

For discussion with USAM re: Implementation of the 2nd Tranche of MoCCoV Project

1. Procurement of Equipment Outlay:

There is a question of whether the fund can be released to DOST-MIMAROPA, considering the hold order on using Grants-In-Aid (GIA) for procurement of **EQUIPMENT OUTLAY** and the fact that DOST-MIMAROPA is part of the Office of the Secretary (OSec). The hold order on GIA funds complicates the procurement process, potentially leading to delays or restrictions on acquiring necessary equipment.

2. Accountability for DOST-MIMAROPA Personnel:

During the MoCCoV project implementation, DOST-MIMAROPA personnel are held accountable for all equipment until the project's completion. However, there is a significant risk associated with this, as some equipment may be out of MIMAROPA's control during the project. Given the very high total cost of the equipment, placing accountability solely on DOST-MIMAROPA staff can create an undue burden, especially if they are responsible for equipment not directly in their possession or oversight. This situation could lead to significant issues of liability and accountability, particularly if equipment is lost, damaged, or misused.

3. Non-Transferability of MoCCoV Unit's 4-Wheel Vehicle:

Initially, there was an underlying agreement that the 4-wheel vehicle component of the MoCCoV unit would be arranged for use by the DOST Office in collaboration with the LGU partner. However, this has become a challenge for the Tranche-1 DOST Regional Offices, as all documentation and records indicate that the 4-wheel vehicle is ultimately considered the property of the LGU. This situation complicates the arrangement and poses difficulties for the DOST RO agencies.

4. Downloading of Project Funds to Co-Implementing Agencies:

There is a proposal to download project funds to different co-implementing agencies. This approach could decentralize financial management, allowing regions to tailor the use of funds to their needs aligned to the project objective. It may also encourage more efficient and targeted spending, as well as foster local accountability and transparency.

5. Adjustment of Specifications for Bid Posting:

We may need to change the bid specifications due to the availability of different MoCCoV units or suppliers. By adjusting these specifications, we can better match what is available on the market, potentially saving costs and making the procurement process more efficient. This flexibility helps keep the project within budget while still getting high-quality, functional equipment. It also allows us to thoroughly analyze the market and ensure that the money spent on the project is well-justified and that the specific needs of the project are met.