



Consultative
Implementation and Monitoring
Council



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CIMC SECRETARIAT

2008 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Service Delivery in Rural Areas

There was general agreement that there are currently Government systems in place which should be used to promote participation by the people, through Ward Development Committees, Local Level Government, District Planning Committees, and through the Joint District Planning and Budget Priorities Committees. Many participants do not want to see any major reforms, but to improve upon the existing systems. With refocus onto the lower levels of government, channeling of practical support through the provision of technical personnel, finance, physical infrastructure, awareness and incentives, the 'Rural Democracy' aspired to by the Deputy Prime Minister, could create the connection between the community and the government, especially in rural areas. The Government will need to change the way it views Local Government and consider establishing a Commission to support and coordinate operations of LLGs.

Recommendations:

1. That a comprehensive review is carried out to clarify the accountability and responsibility of each position, and to effectively follow these to ensure that there is better practical bridging between the government and the rural community. This clarification and simplification of government roles and responsibilities should be presented to the people so that they clearly understand how the system is supposed to work and how they can participate.
2. That a system of extension officers be established and staffed with trained and qualified people to work at the district and local level in rural areas.
3. To introduce accountability and responsibility along with tougher penalties for corrupt government practices.
4. To train and equip with resources and funding officers and LLG personnel in how to plan and deliver goods and services, fully involving communities where required.

1. Organic Law should recommend that District Plans be based on LLG and Ward Plans.
2. Two proposals with Government – District Authority Act and the abolishment of Provincial Government – should be held off for some time, while we work to improve the existing system.
3. That a Local Government and Community Commission be established as a small regulatory body.
4. To increase responsibility to LLG councilors and staff.
5. That 10% of the District Service Improvement Program (DSIP) go towards funding Local Level Government operations and projects.
6. To develop social contracts and work with established missions (churches), involved in education, health, welfare, and infrastructure; women's network, private sector, non-government organizations and civil society, to deliver services to rural communities.
7. For CIMC to be given resources to conduct similar forums in the Districts and Provinces.
8. Those in Ward Development Committees should be given an allowance.
9. Need for information to the people at the local level. They should be groomed to implement projects, laws.
10. To strictly limit the politicians area of responsibilities in the implementation of service delivery.

Upper House of Parliament

The virtues of an upper house, comprising the current regional seats and an additional 20 seats reserved for women, to provide an effective counterbalance to the lower house, comprising Open Members were argued by the Task Force on Government and Administrative Reform. The Group in principal, agreed with the upper house system.

Recommendations:

11. Women to be well represented in the upper house. One seat could be reserved for Women – to represent each province.

12. To look at the checks and balances, the way things fit, to fulfill the need to have a Parliament that can review things more closely.
13. To develop a system for the members of Parliament to be held more accountable for the decisions they make, and with Parliamentary Committees.
14. There should be a referendum on this issue

National Agriculture Development Plan

Presentations emphasized the importance of the sector notably that it is sustainable, has great opportunities and doesn't end up leaving big holes in the ground like mining. It was stressed that there must be a change of mindset to enable it to meet its potential, with the sector having underperformed for years owing to poor infrastructure and law and order, lack of telecommunications, undue politicization of the sector and board appointments, lack of strategic leadership, inadequate research and development support. Participants stressed the need for open and frank dialogue with sector participants, including over the problematic National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP).

Recommendations:

15. Budgetary allocation for NADP be increased to K500 million in the 2009 Budget and future years.
16. The National Agriculture Development Plan be reviewed and be anchored on law.
17. The National Agriculture Development Plan must be implemented by technically qualified personnel.
18. Good market access to be established to included and food crops;
19. Financial support to be made to entrepreneurs buying from farmers.
20. Resource centers to disseminate information are set up in districts.
21. Strengthen land reforms to ensure land as collateral for agricultural loans.
22. Information on NADP process translated to *Tokples*.
23. Land use-multiple land use – priority on agriculture, food security, towns.
24. The NADP process is too long. Simplify it and make it easy to understand.
25. That the representation on the National Screening Committee be increased immediately to include a representative from the Rural Industries Council, Women in Agriculture, and a Senior States Person.
26. That the banking sector representative be a full time member of the National Screening Committee instead of on a needs basis as is currently the case and that this recommendation effected immediately.

