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Reducing Poverty through Improved Infrastructure

MCA-Vanuatu Steering Committee Meeting No. 09

Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting

12.00pm Thursday 9th December 2010

Harbour View VIP Room, Port Vila

Board Members:

Present: Chairman and Director General, PMO, Simeon Malachi Athy
DG MFEM, George Maniuri
DG MIPU, Jotham Napat
Director PWD, Willie Watson
Alternate Director Finance, Letlet August
Alternate Director DSPPAC, Jessie Dick Joe

MCC Representative

Chris Cookson, MCC Country Resident Manager

NZ Aid Representative

John Claasen, New Zealand Aid Program Manager

MCA-Vanuatu

Program Management
Johnson Wabaiat, Director MCA
Hans Euscher, Program Manager/Advisor
Serah Toara, Financial Management Officer
Catherine Malosu, ESA Officer 1
Juliette Hakwa, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

Observers

Apology: Stakeholder Representative, VTO
Stakeholder Representative, Chamber of Commerce

Absent: DG, Lands

Quorum present? Yes

PROCEEDINGS

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm by the Chairman of the Steering Committee.

Welcome by the Chairman

Welcome remarks made by the Chairman and a brief introduction made by the Chairman of the Steering Committee. Chairman thanked everyone who could make it to the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Agenda was then presented to the SC members and it was generally accepted.

Moved by DG MIPU and seconded by DG MFEM

Agenda Item no.1 - Minutes of Last Meeting

The following corrections are being made by the SC Members.

Pg. 1 – Attendance :Apology - George Maniuri, DG Maniuri. Remove from Absentee list.

Pg. 3 – First para – Quarry Royalty – Missing words ‘would need’

Add comma after Malarua

Pg.4 – Second sentence – rephrased ‘that failure to pay the custom owners could cause reputational damage’.

Pg.5 – Para.3 – Sentence should read as ‘it is a process that SLO advised that all land disputes should be cleared by the Land Tribunal before a deed of release is made’

Hans’ – remove the apostrophe on the name

Director Finance Alternate – maintain consistency on agenda no.3

Pg.6 – Extension of ESA Officer contract – should be 28th April 2011 instead of 26th April 2011.

Fiscal Agent Contract – also change date shown as April 26th 2011

Pg.7 – Director Finance – Should read Alternate Director Finance

Moved DGMFEM seconded by Director PWD. Minutes no. 8 of 2010 approved as amended.

Matters Arising

Malarua Dust

Director PWD confirmed that Dennis from PWD is in a meeting today 9th of December 2010 at Sama Village with the concerned owner of the land where the stockpile is proposed to be relocated.

MCC was concerned that MCA-V was not at the consultation meeting to discuss the recommendation of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA).

PWD Director clarified that the meeting is between the Owner only and not the community. An update will be given to MCA-V after this meeting.

Poles Removal

Director PWD commented that with the recent changes in Government, it has slowed down the process of getting the task moved further.

PD MCA-V confirmed that a letter has been drafted by the SLO and would only need the PWD to get it through the Minister concerned to sign it.

Quarry Royalty Payments

Chairman requested a quick update on the Quarry Royalty Payment.

PD responded that the Lands Tribunal Office has been consulted and a response should be received today 9th of December 2010.

PD further commented that funds have been paid into the Government Trust Account and any undisputed Quarry Owners should receive their payments soon.

The chairman asked whether the provinces have been paid. PD confirmed that there is no dispute to these payments and should be paid immediately. FMO confirmed that the first payment has been made and the second payment would need a confirmation from the Commissioner of Mines (COM) before the payment is released. To date MCA-V is still waiting for a confirmation from COM.

DG MIPU proposed that at 3pm today, DG MIPU, DG PMO and DG MFEM meet Director of Lands who is at the same time the COM to discuss the outstanding Royalty issues, and to get some action going since there has been some hold up in the process.

SC members generally agreed to the proposal.

Agenda item. No.2 - MCC Disbursement Request Response Letter – Update on issues highlighted and actions taken

PD commented that the issues highlighted in the agenda item are already present in ‘Matters Arising’ above. SC Members agreed to the comment and moved to the next agenda item.

Agenda item no.3 - Presentation of Next QDRP

a. Disbursement Request

FMO provided a brief overview of the Disbursement Request and confirmed that this is the last request and covers the period January to August 2011. The MCA-V aims to spend all the monies in the compact and have conducted meetings with all its partners and continued regular communication with MCC to ensure that the monies are wisely allocated. . During these discussions, monies were reallocated to the most needed areas.

b. Quarterly Financial Report and details

FMO presented the QFR schedule A, B, C, D & F for further clarity to the SC members.

c. Detailed Financial Plan – Cash & Commitments

FMO again commented that the DFP is the detail of what is being discussed in the summary in item b and highlighted the areas that increased. The areas of D&B and Fiscal and Procurement Agent lines were highlighted and a brief summary was given to the SC members on why the increases. FMO made reference to the Narrative in item ‘F’ on further details of the increases.

Project Management Advisor/Engineer also presented a brief overview to the SC members especially with the D&B having the highest increase. The Chairman and members well appreciated the fact that the increase is addressing road safety measures.

d. Procurement Performance Report (PPR)

PD presented the PPR to the SC members and this was generally accepted.

e. Indicator Tracking Table (ITT)

M&E Officer presented the ITT to the SC Members and advised that further changes will be made in the next day. M&E Officer indicated that her MCC counterpart is currently on the ground so some details may change. The ITT requires in-principle approval by the Steering Committee.

The ITT is not a very user friendly tool for the SC Members to understand quickly the changes or measurements in the Program, so the M&E Officer presented another draft paper called the 'Progress Towards Outcome' summary statement to allow them to have a better understanding of where the Program impacts are at.

SC members generally accepted the proposal to give in-principle approval to the ITT.

f. Narrative Report

FMO provided a brief overview of the Narrative and explained further to SC members that the Narrative provides more detailed information on the figures discussed in the Financial Plans.

QDRP Package moved by DG MIPU and seconded by DG MFEM. QDRP received in-principle approval acknowledging that changes are likely to be made to the ITT.

Agenda item no.4 - 2010 Performance Bonus

PD gave a brief overview of the Staff Appraisals. MCA-V staff then left the room and the SC members and invited observers discussed and agreed the individual assessments.

The signed documents are on confidential record and payments are authorised to be made by the Fiscal Agent once MCC's no objection has been received.

Agenda item no.5 – Amended NSO Implementing Entity Agreement (IEA)& Poverty Line Report and HIES

PD made an introduction and the M&E officer presented the proposed changes to the IEA. The amendments are based on the logistical arrangements and financial implications.

MCC sought clarification that the changes do not require additional funds or amendments to agreements. M&E Officer confirmed that this is not an increase in the budget as the SC has approved the M&E plan that includes the increase endorsed in conjunction with the M&E Plan back in July 2010. This is only a revised agreement with no further monetary implications.

M&E Officer further presented the HIES report and received a general acceptance by the SC members.

DG MIPU moved, Seconded by Director PWD. Amended NSO IEA approved.

Agenda no.6 – AOB

OIG report

Chairman made it known to members that the OIG report is now a public document which could be accessed on the web site, however, the Chairman expressed concerns that the report was very negative or biased in that it does not represent a fair or accurate view. Since this report is now a public document, SC decided that the Chairman will prepare a response to reflect on the expressed concerns.

Agenda item no.7 – Next SC Meeting

Next meeting to convene in January 2011 at MCA-V conference room.

Meeting closed at 15:30pm.

Certified by: _____ /S/ _____
Secretary, MCA-Vanuatu

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