



Lao people's Democratic Republic
Peace Independent Unity Prosperity

January 10, 2020

Mr. Balasubramaniam Murali
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP,
UN House
LaneXane Avenue
Vientiane.

Dear Mr. Murali

Refer to your letter dated 4th December 2019 and our meeting on 6th December 2019, on the result of the GPAR GDP Midterm Review, which conducted by Mr. Pierre MAHY Evaluation Consultant.

Having further considered the draft MTR and the responses received 25th November from the consultant in relation to the initial queries raised through UNDP, and following internal discussions within MoHA and other concerned government agencies, I regret to say that the Ministry of Home Affairs finds that the utility of the exercise does not meet our expectations and raises many questions in terms of the MTR's understanding, balance, and constructive suggestions relating to our national GPAR GDP programme. Consequently, the MoHA is not in a position where it can accept this MTR.

The report displays limited understanding of the intended role of GDP within the governance and public administration reform agenda of the government of Lao PDR and undermines the role NGPAR/GDP plays, and key findings and recommendations are not grounded in the realities of the Lao policy and budgetary context and the direction of our national development agenda to 2030.

Laos' national development vision is closely aligned to our efforts to achieve our responsibilities under the Agenda 2030, and its mantra of "leaving no one behind" (LNOB). The achievement of our localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be embedded in the new 9th NSEDP (2021-2025). Our updated DDF, while still embodying local decision and prioritization, can play an important role as a system that the government administration can adopt to target the neediest sectors of society, regardless of where they are, and thereby taking affirmative action towards leaving No One Behind (LNOB).

Finally, based on our long experience of hosting international missions including numerous evaluations over 25 years of productive GPAR programmes, MoHA is quite surprised by the

content and the tone of the current effort and the situation it attempts to portray. We observe from the outset that the overall approach of the international consultants was not empathic or constructive, that the tone of interviews with government officials at times reflected a pre-determined and unreceptive attitude, which, unfortunately, seem to have carried through to the written report to its further detriment.

MoHA's primary interest is now in moving on, in cooperation with our valued and long term development partners in GPAR GDP, with the effective implementation of the GDP for the duration of its remaining period to 31st March 2021. MoHA remains open and supportive to discussions and consensus in this regard, whether under the GPAR GDP Programme Board mechanism or other preferred platforms.

Your sincerely,




Khammoone Viphongxay
Vice Minister MoHA and Executive GDP Programme Board

CC:

Paul Martin, Regional Technical Advisor, UNCDF
Jean Francois Cuenod, Mekong Regional Director, SDC