project will be divided into four sections, works to start from areas towards each others directions covering the Ring road.

Economic Benefits of the Efate Ring road project

The Director MCA Program Management also mentioned the Economic impact of the project especially the Efate Ring Road.

One of the direct benefits would be the Tourism developments that will be developed by investors around Efate, resorts and restaurants will be erected around the Ring road. Mama's travelling to market may be sitting comfortably in their market trucks to the market to sell their produce. Also communities may provide services for Tourism activities around the island.

Response from Community

The Director of the program management gave some time for any queries or concerns raised by the members of the community.

Questions and concerns raised by Community members

1) Will there be footpath provided along their road; their concern is the main road runs through the village and a lot of pedestrians crossing the roads.

MCA Infrastructure Analyst responded to the concern raised. There will be road designers in the project to fit in all aspects of the roads; road reserves, speed pumps, road signs. Road reserves will be available for other developments like telephone, electricity etc. The designers and specialists will be meeting with the communities to plan designs suited to community specifications. The analyst also mentioned there will be 100 metres turn out into the village.

2) One member of the community would like to know what is it in Vanuatu that was of interest to US or MCC?

Director Lennox responded saying the eligibility of Vanuatu, and mentioned the three main areas in the 16 set of criteria.

3) Safety Measures on Roads eg. Road signs & Speed pumps.

Director Lennox stressed the importance of respect on the road signs and properties build along the road sides. Vandalism can happen due by disrespectful community members. Road signs, speed pumps, pedestrian crossings will be build suited to the community needs, therefore the Directors urged for respect on all these developments as they are here for the safety of everyone and generations to come.

4) Accommodation for contractors?

Director Program Management made known to the community that there is possibility of Paunagisu being a host for contractors or even providing assistance in accommodation.

5) A member of the community asked the team to clarify if there will be another road build besides existing road to connect North Efate and Port Vila.

Infrastructure Analyst responded to the community member; there will be no new roads build and the project covers only the existing road, there will be no diversions whatsoever.

6) What is the Width of the road? Will the communities be compensated for properties damage or shifted.

Response given by Infrastructure Analyst was 15 Metres width of road reserve. The possibility of trees felling, properties or fences shifted will or may not be compensated.

This has been agreed by the Vanuatu Government and the US Government through the Compact. Director Program Management also mentioned the funding was a grant not a loan as other projects and Vanuatu was fortunate to receive such grant and compensation was not encouraged by the Vanuatu government.

7) A community member asked about their Water system and pipes running through the village. Will they be removed?

The program Management responded by suggesting the water committee should discuss this with the designers when they come around. The community should put together their preference and specifications of the water pipes and advise the designers when they come around to do the design of the roads.

7) Who will do the Maintenance of Road and Machineries or equipment.

Infrastructure Analyst responded by saying the Machinery and equipments will purchased from suppliers who are available in the pacific. The access to these suppliers for spare parts will be easier. Trainings of the technicians and mechanics will be done by PWD. PWD will keep the roads maintained. Road Authority will be enacted by Vanuatu Parliament to ensure maintenance of road is an act of Vanuatu laws.

Lastly Chairman Archie emphases on the community concern which is the speed pumps as their main worries. The road runs straight through the village, schools nearby and children and elderly people commute everyday to gardens and schools. Signs and speed pumps will be a great help and impact to the community. He also thanked every listener, participants, and MCA program Management for answering their queries and clarifying rumours among the members. Chairman was enthusiastic about works starting in July 2007. That is dream come true for the communities around Efate.

Closing remarks from SHEFA Province

SHEFA Senior Planner Mr. Mishel Kalworai thanked the community for participation and time to listen to this awareness. Thanked the chiefs for cooperation among the MCA programs and the communities surround Efate. He continued to emphase on the people of Efate to continue to uphold the cooperation and positive hospitality attitudes “ Sautonga”. This shows their hearts and respect for one another. Michel also asked for cooperation towards the Efate Ringroad Project for the betterment of the next generation.

Chairman of the Village Council of Chiefs, Mr Morris Archie official closes the meeting with a thankful prayer.

Meeting closes at 18.07pm

Annex 1

List of Community members attending consultation meeting

PAUNAGISU VILLAGE, NORTH EFATE

16th February 2007

3pm

NAME	POSITION HELD IN THE COMMUNITY	NAME OF AREA
Kalsa T	Presbyterian Church member	Paunagisu
Ps Edward Kaloris	Pastor	Paunagisu
Roger Naviti	Elder Session Clerk	Paungisu
Harry Archie	Christ Church	Paunagisu
Fred Kaum	Church Elder	Paunagisu
James Ralee	Fisherman	Paunagisu
Erley Stuart	Youth	Paunagisu
John Else	Gardener	PG
Charly Morricen	Gardener	Paunagisu
Suaho Kaloris	Gardener	
Linette Esly	Gardener	Paunagisu
Nellie Esly		Paunagisu
Lydia Tauyui		Paunagisu
Samukalo		Paunagisu
Robert S		Paunagisu
Kalo Norman		Paunagisu
Joseph S		Paunagisu
Marie M		Paunagisu
Elsie Desnie		Paunagisu
Jack Kalontano		Paunagisu
Johnson Desney		Paunagisu
Leisaurei Jack		Paunagisu
Winnie Desnie		Paunagisu
Leituk Bethel	Secretary of PWMU (Presbyterian Women)	Paunagisu
Leikarie Kalse		Paunagisu
Shirley Morrison		Paunagisu
Mary Kalontano	Tresurer PWMU (Presbyterian Women)	Paunagisu
Martha Marcel		Paunagisu
Maria Kalsei		Paunagisu
Marceline Kalsei		Paunagisu
Elizabeth Tom		Paunagisu
Alison John		Paunagisu
Vaeolette Kalmar	Youth	Paunagisu