



**GOVERNMENT OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS**
Ministry of Communications
and Works

CIVIL MITIGATION POLICY

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Civil Mitigation Policy

COI Recommendation B10

1.0 Background Summary

- 1.1 For the purpose of this policy a civil mitigation project refers to a specific initiative undertaken within a small geographical area, typically within a particular district or community in the Virgin Islands. These projects aim to address specific local needs in the area of infrastructural development and maintenance.
- 1.2 Since the introduction of the electoral district system and the election of district representatives, the Government of the Virgin Islands (GoVI) has facilitated the implementation of many civil mitigation projects over the last three decades. These projects have traditionally been facilitated through funding provided in the annual budget of three main government entities, namely the Premier's Officer (formerly Chief Minister's Office), the House of Assembly, and the Ministry of Communications and Works (MCW).
- 1.3 The involvement of Government in the implementation of civil mitigation projects is important for several reasons:
- 1.3.1 *Provide tailored solutions:* Civil mitigation projects allow for focused and customised solutions to address the specific challenges and needs of a particular area or district. No two districts in the Virgin Islands are the same. There are nine (9) districts in the Virgin Islands and they all have unique social, economic, or environmental issues; a one size solution cannot be applied to all nine districts.
 - 1.3.2 *Efficient resource allocation:* By targeting specific areas and communities, Government can prioritise investments and allocate resources in a manner that maximises their impact, rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach for an entire region.
 - 1.3.3 *Community engagement:* Implementing civil mitigation projects promotes community engagement and participation. Residents have a greater understanding of the challenges faced by their districts and often have valuable insights and ideas for improvement. Involving communities in the planning and execution of these projects enhances accountability, ownership, and empowerment.
 - 1.3.4 *Effective decision-making:* Civil mitigation projects allow for decision-making to be more responsive and swifter. District Representatives have better knowledge of

the immediate needs and can assist Government to make decisions more efficiently, leading to quicker implementation and timely solutions.

- 1.4 Traditionally, residents within the districts would make representation to their District Representative for assistance with various projects or initiatives in their particular district. The range of projects requested include repairs to roadways, requests for street lighting and connection to the electricity grid for first time home owners, cutting of access roads to virgin property, assistance with road paving, erection of retaining walls, etc. The District Representatives, after receiving the request, would reach out to the MCW and/or Public Works Department (PWD) for assistance with the implementation of the request received, where the request concerns some type of infrastructure development.
- 1.5 The MCW and the PWD are charged with the responsibility for the development, upgrade and maintenance of public infrastructure, which includes public roads (primary, secondary, tertiary), bridges, ghuts and accessways under the public domain.
- 1.6 The thorny issue actually lies in the lack of adequate documentation and clear guidelines for assessing and approving the implementation of the many requests received by the MCW and the PWD.

2.0 Civil Mitigation Project Strategy

2.1 Introduction

The civil mitigation project strategy seeks to introduce a system to field requests by ordinary residents, public officials, and district representatives and their officers, to address issues related to utilities and infrastructure within their respective districts. The strategy will address the process for submitting requests for projects, which may include projects to shore up public infrastructure that are negatively affected by the development of private property in close proximity to a public infrastructural asset; or shore up private property that is being negatively affected by a public infrastructure.

- 2.2 The topography of the Virgin Islands is predominantly mountainous with the exception of Anegada. Due to inadequate drainage solutions in many locations, numerous roadways and private properties are negatively impacted by washouts or undermining from heavy rainfall events. Particularly during the hurricane season and rainy seasons from June to September and September to March, respectively. As a result, public roadways may experience damage from runoff from an adjacent or nearby private property, or the private property may experience damage from runoff from the public roadway during heavy rain events. This

typically would result in a request from the private property owner independently or through their District representative for assistance with protecting their private property.

2.3 This is usually addressed via the Civil Mitigation subhead in the Ministry of Communications and Works or handled as a major capital project depending on the magnitude of the solution identified after assessment. The MCW would conduct the assessment, develop the solutions and execute the project on behalf of the private property owner. The primary goal of this Civil Mitigation Policy is to delineate the protocols and processes governing the identification, assessment, and implementation of projects to be executed across all nine (9) electoral districts. A form will be developed that will allow persons to lodge their complaint application to seek redress, as may be required.

2.4 The types of projects that can be addressed under this civil mitigation policy can include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Road repairs/paving
- b. Kerb walls
- c. Road slabs
- d. Sidewalks
- e. Asphalt paving
- f. Ghut cleaning/clearing
- g. Retaining wall
- h. Installation, repairs/refurbishment of government infrastructure
- i. Drainage improvements
- j. Road clearing/cleaning due to unforeseen weather events or otherwise

2.5 The strategy introduces the administration of the civil mitigation policy and the processes and assessments that will take place prior to commencing the actual planning and execution of a potential project. Finally, it would indicate, from the assessment carried out, if the project qualifies for funding and intervention by the GoVI.

