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Reducing Poverty through Improved Infrastructure

MCA-Vanuatu Steering Committee Meeting No. 06

Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting

2:00pm Monday 8th June 2009

MCA Vanuatu Conference Room

Board Members:

Present: Chairman, Director General, PMO, Simeon Athy
Director General, MFEM, George Maniuri
Acting Director, DESP, Michael Busai
Director of DSPPAC, Gregoire Nimbtik
Alternate Director of Finance, August Letlet

MCC Representative

Chuck Sethness, Resident Country Director
Chris Cookson, Deputy Resident Country Director

MCA Vanuatu Program Management

Johnson Wabaiat, Program Director
Hans Euscher, Project Management Engineer/Advisor
Tony Sewen, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Catherine Malosu, Environment Social Assessment Officer

Quorum present? Yes

PROCEEDINGS

The Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by the Chairman of MCA-Vanuatu Steering Committee.

Welcome by Chairman

SC Chairman welcomed all members and representatives present at the meeting and outlined the Agenda Items for discussions as detailed below.

Agenda Item:

1. SC Minute of 10 March 2009
2. QDR for 14th Disbursement Period – Jul to Sep 2009
3. Condition Precedent
4. MCA-Vanuatu Work Plan: July –December 2009
5. Procurement Performance Report
6. Revised M&E Plan: June 2009
7. AOB
8. Date for next SC Meeting

The Agenda was adopted.

1. SC Minute of 10th March 2009 – Matters Arising

No matters arising from the minutes. Minutes approved.

- 2. QDR for 14th Disbursement Period – Jul to Sep 2009**
- 3. Condition Precedent**
- 4. MCA-Vanuatu Work Plan: July – December 2009**
- 5. Procurement Performance Report**

SC considered the QDR package (covered agenda 2, 3,4 & 5) for the period July to September 2009.

- a. The draft DRP package was circulated for discussion.
- b. A proposed allocation to pay State Law Office up to USD3,500 per month to provide legal advice to MCA-V was discussed. It was noted that an Implementing Agency Agreement (IEA) would need to be in place and approved before any funds could be disbursed. The Steering Committee (SC) noted that there may be prohibitions on SLO being paid to provide services to a Government agency, and there may be problems in receiving fast responses as other priorities for SLO services exist. The SC reviewed the arrangements which had been trialed with local law firms and found that there had been difficulties in gaining quick service or value for money. There were some outstanding bills to be settled and an

existing contract with one firm. It was noted that legal firms was a small sector in Vanuatu. The SC agreed that the Program Director and the SC Chairman be delegated to hold discussions with the SLO, find the best solution, and initiate contract closure or IEA as required.

- c. The re-allocation of \$548,000 from PWD towards road-works contingency was discussed. It was noted that a meeting with MIPU and PWD was scheduled for the next day to ensure details were agreed. SC members were invited to attend. Monitoring & Evaluation Officer explained that funds were being protected for the defects liability period and compact closure issues. Project Management Advisor stated that they had over-estimated the room to move in the road-works budget and that any funds which could be re-allocated would be needed as a road-works contingency. Program Director said that MCA-V was at the point of no return if PWD did not increase its efforts to meet compact obligations. The SC noted that all needed to be mindful of the messages about PWD's performance and support efforts to improve performance.
- d. The SC noted the proposed changes to the Financial Accountability Plan.
- e. The SC discussed the Conditions Precedent Report and requested minor amendments be made in liaison with MCC-Vanuatu.
- f. The Program Director presented MCA-V's work plans for July to December 2009.
- g. The SC approved the DRP as amended.

6. Revised M&E Plan: June 2009

M&E Officer spoke to the major changes, aimed at addressing the re-scoping from 11 to 2 projects, filling in some gaps, and providing for a more realistic schedule. Attention was drawn to the difficulties of rating PWD, which reinforced the earlier discussion about PWD performance under the compact. The revised M&E Plan also provides for a final compact evaluation, and he advised that terms of reference for a consultant to assist with this would be drafted early in 2010, with a draft report available by December 2010. The evaluation would involve consultations with beneficiaries and stakeholders, and informal surveys to gather qualitative information. MCA-V would also need to find ways to strengthen reporting against indicators such as wages and the poverty rates index. The SC noted the revisions.

7. Any Other Business

- a. Undine Bay: progress was noted.

- b. SC Chairman requested the Program Director to prepare a briefing package on the compact and general progress to be used in the event of a new Government, new Ministers.
- c. It was noted that a signing ceremony for the New Zealand government contribution to MCA-V will be held next Tuesday.
- d. The Fiscal Agent suggested a move of accounts from the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu to the ANZ to speed up processes. The SC referred this to the Program Director and FA to action and advise.

Meeting close 5:00pm

Certified by:

Secretary, MCA-Vanuatu

Acknowledged by:

Chair of the Steering Committee