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MCA-Vanuatu Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Type of Meeting: Regular Steering Committee

9:00am 4th December 2008

Millennium Challenge Cooperation (MCC) Conference Room
VNPf Building

Board Members:

Present:

Simeon Athy	Chairman	Director-General Prime Ministers Office
Gregoire Nimbtkik	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 10th 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 10th there may not be funds disbursed as a 'fully functioning MCA' may be a condition precedent.

The Acting Director emphasizes 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.