27. That a Committee comprising DAL (Chair), RIC, NARI, FPDA, Ramu Agri-industries and DAL-WIADU, Planning, Treasury and Finance be formed to assess the current NADP Implementation Guidelines and make a fresh submission to Cabinet for endorsement. The submission to cover broader conceptual framework, operation and implementation guidelines including scoping and selection and funding categories.

Food Security

Presentation highlighted potential threats to food security, including problems accessing markets, production and farming systems problems requiring more concerted research effort, agricultural and soil stress with increased cropping and potential labor shortages from HIV/AIDS. National Agricultural Research Institute gave a sharp warning of the impact of global warming and increased drought and proposed a series of interventions needed now, not left till it's too late.

Recommendations:

28. There is a need to stop focusing on Government for handouts.
29. Set Food Security as No. 1 in the National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP).
30. The government to raise awareness of Food Security Policy, review and implement it;
i.e. resource it down to the LLG level.
31. Resource women in Agriculture programs that will reach the LLGs.
32. Raise awareness at community level about land management for sustainable farming systems.
33. Improve extension services to LLG level.
34. Improve information network system and co-ordinate awareness activities among agencies.
35. Research Extension must have an effective delivery system.
36. The government needs to look at food crops as well as cash (tree) crops.
37. Promote downstream processing by improving access to finance and training and access appropriate technology.
38. Encourage organic farming and promote for export.
39. Government to assist urban gardens to be established – land, money for seeds.
40. Reduce cost of transporting food from the Highlands.
41. Government should promote & increase local production to replace food imports.

42. Establish an efficient marketing infrastructure for local produce – roads, transport, processing equipment, and training with tax incentive consideration.
43. Improve awareness/knowledge of drought resistant crops and drought coping strategies by improving links between research institutions and extension services.
44. Establish water storage and conservation strategies and implement in villages.
45. Establish food banks.
46. Investigate production of animal feed using local crops.

Long Term Development Strategy for the Agriculture Sector

In line with the current Governments initiative to formulate a Long Term Development Strategy (LTDS) covering a 30-year period, there is an inevitable need to commence work on agriculture sector long-term development plan. In fact, it is crucial given that most of the mineral resources will be depleted if not during the period, by the end of this period.

The Department of National Planning is yet to come up with a conceptual framework for the LTDS. However, the sectors consultations on their respective long-term development strategies will fit into the broad framework of the Planning Department once developed.

Recommendations:

Incentives to improve Sector Performance

47. That the next AusAID Performance Grant be tied to improvement in key performance areas of the Agriculture Sector.

The Green Revolution Policy

48. That the Department of Agriculture and Livestock takes the lead in the formulation of a comprehensive Green Revolution Policy commencing 2008.
49. That Green Revolution Policy formulation process involves wide stakeholder consultation and input to ensure the result is a comprehensive Policy that well researched and understood incentives needed to improve the profitability and economic viability of the sector.

National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels

50. That the Energy Department takes the lead in the formulation of the National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels in 2009

51. That the formulation of the National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels involves wide stakeholder consultation and input.

Long Term Development Strategy

52. That a Task Force leads the formulation of the LTDS commencing 2009 comprising DAL (Chair), RIC, NARI, FPDA, Ramu Agri-industries, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Department of Treasury and Finance, Prime Ministers Department, Transport Department, Works Department and the Department of Provincial and Local Governments.
53. That Funding is made available in the 2009 and 2010 Budgets to fund the process of formulating the LTDS for the agriculture sector.
54. That the agriculture sector LTDS formulation process involves wide stakeholder consultation and dialogue.

