

TLDPM 2014 Plenary Session Report-back

Infrastructure Strategic Sector

Discussion highlights 25 July 2014

The SDP is clear in setting out a long term plan and the matrix is a very good first step towards a monitoring mechanism and planning implementation tool.

However, it does not provide prioritization, planning and sequencing steps and linkages to the budget process remain to be clarified/developed.

The matrix is a good tool for donor coordination given that it identifies key activities, aligned with the SDP, for the whole of government.

Private sector suggested that they be given more opportunity to engage with the government on all aspects of planning. Dili Urban Master Plan was mentioned in particular.

Private sector said that their contribution to development was constrained by many factors and suggested that government should develop policies for overcoming these constraints.

Private sector identified access to finance as a major problem and suggested that government should assist them in solving the problem with the locally based commercial banks. Private sector further suggested that improvements were needed to speed up payments for government-financed work so that cash flow problems (which lead to work delay) are avoided.

Private sector highlighted land as a key constraint to private sector development and investment and urged government to put in place laws and regulations.

Private sector believes that it can be much more effective in creating employment if the business environment was better. Government suggested that private sector should be more pro-active and have its own development plan.

Civil society queried the economic and financial viability of Dili port and airport projects. Minister of Transport explained the rationale of the project. It was concluded that better sharing of information, including feasibility studies, would help would be useful in such cases.

Civil society support infrastructure improvements but would like to see inclusive development that benefits all members of society.

Civil society commented on environmental and social impact assessments – especially in regard to disabled access. The Minister of Public Works said government was responsive to these concerns and gave the example of the reconstruction of the footpath on Comoro Bridge and provision of ramps.