



MINUTES
ARTF Incentive Program Working Group Meeting
22nd September 2020

Agenda item #1: Ministry of Finance Update on Implementation of 2020 Incentive Program Policy Actions

- The **Deputy Minister of Finance**, Ministry of Finance, presented an update of progress with policy actions. Ministry of Finance noted that several policy actions had been delayed but reiterated: i) confidence that policy actions could be completed by the specified completion date of 15 November; and ii) full commitment to the reform program.
- The **Ministry of Finance** raised the possibility of a potential delay in completion of the land reform action resulting from a delay in the availability of a World Bank consultant working on the new Land Survey Law, due to COVID-19 related disruptions.
- The **IPWG** welcomed the Deputy Minister's presentation and continued government commitment to the reform program. The IPWG agreed that all possible action should be taken to ensure completion of all policy actions by the specified completion date. IPWG agreed to consider recommending to the ARTF Management Committee an extension to the due date for the completion of the land action if it proves impossible for MUDL to make up for time lost due to delays accessing required technical assistance.

Agenda item #2: Timeframes and approach to preparing the 2021 Incentive Program Development Policy Grant

- **World Bank** updated IPWG on the planned timetable for preparing the 2021 Incentive Program Development Policy Grant (schedule attached). World Bank noted that a new three-year cycle is being prepared, providing the opportunity to significantly reconfigure program areas if necessary.
- **IPWG members** noted the importance for a new program of reforms to reflect outcome from the ongoing discussions on the Mutual Accountability Framework indicators, the new ANPDF, and the findings from the evaluation of the previous Incentive Program.
- **World Bank** agreed fully with the need to align the 2021 policy reform program with the MAF process and the findings of the evaluation report, but voiced concerns regarding the potential timing. Partners had previously asked that IP-DPG policy actions are fully agreed with Government by January. It may not be possible to fully align policy actions with MAF and ANPDF if a full program of reforms needs to be agreed by January.
- **World Bank** requested feedback from partners as to whether they would support delaying the agreement of 2021 policy actions until March 2021, if this was to allow for closer alignment with MAF and ANPDF processes.
- **World Bank** noted that the process of developing policy actions for 2021-2024 will begin with a workshop discussion to be scheduled in October. This workshop will include: i) a discussion of overall policy reform priorities; and ii) initial lessons and findings from the Incentive Program evaluation.



Other Business

- **Partners** inquired about progress with resolving delays in the repayment of government arrears to DABS in accordance with the revised Partnership Agreement supported by the COVID-19 response Development Policy Grant.
- **World Bank** noted that work to resolve the delays was ongoing. In a meeting on the subject called by the World Bank, DABS and MOF agreed that delays were the result of technical issues around the reconciliation of invoices and payments, rather than a failure of MOF to honor the conditions of the agreement.

Attachments:

- Proposed timeline for preparation of the 2021 IP-DPG;
- Current policy reform monitoring matrix

All attachments are available in the shared folder.