

# Governance for Local Economic Development Programme

## Programme Board Meeting Minutes

**Date** : Thursday 30 July 2015

**Venue** : Minister's Meeting Room, Ministry of Public Administration, Local Government and Democratic Governance

**Time** : 9.00am-10.00am

### Co-Chairs

Mr. J.D. Dadallage, Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration  
Ms. Lovita Ramguttee, Country Director, a.i.

### Participants:

#### **Other Government Department**

Ms. R. J. Abdeen, Assistant Director, Department of External Resources  
Mr. Prageeth Gunasekara, Assistant Director, Department of External Resources  
Mr.T. Liyanapathirana, Deputy Project Director-GLED/ Chief Accountant – Home Affairs

#### **Development Partners**

Ms. Vidya Perera, Senior Advisor, Royal Norwegian Embassy

#### **United Nations Development Programme**

Mr. Rajendrakumar Ganesarajah, Assistant Country Director  
Mr. U. Mohamad Muzain, Project Manager GLED  
Ms. Tashya de Silva, Programme Management Analyst  
Ms. Amanthi Wickramasinghe, Programme Analyst  
Ms. Thurangani Dahanayaka, Programme Associate  
Mr. Asitha Kodithuwakku, Livelihood Specialist  
Ms. Nirasha Jayetileke, Communications and Reporting Specialist  
Mr. Buddhika Udayajith, Project Support Officer  
Ms. Anishka De Zylwa, Project Assistant.

### Opening Remarks

**Mr. Dadallage** extended a warm welcome to the members of the Board for the second board meeting for the year for the GLED Programme. The GLED Programme he described has two components; one which is nationally implemented (NIM) by the Ministry of Public Administration and the other directly implemented (DIM) by UNDP. He noted that there have been a number of challenges experienced by the Programme this year in implementation, following the changes in context following the Presidential Elections in January 2015, and ensuing institutional changes.

**Ms. Ramguttee**, thanked the Secretary for hosting the meeting and expressed her appreciation to the development partners and other Government officials for their presence at the meeting. She noted that GLED has a number of long standing donors, in addition to the Government of Norway which is represented at the meeting, such as the European Union and the Government of Canada, and expressed appreciation for the support extended. She noted that 2015 has proven to be an interesting year for Sri Lanka following the Presidential Election in January 2015, and with the upcoming General Election in August 2015. She expressed hope that the General Election will not significantly impact the pace of project implementation, following the challenges GLED experienced at the start of the year, as a result of the changes in institutions and officials. She also requested for the support of the Ministry of Public Administration to address in a timely manner challenges that GLED may face in the coming months especially, the continued delay of implementation of activities under the Letter of Agreement signed with the Sri Lanka Institute for Development Administration (SLIDA). She emphasized that implementation of activities in a timely and quality manner is of critical importance to UNDP. She also informed the Board that UNDP hosted a technical advisory mission in May 2015 with a view to identifying new areas of

support for local economic development. This mission conducted extensive consultations with the Ministry, development partners and other related stakeholders, and UNDP hopes to share the report with the Board once finalized.

#### **Presentation of the Agro-Economic Development Project (ADP) implemented under the GLED DIM**

Please refer Annex A for the detailed Presentation made by Mr. Asitha Koddithuwakkuge, Livelihood Specialist (GLED)

##### **Discussion:**

**Ms. Perera**, requested clarification with regards to the Local Economic Development Center in Kilinochchi that is proposed to be supported under ADP, as a LED Center is also being supported under the Northern Livelihood Development Project. She inquired whether reference was made to one Center or two different Centers.

It was clarified that the different Phases of NLDP and the ADP are supporting one LED Center in Kilinochchi, and between the two Projects a phased approach to completing the LED Center is being undertaken, with Phase I being supported under NLDP III and Phase II under ADP.

**Mr. Dadallage**, explained that there is a necessity to take in to account the Sri Lankan context and start thinking outside the box. He noted that in the event of private sector engagement, the bargaining power of the communities need to be strengthened so that they are not exploited. He further stated that good governance practices should be maintained in these organizations while at the same time ensure mutual bargaining capacities. He noted his observations from visits to Thailand and Japan, where a strategy has been developed to identify how policy frameworks are developed to strengthen mutual dependency between the actors involved in local economic development. He also noted that the importance of product quality and marketing must be emphasized and impressed upon the producers, so that they fully understand the responsibility that is upon them. He emphasized the importance of ensuring the community is not dependent upon projects and external support, but are able to become self-sufficient.

**Mr. Ganesarajah**, noted with appreciation the feedback provided by Mr. Dadallage and explained that UNDP understood this context fully and accordingly works with like-minded producer groups or individuals who are in close proximity to each other so as to maximize the resources and marketing capacities. He further stated that these groups were trained to develop comprehensive business development plans coupled with value added products, branding and packaging so as to ensure the sustainability of their business initiatives.

**Mr. Muzain**, explained further that the Project facilitates by-back agreements between the private sector and the community to be put in place so that an assured market for their produce is created.

**Ms. Ramguttee**, explained that ownership is critical for sustainability of interventions. Therefore UNDP aims to ensure that to the extent possible the beneficiaries also make a contribution, financially or in kind to strengthen the sense of ownership.

#### **GLED –NIM Presentation on Financial Progress and Challenges to Implementation**

*Please refer Annex A for the detailed Presentation.*

**Mr. J. Dadallage** noted that budget allocation is currently limited for 2015, however the result of the activities introduced is being carried forward through the public administration system. The Project placed emphasis upon capacity development of the Development Officers under the purview of the Ministry of Public Administration, so that required systems at the District and Divisional level could be put in place. He also noted that following the General Elections, the Ministry proposed to take forward the case management system and target oriented planning, in support of rural development, working together with the Ministry of Policy Implementation, while placing emphasis upon capacity development. He noted that the financial resources allocated to the Project will be fully utilized by the end of the year.

He noted that the bottom up approach to Divisional and District level planning is of importance, and the time is conducive to introduce UNDP's work with regards to this approach at the national level as well.

With regards to the commitments entered in to under the LOA with SLIDA under the GLED-DIM component, he explained that he would take responsibility to ensure the deliverables are met upon completion of the August 2015 elections.

**GLED-DIM Presentation on Financial Progress and Challenges to Implementation**

*Please refer Annex B for the detailed Presentation*

**Mr. Mohammed Muzain, Programme Manager-GLED DIM** presented the financial progress as at 30 June 2015. He also explained that GLED-DIM was utilizing systems and deliverables (for example the E-citizen database and the case management system) under the GLED-NIM for piloting and roll out under the Governance component of the GLED-DIM, thereby ensuring linkages between the two GLED projects.

***Discussion***

- **Mr. Dadallage** requested that following the elections if GLED DIM could take forward the roll out in its target districts the different planning tools and software developed, it would help support the process of systematization and maximize the results. With UNDP's support he proposed introducing the different systems at the policy level as well.

**General Discussion**

The meeting ended with a word of thanks from Mr. Ganesarajah to all the officials who attended the meeting.

Approved:



Mr. J. Dadallage  
Secretary  
Ministry of Public Administration, Local  
Government and Democratic Governance

**J. Dadallage**  
Project Director:  
GLED  
Ministry of Public Administration



Ms. Lovita Ramguttee  
Country Director, a.i.  
UNDP



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