3.0 Recording and Logging of Information

3.1 Recording and Logging Complaints

- 3.1.1 Summary: Complaints, observations and requests relating to specific issues should be catalogued and addressed through the correct Government department or ministry.
- 3.1.2 Application: Residents that seek to lodge a complaint, observation or request should complete an application form that highlights among other things the following:
 - a. The location (Block and parcel number, etc.) and proximity to individuals or landmarks, if known
 - b. The problem or issue as they know it
 - c. The physical impact from the problem, if applicable
 - d. The social impact from the problem, if applicable
 - e. The health-related impact from the problem, if applicable
 - f. The solution to the problem as they believe it should be
- 3.1.3 Database: Complaints, observations and requests, including all relevant information, will be catalogued and logged in an accessible database by MCW personnel.
- 3.1.4 File Record: Applications will be filed in folders per district at MCW office for reference and a new sub file created solely for each specific application. Applications will also be filed electronically as a backup to the physical application.
- 3.1.5 Source of Request: In addition to residents and District Representatives, District or Local District Council Officers can also make a request via the application form on behalf of residents who may not be in a position to adequately submit the application.

3.2 Administration – Technical Assessment Committee

- 3.2.1 The process requires administrative support to ensure that applications are received and processed in a timely manner and records are kept of the incoming requests and the subsequent outcome of each request.
- 3.2.2 Technical Assessment Committee (TAC) – A committee with responsibility for the administration and assessment of applications will be established. The committee will comprise of the following personnel:
 - a. Director, PWD, or representative
 - b. Director, Water and Sewerage Department (WSD), or representative

- c. Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, or representative
 - d. Project Manager, MCW
 - e. Quantity Surveyor, PWD
 - f. Administrative Officer/Recording Secretary
 - g. Representative from the respective Local District Council
 - h. Representatives of other agencies, as the need arises
- 3.2.3 Administrative Officer – An Administrative Officer is to be assigned and appointed as Secretariat to the TAC. This officer will be responsible for receiving all applications and logging them in the database and filing system. This officer will be responsible for apprising the Permanent Secretary, MCW of applications received and scheduling meetings of the TAC. Finally, this officer will be responsible for recording and producing meeting minutes of the TAC meetings, communicating the outcome of requests to the various applicants, or informing them if further information is required. A report of the findings with recommendations will be submitted to the Permanent Secretary, MCW. Implementation will be subject to availability of funding.

4.0 Technical Assessment Committee

4.1 Functions and Duties

- 4.1.1 Meet monthly or as required.
- 4.1.2 Review applications received to determine if these applications have merit to engage the Assessment process. This preliminary assessment will seek to identify applications that are not applicable to MCW prior to initiating a civil mitigation project review and assessment, as outlined in 4.2 below.
- 4.1.4 Conduct technical assessments to make a determination as to whether the project is a matter for GoVI intervention or if no intervention is required or appropriate under the policy. Compile all applications received and assessment reports on projects that are considered private matters and do not require GoVI intervention and may refer the matter to the Social Development Department for consideration of public assistance.
- 4.1.5 Prepare meeting minutes of monthly meetings as a briefing for record keeping and submit reports of the TAC's activities at least once per quarter to the Permanent Secretary, MCW

- 4.1.6 Inform residents in writing of the outcome of applications and next steps, after deliberations on the specific application have been completed.

4.2 Civil Mitigation Project Review and Assessment

- 4.2.1 The Technical Assessment Committee (TAC) will provide an assessment and verification report of each application that examines the severity of the induced damage, and possible solutions, inclusive of financial requirements.
- 4.2.2 Applications will undergo review by the TAC. The TAC will assess applications based on the established criteria outlined in 5.0 below and will make determinations based on the urgency and severity of the situation and available funding.
- 4.2.3 The TAC will conduct assessments to determine the feasibility of the request:
 - 4.2.3.1 Feasibility Assessment – A feasibility assessment of the site and surroundings will be conducted by personnel that may include representatives from MCW, PWD, WSD and other government departments, ministries and agencies as may be required. A feasibility assessment report will be developed that will include at minimum the following:
 - a. Nature and extent of the existing problem
 - b. Possible solutions or mitigating factors to resolve the issue
 - c. Preliminary estimates in conjunction with possible solutions and mitigating factors
 - d. Risks and issues present and assessed on site
 - e. Physical attributes and dimensions of the area in question
 - f. Environmental impact
 - g. Social impact
 - 4.2.3.2 Desk Assessment – A desk assessment will be performed by the relevant personnel to determine the following after the feasibility assessment is concluded:
 - a. Confirmation of the location, block and parcel number
 - b. Verification as to whether the location is private property, public land or a combination of both
 - c. Liability of the GoVI
 - d. Historical reference to confirm if the GoVI is a contributor in part or whole to the problem
 - e. General historical reference as may be available

4.2.3.3 Conclusion – General statement as to whether the problem is a private matter or of public interest which requires the intervention of the GoVI. The statement will also determine the general liability of GoVI and possible recommendations.

