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## Reducing Poverty through Improved Infrastructure

### MCA-Vanuatu Steering Committee Meeting No. 01 of 2011

Type of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting  
3.00pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
MCA-V Conference Room

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#### Board Members:

Present: Chairman and Director General, PMO, Simeon Malachi Athy  
Director of DSPPAC, Gregoire Nimbtk  
Alternate Director General, MIPU, Johnson Binaru Iauma  
Director PWD, Willie Watson

#### MCC Representative

Chris Cookson, MCC Resident Country 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

#### Apology:

Absent: Director General, MFEM, George Maniuri  
Director Dept of Finance, Benjamin Shing  
DG, Lands, Russel Nari

## **Welcome by chairman**

Introduction made by the Chairman of the Steering Committee. Chairman thanked everyone who could make it to the meeting. A minute silence was given in respect of the Late Wilson Tari Vuti who has been a member of the Steering Committee in 2010 during his appointment as Director General, MIPU.

## **Adoption of Agenda**

Agenda was then presented to the SC members and it was generally accepted. One additional item on the Bridge Inspection preliminary Report. Chairman agreed and commented that if there enough time it will be tabled.

### **1. Minutes of previous meetings**

Minutes was reviewed by members

Pg.4 – a – Last line need to replace ‘where’ with ‘were’

Minutes moved by Director PWD and seconded by Director PMO. Minutes no.9 of 2010 approved.

### **2. Matter arising from Minutes**

#### **Quarry Royalty Payments**

PD gave chairman and members an update on the progress made on the various meetings that have taken place after the November 2010 meeting in Santo.

#### **Malarua Dust**

After the preliminary assessment was done and custom land owners have been consulted. Relocation activities should commence as soon as possible at PWD’s cost. Downer has offered to move the Dust at \$7.00 per cubic. PWD has not yet finalized the offer with Downer to relocate the Dust.

Director PWD responded that PWD is currently working on finalizing the offer made by Downer.

Director MCA-V stressed that the stockpiles needs to be removed before the official handing-over in April 2011.

MCC RCM added that there are health risks on the people living around the area and it is urgent that the stockpile be moved.

### **3. Disbursement Request Response from MCC**

Director MCA presented the Disbursement Request Response Letter. Program Director stressed the importance of the issues highlighted in the letter and the deadlines assigned to them.

#### **Quarry Royalty Trust Account**

PD explained that the Quarry Royalty Payments has to be cleared from the Trust Account before the Compact Closure Date.

The tone of the letter is hard but PD commented that it is important that we action the issues so that MCC does not penalise MCA in holding back any funds.

#### **Minutes**

Minutes will need to be signed off by the Chairman. PD advised the Chairman that the copies of the Minutes will be submitted for signing off in the next few days. This is the minutes that have been approved by the Steering Committee previously.

#### **Power Poles Removal**

Again the PD stressed the importance of the legislations that needed to be adhered to. The difficulties that is currently being faced to address the issue is the different entities involved in the removal of the power poles as they work in different frameworks.

### **4. Progress Report**

PMA presented the Progress Report and highlighted the main issues that needed to be taken note of. These issues in highlighted in Robin Workman's report on the Bridges on the Santo East Coast Road and Efate Ring Road.

Variation Order 30 – Signage for the Santo East Coast Road

Variation Order 31 – Reduction of Cost of Concrete Pavement

To the end of December 2010 – a savings of \$ 3,648,556.70 has been identified through foreign exchange gains.

1<sup>st</sup> Retention of funds for the contractor has already been released to Contractor after they have paid off their advance. 2<sup>nd</sup> Retention will be released after the Defects Notification Period.

PMA continued to brief the SC members on TA RAMM report and especially the inspections carried out on two bridges that needed serious considerations by the Government since it is not part of the Compact.

#### **Recommendations**