Private Sector Growth

Discussions emphasized the removal of impediments to business and investment, notably law and order problems including corruption, poor infrastructure and utilities and telecommunications and excessive red-tape (including the need for Department of Personnel management to make the necessary appointment of technical staff in the bottleneck Departments like Labor, for work permits). But the private sector also sought positive avenues for working with Government, both in the provision of services, training, planning and oversight of service functions. Developing an effective framework for Public – Private Partnership was considered a valuable way forward. The presentation of a Private Sector Growth Strategy – Conceptual Framework by the Secretary for Commerce and Industry was welcomed.

Recommendations:

55. Priorities to be given to promote a dynamic private sector. Private sector has been ignored for too long.
56. Improve infrastructure, law and order and basic services.
57. Free and fair competition through watchdog process such as Ombudsman Commission and Auditor Generals offices.
58. Public, Private Partnership – Effective system of establishing Partnership
59. To have private sector representation in all bodies, boards and councils, appointed on merit.

60. Skills Development – Provide public training institutions and private training to meet required standards for businesses.
61. Revive the National Working Group on Removing Impediments to Business and Investment.
62. Need for wider consultation and to strengthen partnerships for the development of a comprehensive Private Sector Growth Strategy.
63. Promote Small and Medium Enterprise development – review and update SME Policy.
64. Development of an International Trade Policy for PNG.
65. A legislative framework is required and this must be prescriptive and similar to the Performance Management Framework devices included in the budget, for promoting commerce and trade.
66. Appropriate public investment would be given attention to detail for the opportunity for private investment (domestic or foreign) to grow.
67. Support the development and adoption of the National Policy on Informal Economy.

Facilitation of Trade and Transnational Crime

PNG Customs can assist with trade facilitation, but how the private sector and the wider community can assist Internal Revenue Commission with this task should be further developed. Major crimes, such as transfer pricing, smuggling, including of arms and drugs, human trafficking and smuggling, money laundering, theft of PNG protected species and art, counterfeit materials, are undertaken by unscrupulous criminals and are undermining PNG's revenue, health and welfare, peace and security. Community support was welcomed but it was shocking to see the lack of resources available to Customs and other law enforcement agencies to perform their functions, in the face of growing trade and crime levels. PNG is in a precarious situation with little capacity to guard its borders and illegal trade, which threaten security and legitimate businesses.

Recommendations:

68. Improvement and increase by threefold the budget and manpower of the PNG Customs, Internal Revenue Commission.
69. Improve network on border patrols, both land and maritime.
70. Amend Anti-dumping laws to give customs constitutional powers to work.

71. Enhance manpower of forces by improving terms and conditions of Customs Officers, and enforce quality recruitment within strict guidelines.
72. Enforce National Standards for example anything (imported) that does not meet the standard requirement should not be accepted – such a food, manufactured items, equipment.
73. Increase joint Agency and International Co-operation between Australia, other pacific countries and Asia.
74. Provide better training to improve Intelligence capacity, networking and collaboration between PNG law enforcement agencies such as Police, Defense and Customs.
75. Use the media to inform and ask the public to report any suspicious activities they see anywhere (community awareness) and educate selected members of the community.
76. Upgrade relevant outdated laws and revamp law enforcement mechanisms relating to customs, terrorism, and information sharing.
77. Protect and encourage legitimate investors and discourage illegitimate players.
78. Engage in partnership with Government, NGOs and Communities to improve service delivery by the PNG Customs.

Law and Order

Crime and corruption continues to affect the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery by Government, private business profitability, reducing investment opportunities, and preventing the people to fully benefit in the development process. Much progress has been achieved but there is need for sufficient finances and strengthening of institutions dealing with prosecutions and to process cases in a swift manner. The Government of PNG signed and ratified the United National Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), and is therefore obliged to implement UNCAC which requires countries to adopt international standards, institutions and best practices.

