

Parliamentary Support Project



Background

Papua New Guinea's National Parliament is a vibrant and effective democratic 30-year-old institution and its administrative support body, the Parliamentary Service (PS), continues to provide quality support in most areas to the members of parliament (MP). However, some of the key services of the PS have, for a variety of reasons experienced a decline in effectiveness, especially as the PS has been slow to introduce modern technologies (e.g. computers) and methodologies (such as management skills). Hence there is a recognized need for a comprehensive institutional reform process, which has already been initiated with a restructuring of the upper management. This, coupled with a need to strengthen the Parliament's capacity to support the Government in meeting its international obligations, such as achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and meeting national developmental objectives, provides ample justification for a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support project to the National Parliament. The support to the National Parliament will assist UNDP to meet its corporate objectives reflected in Papua New Guinea's Country Framework in the area of strengthening good governance to improve policies and delivery, including the critical areas of poverty alleviation, gender balancing, sustainable development and improved education and health – related especially to HIV/AIDS prevention and support.

Purpose of project

Through this three-year project, UNDP will initiate a programme intended to facilitate the reinvigoration and modernization of the National Parliament to better meet the modern demands placed on democratic institutions in the twenty first century. This support will concentrate primarily on increasing the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the Parliamentary Service to better serve elected representatives. It will also strengthen the National Parliament's linkages with provincial legislative bodies and provide a focused support to the parliamentary committee system. In addition, it will strengthen its collaboration with external partners. Finally the Project will directly support the legislative, oversight and representational roles of the members of parliamentarians through workshops, research and work exchanges.

Key results

1. Strengthen capacity of members of parliament;
2. Modernise and strengthen capacity of the Parliamentary Service;
3. Enhance linkages between national and provincial parliaments;
4. Foster cooperation and interaction between the National Parliament and other national parliaments as well as with relevant international organisations;
5. Strengthen the parliamentary committee system.

Main activities

- Capacity development of MPs and Parliamentary Service staff by on-site specialists and through delivery of training seminars and workshops;
- Direct advisory services to members of parliament through project specialists placed within Parliamentary Service;
- Hands-on training provided to Parliamentary Service by project specialists.
- Training seminars and workshops for Parliamentary Service;
- Strengthening of the information, communication and technology environment through delivery of computer systems, cabling, software and training;
- Enhancement of the parliamentary library through purchase of books, publications and installation of library database system;
- Delivery of workshops to provincial parliaments;
- Direct support to parliamentary committees by specialists;
- Devising of strategy to address inefficiencies in committee system.

Contributing donor(s)

UNDP; AusAID

Duration

February 2006 to January 2009

Total budget

USD 1,677,431.87

Executing Agency

UNDP (Direct Execution)

Cooperating agency(ies)

Government of Papua New Guinea; Provincial Governments; AusAID

Location

National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, selected provincial parliaments

Sector(s)

Governance

Millennium Development Goal

Goal 1-8

Date of this summary

January 2007

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