

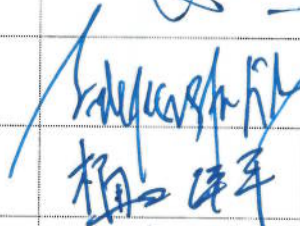






Minutes of the Electoral Project, Project Board Meeting, 2019

Project Name:	Electoral Project- Leveraging Electoral Assistance for Regionalized Nation-Building (LEARN)		
Date of Meeting:	18-Jan-19	Time:	10:00 hrs
Chair:	Mr. Claudio Providas	Location:	UN Conference Room A

Attendees			
Name	Title	Organization	Signature
Claudio Providas	Resident Representative	UNDP	
Acilino Manuel Branco	General Director	STAE	
Evangelino De Jesus Fatima	Director-APREC	CNE	
Yohei Higuchi	Head of Economy and Development Assistance Adviser	Embassy of Japan	
Shin Joon Gil <i>Joong il</i>	First Secretary	Embassy of Korea	
Taejong Bak	Program Manager	KOICA	
Andres Del Castillo	Chief Technical Advisor	Electoral Project- LEARN	
Project Stakeholders Invitees			
Ana Sequeira	Executive Director	Press Council	
Teresinha Cardoso	Project Coordinator	CAUCUS-MOFFE	
Luis Evaristo Soares	Community Radio Director	SECOMS	
LEARN Project Staff			
Yuichi Ishida	Communication Analyst		
Hemant Pathak	Reporting/Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		
Mim Bahadur Lama	Finance, Operations and Result Management Analyst		
Rochan Kadariya	Electoral Graphic Designer		
Candida Moniz	Senior Admin Assistant		
Tito Filipe De Jesus	Voter Education Officer		

Shinichiro Monjo	TV Program Producer
Mara Bernardes Desa	Electoral Administrative Officer
Arsenio Araujo	Logistics Officer
Nuno Ram Fatima	Communication Assistant
Cosme Boavida	Administrative Clerk
Meeting Agenda	
Topic	Presented by:
Opening remarks from UNDP RR	Mr. Claudio Providas
2018 Project Progress, achievement and AWP	Mr. Andres Del Castillo
2019 AWP	Mr. Andres Del Castillo
Remarks by CNE Director	Mr. Evangelino De Jesus Fatima
Remarks by Director-General of STAE	Mr. Acilino Manuel Branco
Q & A and Discussions	
Closing Remarks	Mr. Claudio Providas

Discussion/ Decision and Action	Action (including time line to complete the recommended action)/ Decision	Responsible Person for action
<p>Topic (Discussion)</p> <p>Opening Remarks by UNDP RR</p> <p>Mr. Claudio Providas, welcomed all PBM members to the Annual Project Board Meeting, including representatives of CNE and STAE, project donors from the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of Japan, KOICA and stakeholder of the project- CAUCUS, OPAC, SECOMS and Press Council. This board meeting is mandatory for the project to organise for presenting its achievement of 2018, progress of the project and presented the plans for 2019.</p> <p>He congratulated STAE and CNE for the successful conduct of parliamentary elections in 2018 although it was not anticipated it reached the highest turnout. He also acknowledged the support from the donors and thanking for the collaboration with UNDP. He recognized the partnership between different stakeholders of the project for their valuable contribution to strengthen democracy and roles played during the elections maximising participation of people in the electoral processes. He acknowledged the support from KOICA for the decentralisation process of the country and one of the aspects being the Municipal Elections.</p> <p>He informed the board members that Mr. Andres Del Castillo, (Chief Technical Adviser) CTA of the project has been transferred to Mozambique as a CTA of the election project and will be joining in the end of January.</p> <p>Presentation of the Project activities of 2018 and a video.</p>		

Brief on 2018 Project Progress, achievement and AWP by CTA of Electoral Project

Chief Technical Adviser of UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN provided an overview of the project, highlighting the methodology used by the project for the implementation through "Electoral Cycle Support" Electoral assistance. He further elaborated on the achievement of the project outputs and outcomes through the activities conducted based on the AWP and the unexpected announcement of 2018 parliamentary elections. The members of the board and invited stakeholders were informed on the activities that was conducted in 2018 and also the results the project was able to achieve.

Moreover, he provided the members the results of the voter education assessment conducted by the project showing the effectiveness of the voter education programme while supporting STAE during the 2018 parliamentary elections and providing the results through a platform.