Recommendations:

79. Government to seriously consider funding National Anti Corruption Agency (NACA) in 2009 and onwards as per the NEC Submission sponsored by Internal Security Minister.
80. To review the administration and implement the recommendations of the report on review of the Police Force.
81. To develop Law and Justice National Framework.
82. The government to have holistic approach to dealing with law and order such as to promote universal education and equal participation.
83. Law and Order partners must have equal rights for law enforcements.
84. To re-introduce Vagrancy Act.
85. Government to set up Education Institutions for training of Law and Order Agencies, personnel – defense, police, customs etc.
86. Judicial System to be improved – too slow in addressing cases.
87. Government to establish an Independent Commission Against Corruption. Refine the system developed back in 1997 and make it workable.
88. Government to develop a National Anti-Corruption Strategy

Transport and Infrastructure

There are increasing levels of compensation demands on road maintenance projects by landowners on the Department of Transport and private contractors. Even major contractors face difficulties with insurance guarantees because the risks are too real and costly to the commercial banks that are unwilling to give loans. The cost of undertaking work on some parts of the Highlands Highway far outweigh the net gains for contractors so they are reluctant to take up projects. Hence, time and time again delays have been experienced. Many projects worth large amounts of over K10million, which is the cut-off amount for Central Supply & Tenders Board approval, go to the NEC take too long to be awarded hence commencement of road maintenance work on particular sections of national roads are delayed. In addition, the conditions of the roads deteriorate because of the time it takes to award the contract. In so doing, it increases the cost of the contract. The revival of the PTB at Department of Works has tremendous public support.

Recommendations:

89. The National Roads Authority must assume responsibility for maintenance of all national highways as was initially anticipated.

90. NEC to identify ways to fast track awarding of road maintenance contracts worth over K10mil to avoid delays in awarding and commencement of road maintenance projects.
91. Department Works to assist the Office of Rural Development in providing technical advice, provide documentation (tender documents for DSIP projects), scoping of works, supervision, which would entail making sure that contractors do a good job to specifications and standards set by DoW.
92. NRA to be given the fully 7toea excise on diesel collected by the IRC so that this money is put back to maintenance of roads, not on other program/s of government.
93. The CIMC Transport Committee supports the Government's decision to revive the PTB's but focus should be on ensuring provision of and upkeep of basic construction equipment stationed in the 19 provinces to assist in times of emergencies and for use on roads where there is lack of private contracting capacity, rather than on VIP fleets as this is seen as a wastage area and is prone to abuse.
94. Government to address donor funding draw down issues by properly screening and awarding contractors to capable contractors. Perhaps pre-qualifying of contractors is one way of improving this area.
95. Government to draw up a national scheme which looks at meaningfully involving landowners in road maintenance and construction projects to avoid security and related risks for contractors.
96. Government to provide additional funding through CIMC for the Transport Committee to recruit a dedicated Project Officer for the Committee and for its operations.
97. Increase focus on mathematics and science education and training to produce quality and more engineers.
98. Government should restore full authority to Dept. of Works and resource it adequately.
99. Improve capacity within Dept. of Works to maintain infrastructure.

100. K300, 000 limit must be reduced so that the infrastructure projects go through proper tender process. DOW to have sole responsibility over the process.
101. To revive DOW LLG Technical Services to design and build and supervise infrastructure projects initiated by the LLGs and communities.
102. DOW to develop partnership arrangements with relevant agencies example PNGDF, PNG Sustainable Infrastructure Ltd.
103. DOW to be involved in design of projects and ensure contractors meet required standards.
104. Increase resources to DOW to enable it to monitor, supervise projects.
105. Partnership to involve the community to ensure ownership.
106. Separate DOW supervisory and monitoring role from its project implementation role.
107. Establish committee for emergency infrastructure projects.
108. All infrastructure capacity building projects should be channeled through DOW and all completed works should be certified by DOW.
109. Parliamentary Works Committee needs to be more active and accountable.
Develop a National Infrastructure Plan and involve all stakeholders.

These recommendations have been submitted to the Department of National Planning and Monitoring as part of a Submission to the National Executive Council on the CIMC Forum Recommendations, through the Ministerial Economic Committee, then to the National Planning Committee.

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