



Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

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Local Governance as the key to Development

MSATM host consultation workshop on Municipal Capacity Development Strategy



Photo: Thaiza Castilho, UNCDF

Consultation workshop held at Hotel Timor had the presence of over one hundred guests to discuss about the capacity development strategy for the future municipalities

On 16 October the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM), with support of the UNDP-UNCDF Local Governance Support Programme, held a consultation workshop on the Municipal Capacity Development Strategy for Timor-Leste.

The objective of this consultation workshop was to present and discuss key recommendations for a Capacity Development Strategy with stakeholders. The

consultants, Mr. Hans Olsen and Mrs. Maire Sheehan, met with people involved in the decentralization process to formulate and propose a systematic approach for developing capacities in preparation of the decentralization process.

More than 100 people attended the event that was opened by the Secretary of State for Administrative Reform, Dr. Florindo Pereira, and UNDP Country Director, Mr. Akbar Usmani.

The consultants answered questions from the

participants in regards to the capacity development strategy. "This Capacity Development Strategy will be a framework for supporting capacity development and will hopefully allow for improved coordination of efforts of national institutions and support by development partners", affirmed Mr. Usmani at the workshop.

The consultants visited the MSATM to support the development of a short, medium and long-term Capacity Development Strategy in the context of decentralization reforms, taking into consideration the needs of newly created municipal administrations, assemblies and other stakeholders at local and national level.

During these two weeks the team met with key stakeholders and several staff from the MSATM and other line ministries to discuss existing and required capacity building strategies. They also met with the Dili District Administrator and the District Development Officer and visited Liquiçá and Bobonaro to assess the experiences and needs on capacity development. They will prepare an analytical report for the MSATM, outlining key elements of the proposed capacity development strategy.

Name and Quotation



"The capacity development strategy is basically an attempt to build up the capacity of the elected leaders and the civil servants to perform their duties according to the law. How is it going to affect people living in the districts? Hopefully the people could hold

Mr. Hans Olsen is
the UNCDF consultant on capacity development

their elected leaders accountable, ensuring that they do what they promise during the elections and also bring better services to the people. When you go to the ballot box, you can decide if they did or did not do a good job", explained Mr. Olsen.



MSATM discuss preparations for Municipal procurement regulations

On 24 October the National Directorate of Local Development and Territorial Management (DNDLOT), with support from the Local Governance Support Programme, organized a meeting to discuss with key stakeholders a summary of proposals for the preparation of Municipal Procurement Regulation for the decentralization process.

The meeting was facilitated by the DNDLOT Director, Mr. Miguel Pereira de Carvalho, and the UNCDF Consultant, Mr. Julian Abrams, presented key recommendations for the establishment of future municipal procurement regulation once the municipalities are set-up.

"As a general principle, municipalities should be responsible for all procurement funded under the municipal budget and the Municipal Assembly should oversee these procedures but not act as a procurement agent", stated Mr. Abrams.

The participants also shared the interest on the community contract initiative, where it was



Photo: Thaiza Castilho, UNCDF
Mr. Julian Abrams (in front of the computer) during the presentation on procurement regulations at the MSATM

suggested that contracts up to USD\$ 5,000 would be handled by community groups or other organizations that can undertake the work.

The basic principles of these regulations are to assist in the efficient functioning of the municipalities ensuring value for money, transparency, equity, employment and economic development and compatibility with national regulations and donor requirements.

MAEOT organizes quarterly meeting with DDOs

On 15 November the National Directorate for Local Development and Territorial Management (DNDLOT) from the MSATM conducted a regular meeting with the District Development Officers (DDOs) and District Financial Officers (DFOs) from the eight LDP pilot districts.

The objective of this meeting was to discuss the progress made in the past quarter and plan future activities for 2010, including procurement requests and project implementation.

"The district officials need to continue to commit to the Local Development Programme to implement new projects in 2010. We will soon start to prepare for the set-up of municipalities as part of our mandate in the decentralization process", stated Mr. de Carvalho, DNDLOT Director. One of the recommendations of the DFOs was to strengthen their financial skills by providing additional technical trainings in order to build capacity at the local level.



Photo: Duarte Santos, MSATM

President José Ramos-Horta visits Decentralization booth during UN Day

To celebrate the United Nations 65th Anniversary, on 24 October the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste organized a half day Model UN at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where 35 students from the UNTL simulated a General Assembly meeting.

It was also an opportunity for UN agencies to distribute communication materials about their activities.

The UNDP-UNCDF Local Governance Support Programme participated at the event and distributed general information about the decentralization process.

The LGSP Communication Unit has been working together with the MSATM to develop and distribute a wide range of information materials through printed and audio medias to support the decentralization process.



Photo: João Santos, UNCDF
RDTL President, Dr. José Ramos-Horta, together with UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Finn Reske-Nielsen, and UNDP Country Director, Mr. Akbar Usmani

In our next Edition

In November:

- Meeting to discuss the relationship between sucos and municipalities
- Training on civic education for District Coordinators from the Ministry of Education

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