



MEETING BRIEF – SPECIAL PROJECTS UNIT

The following is a brief of a meeting that took place between CEFI's Special Project Unit and the Governor for Central Province and her two officials. The brief highlights the key discussion points.

Date: Monday 5th of September 2023

Time: 2:00pm- 4pm

Venue: Central Province Governor's Conference Room

The meeting was attended by the following individuals

Hon. Rufina Peter – Governor of Central Province,

Ms Tau Geno Hoire – Executive Officer to the Governor,

Mr Michael Atuai – Project Officer, Agriculture – Central Provincial Government,

Mr Busa Jeremiah Wenogo – Special Projects Manager, CEFI

Mr Tobias Toumne – Special Projects Coordinator, CEFI

Mr Leslie Omaro – Communications and Events Officer, CEFI

Minute Taker: Mr. Tobias. Toumne

Purpose of the meeting

To discuss the work of CEFI in promoting financial inclusion with the provincial governments under the provincial government program and identify potential areas of cooperation and partnership between CEFI and the Central Provincial Government.

Key Discussion Points

1: Provincial Government Engagement Rollout Program

(a) Partnership through signed MOU's

Background information was provided to the Governor and his team on the Provincial Government Program. She was made aware that CEFI already has MOUs signed with WNB, Milne Bay, New Ireland, ENB and WHP. Besides these provinces, Kerema District is poised to become the first district in the country to come on board. The MOU is target driven and provides opportunities for both parties to assess their progress mid-way through the progress via the mid-term review.

The provincial government program is CEFI's aim to cascade financial inclusion down to the districts and LLGs where the majority of the country's population is still "unbanked or financial excluded". The MOUs promote a holistic approach to promoting financial inclusion in the province and covers activities ranging from profiling districts in the province to pave way for implementation of financial inclusion initiatives in the districts and LLGs, financial literacy trainings, school kids savings campaign, account opening, set-up of bank agents and digitization of the government's wages and salary payments.

Besides the government the MOU also foster collaboration and partnership with the financial institutions who are the key drivers of the financial inclusion.

The MOU will have clear targets and provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of both CEFI and the partner Provincial Government.

It was explained to her that the profiling exercise for her district will be done through a desktop review to be conducted by CEFI. The exercise will require the provincial government to submit key information on the following;

- Key economic impact project for each district
- The beneficiaries of the project
- SMEs operating in and around the project
- Key government infrastructure and services
- Banking services offered in the districts

Key Points from the Governor's feedback

Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governor wanted to find out how CEFI performs its Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation when it comes training. She advised the CEFI team she is now embarking on rolling out key programs and activities in her province mainly around economic empowerment for her people. She wanted to find out what CEFI brings to the table and how her government can work with CEFI to achieve an amicable outcome.

She was told by CEFI Team that CEFI encourages partner provincial governments to create a database for all the trainers that it trains so that they can be deployed as and where required. As part of the partnership arrangement CEFI will establish Provincial Steering Committees to provide oversights and direction on the rollout of financial inclusion initiatives in the province. The provincial government will also have to set-up a coordinating desk to work with CEFI to coordinate financial inclusion activities in the province.

Last but not the least, CEFI expects training reports and other financial inclusion related reports to be furnished by the provincial governments and submitted to CEFI.

Cooperative Society and SMEs as a medium and key driver of economic development in Central Province.

Hon Peter was pleased to hear and offer her support to work with CEFI in conducting a survey to profile districts in her province. She mentioned that at present her province lacks data and this is one area of priority for her. She was pleased to hear that key indicators in measuring the progress of financial inclusion are already captured in the NFIS 2023-2027 and that she should consider capturing these in her five (5) year provincial strategic plan. The CEFI Team also advised her that key data on financial inclusion such as the number of deposits, accounts opened by adults and kids, ATMs, EFTPOS etc can be provided by CEFI to her administration on a periodic basis so that she can be able to see the progress with regard to financial inclusion in her province.

She wants financial inclusion to enable SMEs in the province to transition and become commercially viable and sustainable businesses. She also raises the issue of clearly identifying different segments of the SMEs and devising appropriate interventions to assist them to grow and mature.

The Governor explained that her vision is to utilize cooperatives as a mechanism to drive the financial inclusion agenda in Central Province. For financial literacy training, she wants CEFI to conduct trainings for the executives of the cooperatives to be trained on financial literacy so that they can become resource people for their farmers. She is also looking at getting all her Business Development Officers in the district to undergo the financial literacy training. Besides the financial literacy, she also wants CEFI to run its Business Essential Skills Training to SMEs that they will identify in the province.

Proposed Plans for Central Province

It was agreed that CEFI will send the following key documents to the Governor's office;

- 1: Data on the Financial Status of Central province (accounts opened, deposits etc..)
- 2: Draft MOU
- 3: TOT Training Manual

Meeting Photos:

Image 1: Shows the meeting participants

Seated center (Hon Rufina Peter, Governor for Central Province, Seated Right (Mr. Busa Jeremiah Wenogo, Manager Special Projects, Mr Paul Atuai, Agriculture Project Officer. Seated Left (Mr Tobais Toumne, Coordinator Special Projects, Ms Tau Geno Hoire, Executive Officer.



Image 2: Center (Hon Rufina Peter, Governor for Central Province, Right (Mr. Tobias Toumne, Coordinator Special Projects, Ms Tau Geno Hoire, Executive Officer. Left: Mr Busa Jeremiah Wenogo, Manager Special Projects, Mr Paul Atuai, Agriculture Project Officer.

