

MCA-Vanuatu Steering Committee Meeting No.05051909 Minutes

Type of Meeting: Special Steering Committee Meeting

2pm 19th May 2009

MCA Vanuatu Conference Room

Board Members:

Present:

DG, Finance, George Maniuri
A/Director, Finance, August Letlet (Alternate for Director Finance)
Director, DSM, Gregoire Nimbtik
Acting Director, Planning & Budget, Michael Busai (Alternate for DG MFEM)

MCC Representative

Chris Cookson, MCC Deputy Country Resident Director

MCA Vanuatu Program Management:

Johnson Wabaiat, Director MCA
Catherine Malosu, Environment & Social Impact Officer
Tony Sewen, Economic Officer

Apologies:

Simeon Athy, Chairman
Wilson Tari Vuti, DG, MIPU

PROCEEDINGS:

The meeting was called to order at 2.00pm by the Director of Strategic Policy and Planning, and Acting Chairman (on behalf of DG Office of the Prime Minister).

Welcome and Introduction by Chairman

The Acting SC Chairman welcomed members and all for attending the meeting called to consider important agenda items..

Approval of Agenda

- 1. MCA-NZAID Multi-Year Contribution Agreement**
- 2. Access Ways and Turnouts – Efate Ring Road**
- 3. Undine Bay Marine Study Update**
- 4. Any Other Business**
- 5. Date for next SC Meeting**

Recommendations:

The Steering Committee (SC) approved the agenda items for discussion

1. MCA-NZAID Multi-Year Contribution Agreement

A MCA-NZAID Multi Year Contribution Agreement was presented to SC for consideration following the exchanges of notes between the Government of Vanuatu, MCC and New Zealand Government through the NZAID Bilateral Development Assistance Program. The purpose of the Agreement was to facilitate additional financial resources to be injected into the program to enable the two Road Infrastructure Development Projects namely the Efate Ring Road and the Santo East Coast Project to be completed following the wish of the Government and the people of Vanuatu.

The original design and cost of the projects indicated a shortfall to an equivalent amount of USD 8million which is also equivalent to NZD 14 million or VUV 900 million for both projects to be sealed and completed. The New Zealand contribution was acknowledged by MCC and Vanuatu Government as extra budgetary assistance to the program over three financial periods commencing in FY 2008/2009 and to be completed by FY 2010/2011.

The agreement also provides for the terms and conditions for funds accountability and reporting and the draw down payments to be administered and managed by MCA-V. The Vanuatu Government's responsibility will be to facilitate the establishment of an account in the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu to enable NZAID funds to be transferred with immediate effect.

Recommendations:

The Steering Committee considered and approved that:

- The NZAID Multi Year Contribution Agreement be the guiding document for better administration and management by MCA-V for the additional funds required to be utilised jointly with the Compact funds for successful completion of the two road projects.
- MCA-V and the Fiscal Agent to liaise with the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu for the establishment of an account as MCA-NZAID for immediate transfer of funds for FY 2008/2009.
- MCA-V to prepare a Council of Ministers paper for the Council's consideration and endorsement and for the Agreement to be signed by NZAID and Governments of Vanuatu.

2. Access Ways and Turnouts – Efate Ring Road

The SC was informed of the progress on the road construction works and as the road is upgraded that there is a need for a policy on Turnouts, Access Ways and Driveways on the Efate Ring Road Project. The purpose for policy paper to be presented to SC is to obtain SC consideration and endorsement to allow for immediate application and enforcement by MCA-V. The policy decision on Turnouts, Access Ways and Driveways was considered essential to enable construction works to proceed as planned and to avoid harm to any user's access and ensure fairness and consistency in treatment for all affected persons.

Recommendations:

The SC considered the policy paper and approved that:

- MCA-V forward the policy guidelines on Turnouts, Access Ways and Driveways to MCC and to seek No Objection.
- MCA-V administer the policy once approved and liaise with the Engineer and Contractors for better management of Turnouts, Access Ways and Driveways based on the Policy guidelines.

3. Undine Bay Marine Study Update

The SC was presented with the update of the Undine Bay Marine Study which had taken some time to be completed due to circumstances where officers responsible to conduct the marine study were on other missions or committed to other activities. The history of this issue based around a requested road re-alignment was summarized. The final Marine Study was presented to the SC for consideration and deliberation as it covered a wide range of issues concerning the development and potential marine life systems that could be affected. The marine study also provides an assessment of the current development and the impacts assessment on the livelihood of the communities.

Discussions:

SC members deliberated on the report and acknowledged that the marine study presented was comprehensive and had met the requirements to addresses the Condition Precedent earlier stated under the Compact guidelines. The SC further noted that although the marine study was successfully done with collaboration from key Government agencies like the Environment Unit, Fisheries Department and the Forestry Department, MCA-V will need to maintain close monitoring of the development in liaison with these departments.

Recommendations:

The SC considered and approved that:

- The marine study report and directed the MCA-V Unit to continue monitoring the development around Undine Bay
- MCA-V to submit the report to MCC to seek No Objection for the realignment to proceed.

The Chairman Officially closed the meeting at 5:45pm with a closing prayer.

Certified by:

Secretary, MCA-Vanuatu

Acknowledged by:

Chair of the Steering Committee