The CTA of the project also provided the board members the financial status of the project of 2018 with the delivery of 89%. The updates on the funding segregated according to its output was provided with the total budget required for 2019. The Annual Work Plan for 2019 including human resources were presented for the discussion and approval of the board members.

Remarks by Director of CNE

Executive Secretary mentioned that CNE has been grateful to UNDP Electoral LEARN Project for their technical assistance and support provided during the 2018 parliamentary elections. On behalf of CNE he thanked the project for providing technical assistance and advisory services on electoral legal matters, advice on adjudicating election-related complaints, election results management system, and national tabulation.

He stated that CNE is grateful that the project has incorporated activities for 2019, which will further help CNE to perform its role in a better way. As per the CNE strategic planning the Commission will develop a Civic Education Information Center. The CNE will be reviewing the electoral legal framework and will be conducting socialization of electoral laws in the municipalities. It seeks further support from the project to advise of electoral legal matters and also conduct activities in the municipalities to ensure the enforcement of constitutional and legal provisions in preparation for the Municipal Elections. He further stated that CNE will continue to promote the objective clarification to continue about the electoral act through the media.

While concluding he thanked the Government of Japan and Korea for their generous support that they have provided to the EMBs for strengthening the democratic and independent institution through UNDP LEARN Project and are expecting to continue our fruitful partnership through 2019 planned activities.

Remarks by Director-General of STAE

Director-General of STAE, Mr. Acilino Manuel Branco thanked the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Korea for extending their support to the Election Management Bodies for 2018 parliamentary elections. He informed that every election the country has been able to deliver with success and technical support from UNDP has contributed to such achievement. He gave the example of the historic turnout in 2018 elections and how the institutions can build up from that so secure and conduct better elections in the future. As the country is still evolving, he believes that institutions like STAE need to strengthen further to improve in areas where it still faces challenges in managing elections in the future.

He thanked UNDP Electoral Project LEARN which have provided technical assistance for the electoral cycle and especially for 2018 Parliamentary Elections provided especially in the areas voter education, outreach activities for promoting youth and women in the electoral processes, training of polling officers and staff, workshops for observers, training for party agents and logistical supports.

He further requests the project and the board to support STAE on developing strategic plan, voter education socialisation on voter registration process at the community level and remote areas, capacity building programmes, voter education centre and other activities that would contribute to managing elections in the future. As there are some Sucos that would hold elections, STAE is also seeking some support from the project. In addition, Mr Branco mentioned that Parliament is seeking to develop an integrated electoral legal framework for the presidential elections of the national parliament and the Ministry of State Administration is seeking to develop a legal framework for the municipal elections and the revision of Suco elections. The Government is also thinking of resizing the level of Sucos and would like the project to support in these areas.

He stated that STAE and Government of Timor-Leste encourage to continue this partnership in the implementation of 2019 electoral planned activities.

Mr. Branco ended thanking LEARN CTA Mr. Andres del Castillo for its 20 years of support to Timorese Electoral System.

Discussion

- Representative of Korea congratulated the project for the achievements that endured in 2018 especially the elections. He believes that it is helping build democracy in the country and Media playing a very crucial role. He narrated a very insightful thought on procedural democracy and substantial democracy where he said that the country should be moving towards the latter. According to him, Government of Korea can help in shifting to substantial democracy by supporting and enhancing the role of media.
- Representative from the Embassy of Japan highlighted his experience while observing the elections and sharing about the transparency of elections. He also commended the role of EMBs to manage to engage voters on elections resulting in highest turnout. He acknowledged the continued support of the Government of Japan to the project and congratulated on the achievements.

Closing Remarks

UNDP RR, Mr. Claudio Providas before formally closing the meeting, acknowledge the unanimous consensus shown by the PBM on the 2019 proposed activities in the absence of questions by the members. Mr. Providas also thanked all members for attending the PBM and reiterated UNDP commitment to continue working with EMBs and all the stakeholders represented for the promotion of democracy in the country especially the idea of also sharing information to donors and concerned stakeholders of political and electoral processes. He ended the meeting by informing that the draft minutes of the current board meeting will be circulated soon for your comments and final endorsement.

Minutes is prepared, with a narrative relating to the AWP, which is circulated to the PBM members for endorsement and AWP 2019 is approved.

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