



Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

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Local Government as the Key to Development

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Introducing: Directorate DNDLOT

On the 11th of April 2008, the Minister of State Administration and Territorial Management established the National Directorate of Local Development and Territorial Management (DNDLOT). This new directorate will be continuing the work of the National Directorate for Territorial Administration through the Local Development Programme (LDP) and researching a law proposal for local government and territorial and administrative division.

“With this directorate, the Ministry is concentrating on topics related to decentralization and territorial management, and also putting a strong emphasis on the Local Development Programme, which began in this Ministry since 2004,” said the Director of DNDLOT Miguel Pereira, “My hope, in terms of my nomination with DNDLOT, is that I can continue to rely on the District and Sub-District Administrators as well as community leaders to work together and make the implementation of the Local Development Programme a success, so that we can be prepared for the future decentralization process.”



Sr. Miguel Pereira, DNDLOT Director

DNDLOT holds Meeting to Strengthen LDP

One objective of the Local Development Programme (LDP) and MSATM is to pilot a model of local governance and to establish a finance system which can look after the government budget while also ensuring that the budget execution goes as planned and supports the community.

As new directorate DNDLOT is responsible for establishing activities and mechanisms that ensure this process goes well, on April 17 DNDLOT held a regular meeting for District Development Officers (DDO) and District Finance Officers (DFO). This meeting will be held once every trimester in order to monitor the execution of the LDP budget and make sure that planned activities are going according to schedule for the trimester and for the year.

“We have come to share information with each other, and then to do an evaluation about what has been working well with the process, and discuss our progress with activities. Other districts can learn from what other [officials] have done well, or if something has not gone well then we can look at how to fix it,” said the DDO of



DDO and DFO discuss the LDP process and district financial systems

Lautem District Lino Ferreira. “We have just begun this [process], therefore sometimes everything isn’t quite correct, and sometimes its wrong, and therefore we have to fix it. LDP is still a pilot, and even though it has been running two or three years now sometimes there are still weaknesses. Therefore, it’s important that we can meet and share information with each other.”

Meeting participants included eight DDOs and eight DFOs from the LDP pilot districts: Bobonaro, Lautem, Aileu, Manatuto, Covalima, Manufahi, Ainaro and Baucau.

Discussion with NGO Forum

In order to promote strong collaboration between the government and civil society, the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM) held a meeting with members of the NGO Forum on 7 April. The objective of this meeting was to find ways for the government and civil society to work together and also to share clear information about the decentralization process.

“Even though the Ministry of State Administration has started this process, we cannot do it alone. The government cannot do it alone,” said Minister Dr. Arcângelo Leite, “Its important that there is community and general involvement in the decentralization

process and the process of making decisions on policy, therefore we need to involve everyone, including civil society.”



Minister of MSATM Dr. Arcângelo Leite



SDDC Meetings held in New LDP Pilot Districts

Districts that have just started the Local Development Programme (LDP) in 2008 have already begun this year's planning process, an important component of their work as pilot districts for a local governance system. This planning process is a process that the District Assemblies use in order to make decisions about how to allocate their portion of the Local Development Funds.

Sub-District Development Committee (SDDC) meetings have taken place in the four new districts that began the LDP process in 2008: Baucau, Covalima, Ainaro and Manufahi. The four districts that had already started the LDP process before 2008, in Bobonaro, Lautem, Aileu and Manatuto, follow slightly different systems.

Pilot LDP districts have already begun the consultation process at the Suco level in order to find proposals for development projects, and then at the Suco level they held a meeting to determine the Suco priorities and which projects they would bring to SDDC meeting. During the month of April in these four new pilot districts, SDDCs have received proposals for projects from each Suco, and also from Sub-District Sector Departments, and then they held the SDDC meeting.

"Proposals from my Suco were from the community that we gathered together in our village office and then together we decided on the priorities for the Suco and the three projects we would bring to the SDDC meeting in Baucau," said the Gariuai Suco Leader Maria Luisa de Jesus Belo after the SDDC meeting in Baucau that was held on April 3.

The purpose of the SDDC meeting is to select proposals that have come from the Sucos and decide on the proposals which the SDDC will recommend to the District Assembly for their consideration. Each Suco can submit two proposals for projects



Members of the Venilale SDDC in Baucau District vote for the development priorities of their sub-district

conducted in the sub-districts, and one proposal for a district-level project. During the SDDC meeting, members present their proposals, discuss, and then vote to compare the importance of the proposed projects. Each SDDC can recommend three sub-district level projects and two district-level projects, for a total of five proposals.

"I'm happy with the selection process because it is a very clear process. Later, people won't be able to criticize, because it is a very good process," said Baucau District Administrator Luis Aparicio Guterres.

The next step in the planning process is for the proposals which are recommended by the SDDC to be sent to a section of the District Assembly responsible for checking the proposals submitted and organizing a visit from a technician to verify and evaluate the proposals from the community. Finally, proposals that have already been verified will be submitted for consideration to the District Assembly, which will decide how to allocate the district's Local Development Funds.

Speak Out!

The Local Governance Bulletin is looking for your thoughts and opinion! If you want to make a submission to this bulletin, please write 75-100 words in Tetum or Bahasa Indonesian, include your name and contact number and send to the Communication Unit in MSATM. You can also call 3317202. Thank you!

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Ministry Representatives Begin Discussing Decentralization

On 18 April 2008 the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM) has held a meeting with representatives from nine Ministries. Based on the decentralization and local governance policy that was approved in March, each Ministry will establish a Ministerial Technical Working Group (MTWG) with the mandate to analyze the functions that each Ministry will hand over to the future local government.

"This meeting can start to divulge the decentralization policy to those Ministries which have not yet dealt with this question. As this is a Government policy, that states decentralization will begin in 2009, it is important that the technical staff know what it is they need to do in order to contribute towards a law proposal on local government," said DNDLOT Director Miguel Pereira.

This work is important because each Ministry understands their sector best, and therefore from their experience Ministry staff can make the best recommendations about the formulation of a law proposal on local government. The establishment of the MTWG in each Ministry will begin this process.

"We in the Ministry of Health are almost ready. We have already discussed this matter, but now with the new policy that the Council of Ministers approved we need to review [the work we have done] to see if it is still correct or if we need to make changes," said

Ministry of Health Director for Administration, Logistics and Procurement Francisco A. S. Santos.

The next steps for the process are that in May, MSATM will hold meetings with each MTWG in order to review together the provisions of the policy guidelines from the government which are the basis for the activities of the MTWG. The final objective is that, once each MTWG is functioning, they can submit their preliminary and final reports by the end of June, and these reports will become important recommendations for MSATM during the process of forming a law proposal on local government.

Ministries that will Establish Technical Working Groups:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Economy and Development
- Ministry of Social Solidarity
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management