



Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

Volume II, Edition XI
November 2009

Local Governance as the key to Development

MSATM hosts consultation workshop on the relationship between sucos and municipalities



Photo: Thaiza Castilho, UNCDF

Consultation workshop held at Hotel Villa Verde to discuss about the relationship between sucos and municipalities

On 9 November the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM), with support from the UNDP-UNCDF Local Governance Support Programme, held a consultation workshop on the relationship between sucos and municipalities in the context of decentralization.

The objective of this consultation workshop was to support the MSATM in

clarifying the relationship between municipalities and sucos and develop a legal framework governing the relationship between municipal governments and sucos in view of decentralization reforms in Timor Leste.

“The government intends to improve the collaboration with community leaders and local government institutions like the Municipal Assembly and Administration, once established, and this event is crucial to discuss how this will work in practice”, stated the Minister Arcangelo Leite in his opening speech.

In his opening remarks Mr. Usmani stressed that “with the creation of elected local governments, there will be a new division of roles and responsibilities

between the national and local level but also between newly created deconcentrated bodies and elected municipalities. This will also impact relations between sucos and municipalities”.

During his assignment LGSP consultant Mr. Nicolas Garrigue met with key stakeholders and staff from the MSATM and other line ministries, suco leaders and civil society to assess and review the policy framework, governing the functioning of sucos including the proposed laws on Local Government and the law on community leaders and their elections.

He also visited Los Palos to assess the experience and analyze the relationship between ministries’ line departments in implementing activities at the local level and sucos in order to develop recommendations to the future role, responsibilities and linkages between deconcentrated line departments and sucos with regard to local planning and financial management.

Training on Local Governance at the National Directorate of Non-Formal Education

On 6 November the National Directorate of Local Development and Territorial Management (DNDLOT), together with the Directorate of Non-Formal Education from the Ministry of Education, held a two-day training in Dili with 60 District and Sub-district coordinators on the main principles of local governance and the functioning of the sucos.

The content of this module was developed by the DNDLOT, with support from the

joint UNDP-UNCDF Local Governance Support Programme, as the first civic education training on local government.

“The module is illustrative and our directorate is keen to continue with partnerships that can benefit the people in the communities through different educational means, specially on this subject with the upcoming elections in 2010”, stated Dr. Filomeno Reis Belo, Director of Non-Formal Education.



Photo: João Santos, UNCDF

Training on local governance at the Directorate of Non-Formal Education



MSATM establishes National Preparatory Committee for Municipalities

On 13 November the MSATM established the National Preparatory Committee (NPC) for the municipalities and sworn in its members at the STAE's conference room. The objective of the NPC is to provide support to the set-up of the municipalities in line with activities outlines in the Decentralization Strategic Framework II. It will also evaluate the quality of service provision at the District and Sub-district Administration Offices taking into consideration the need of capacity development and additional human resources for the municipalities.

"The National Preparatory Committee will coordinate the establishment and functioning of the District Preparatory Committees (DPC) and will also be responsible for identifying challenges in the process of setting-up the municipalities by researching infrastructures and equipments necessary and for the planning of building and reforming facilities for the future municipalities", stated Mr. Miguel, Director of DNDLOT and President of the NPC. The NPC had its first meeting to discuss the



Mr. Miguel de Carvalho, Dr. Arcângelo Leite and Mr. Carlito Martins at the first National Preparatory Committee meeting

Decentralization Strategic Framework and also to present its annual work plan and organize the establishment of the District Preparatory Committees in Dili, Baucau, Bobonaro and Oé-cusse before the end of December.

The NPC is currently composed by the MSATM directors from DNDLOT, STAE, INAP, DNAAS, the President of the Civil Service Commission and representatives from the Secretariat of State for Promotion of Equality and focal points from the Decentralization Technical Working Group.

In our next Edition

In December:

- Establishment of District Preparatory Committees
- Local Development Programme inaugurates 2009 projects in the districts

Local Government as the key to Development



Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management

Jacinto Cândido Street

Dili, Timor-Leste

Phone: 3317202

E-mail: komunikasaun@estatal.gov.tl

Support provided by:

Local Governance Support Programme and



MSATM offers training in Suai on suco planning and development with LGSP and GTZ support

From 16 to 21 November the MSATM's National Directorate of Local Development and Territorial Management (DNDLOT) with support of the joint UNDP-UNCDF Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP) in partnership with GTZ, held a facilitators training for community leaders and the youth on Suco Planning and Development (SPD) in Covalima on planning to stimulate active community participation in local development.

The objective of this one-week training was to identify the needs and priorities for community development and, on this basis, revise the community development guidelines.

"When the community identifies the needs in the sucos or aldeias it is important for the government to take this information into account to apply funds to execute this plan and provide service and support to the community in different areas", stated Mr. Heinz Loos, Chief of Rural Planning

and Development Programme from GTZ. Teofilho do Carmo, Deputy District Administrator of Covalima, said in his remarks during the opening of the training that the sucos are a significant part of the decentralization process, "to achieve an efficient decentralization process it is necessary to involve all the people, by working together for development with this training, we are also working towards national development", stated Mr. Carmo.



Photo: João Santos, UNCDF

Training for community leaders on suco planning and development in Suai