

Minutes for the Fourteenth Private Sector Development Project - Monthly Project Management Meeting -

UNDP Offices (26th November 2015)

1.0. Participants Present:

C. Phangaphanga (MoIT, Dept. of Industry, Chair)
S. Sindi (MoIT, Dept. of Industry)
A. Chimbiri, UNDP (RICE)
P. Kawonga, UNDP (RSG)
M. Mehrländer, UNDP (PSD / SQAM)
Titus Kavalo, UNDP (PSD / SQAM)

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Apologies: C. Lonje-Musonzo, (MoIT, Dept. of Trade); C. Tecce (UNDP)

2.0. Introduction

This was a routine project management meeting for the PSD project and was held on 26th November 2015 at UNDP Offices in Lilongwe. The meeting was held to discuss issues relating to implementation of the PSD project in line with the 2015 AWP.

After welcoming words from C. Phangaphanga, Deputy Director of Industry in the MoIT, the agenda for the meeting was adopted.

3.0. Discussions and Key Decisions

3.1. Industrial Policy

After submitting a new copy, the MoIT is now awaiting the next Cabinet Sitting for approval of the Industrial Policy.

3.2. Industrial Rebates

The Minister called for a meeting with all departments to be updated on the matter. The CEO of MRA and the Commissioner General also attended. The MoIT would like to be involved in all procedures regarding Industrial Rebates; currently MRA is handling all issues on Industrial Rebates alone. More transparency is definitely needed on Industrial Rebates.

3.2.1 Industrial Incentives

UNDP is currently in the process of short-listing candidates for the consultancy. At evaluation level the MoIT will be involved as observers. The Ministry would prefer a local consultant. Malawian consultants are generally encouraged to submit proposals.

3.3. Trade Policy

After submitting a new copy, the MoIT is now awaiting the next Cabinet Sitting for approval of the Trade Policy.

3.4. Business Licensing

The country wide sensitization workshops have been almost concluded. UNDP is still waiting for the Radio Jingles, it might be too late to still consider them for this year.

3.5. Buy Malawi Campaign

The validation workshop took place, with active participation from a wide spectrum of stakeholders. The participants were satisfied with the content of the document, but requested the renaming of the same to 'Buy Malawi Strategy'.

3.6. EPZ Regulations

Mr. Cyprian Kambili, who developed the regulations, is no longer with the MoIT, and thus cannot incorporate the outcomes of the Ministry's own assessment of the status of the EPZ regime in Malawi in the regulations anymore. The Dept. of Industry hopes for favorable consideration by the Minister of the results of the EPZ-Assessment, including the SDZs.

3.7. ASDP (Agribusiness Supplier Development Programme)

UNDP is currently preparing a final draft of the Concept Note, incorporating the recommendations of AFIM, and will submit to Task Force and AFIM again within the next weeks. Upon final approval, the Concept Note will be sent to all participants of the initial ASDP Training Workshop in Lilongwe, and to potential funding partners through the MoIT and UNDP.

3.8. Industrial Database

Data Collection for the Industrial Data Base commenced end of November 2015, conducted by a MoIT Task Team. After the first phase, which is supposed to be concluded by mid-December, a report including data analysis will be sent to UNDP. Further action on the Industrial Data Base depends on the outcomes of the data collection phase.

3.9. Industrial Extension

Industrial Extension Study and potentially the development of an Industrial Extension Programme will be discussed again between MoIT and UNDP, with the item to be rolled over to the next financial year.

3.10. Manufacturing TWG & TIP SWAp

The MoIT is confident that it can carry the work regarding the Manufacturing Cluster without TA assistance, despite the fact that earlier this year development partners were requested for further TA support. The Ministry would now rather request for trainings for local staff to fill capacity gaps.

4.0 Preparations for PSD Steering Committee Meeting and Annual Work Planning Session

It was agreed that the AWP Session will take place on the 4th of December, and the next Steering Committee Meeting on the 10th of December 2015 as per Meeting and Reporting Calendar. Draft invitations and draft minutes of the previous SC Meeting have been sent by UNDP to the MoIT for circulation amongst the stakeholders.

The Ministry will send the invitations for the AWP Session to government stakeholders, UNDP to other invitees if the need is seen.

The MoIT repeated its request to be more involved in the MICF, even if only as observers. It was remarked that in the last PSD SC Meeting it was agreed to organize joint monitoring visits (UNDP/MoIT) to MICF projects in 2016.

5.0. PSD Project Secretariat

On a request from UNDP, the MoIT agreed to take over the secretariat for the PSD project from 1st of January 2016.

Quarterly supplies of necessary stationary and other materials will be provided by UNDP to the Ministry for the year.

It was suggested that a dedicated person needs to be identified to man the PSD secretariat, possibly even a project manager.

The meeting was closed by C. Phangaphanga, MoIT

Minutes Approved and Signed by:

For Ministry of Industry and Trade



C. Phangaphanga, DDoI

Date:

05/1/16

For UNDP



M. Mehrlaender, PSD Programme Analyst

Date:

05/01/2016