5.0 Criteria for Civil Mitigation Projects

5.1 The TAC will evaluate each application and the resulting requirement for intervention by the MCW based on the following criteria:

- 5.1.1 The works to be performed correct a deficiency or deterioration of a public infrastructural asset such as a bridge, road, ghut, etc.
- 5.1.2 The works to be performed corrects a deficiency, erosion or deterioration of a road that was constructed by the GoVI, but the road is a private estate road whereby the property owner(s) has (have) given approval to transfer the road over to the Crown.
- 5.1.3 The project allows for the construction of a new public infrastructural asset such as a bridge, road, ghut, etc. that will further the enhancement of the existing infrastructure.
- 5.1.4 The project allows for the expansion of the water network system to reach customers as a furtherance of the revenue stream of the Water and Sewerage Department (WSD).
- 5.1.5 The works to be performed involves the repair of a water or sewer line that was installed by the GoVI and may allow for further works over and beyond the repair as means of expanding the water or sewerage network in the area of repair.
- 5.1.6 The road, ghut or accessway is not public, but the legal owner has agreed in writing to grant the government permission to enter their property to carry out works and undertake the repairs, upgrades or new construction of a road inclusive of drainage and retaining walls where applicable and it is determined that the works are required to secure or safeguard an existing adjacent public infrastructure.
- 5.1.7 The road, ghut or accessway is not public, but the legal owner has agreed in writing to grant the government permission to enter their property to carry out

works and undertake the repairs, upgrades or new construction, inclusive of drainage and retaining walls where applicable and it is determined that the private property is being negatively affected by a public infrastructure.

- 5.1.8 The project allows for improvement to drainage solutions, installation of utility infrastructure, or installation and improvement to estate roads to allow persons to be able to develop property in a particular area for the good of the wider community.

6.0 Communication Protocol

6.1 In cases where the works to be completed, require GoVI to enter private property to carry out remedial works which meet criteria 5.1.6 or 5.1.7 above, property owners will be informed of the requirement to complete the established consent form to grant permission to GoVI to enter their property and carry out the works.

6.2 The MCW will address all inquiries regarding the process. Regular updates given through Information Officer on number of complaints received, assessed and the progress of district projects, and which districts projects are being implemented.

7.0 Procurement Procedures for Execution of Civil Mitigation Projects

7.1 The MCW is guided by the Public Procurement Act, 2021 (“Act”) and the Public Procurement Regulations, 2022 (“Regulations”) in its execution of obtaining contractors and vendors for goods, works and services. Accordingly, the procedures and protocols that the MCW has established are set out below as it pertains to how projects below the established threshold value set out in the section 9(2)(a) of the Regulations are managed. All other projects will be sent to the Procurement Unit, Ministry of Finance for tender issuance in accordance with section 9(2)(b) of the Regulations.

7.2 MCW, in accordance with Section 8 of the Regulations, has established a Procurement Committee that is comprised of the following officers:

- a. Permanent Secretary, MCW (Head)
- b. Deputy Secretary, MCW
- c. Deputy Secretary, MCW
- d. Chief of Infrastructural Development (CID)
- e. Director, PWD

- f. Director, WSD
- g. Finance and Planning Officer (FPO)

7.3 This Procurement Committee is responsible for the functions and tasks as set out in Section 8 of the Regulations. Where a preliminary estimate indicates that a project's value will come close to or exceed the threshold value as set out in Section 9(2)(b) of the Regulations, that project is submitted to the Procurement Unit, Ministry of Finance for issuance as an open tender in accordance with Section 5(10) of the Act.

7.4 The Protocols for the solicitation of the restricted tender and request for quotations process by MCW are noted in detail below.

7.5 Request for Quotations

7.5.1 In accordance with Section 8(2) of the Act and Section 9(1) of the Regulations, MCW typically engages vendors and contractors for goods, works or services. As stipulated in this Section of the Act, these goods, works or services are for routine works or readily available goods and services.

7.5.2 Work or purchase orders, which have a value not exceeding the amount set out in Section 9(1) of the Regulations are handled in the following manner:

- a. A general scope document or description is developed outlining the general requirements.
- b. Personnel from the MCW or associated departments may obtain several quotations for the goods, works or services against the general scope document and submit to the Finance and Planning Officer, MCW for assessment.
- c. The general principle, once quotations are received is to engage the contractor or vendor that has submitted the lowest quote against the scope documents initially issued in accordance with Section 24 (3) of the Act.
- d. A Purchase Order is subsequently raised for the awarded contractor or vendor and the process is concluded with a response to the unsuccessful vendors.

7.6 Restricted Tender

- 7.6.1 In accordance with Section 8(1) of the Act, goods, works or services that exceed the threshold set out in Section 9(1) but do not exceed the threshold in Section 9(2)(a) of the Regulations are handled in the following manner by the Procurement Committee established by MCW:
- a. The tender document is prepared and contractors or vendors are invited.
 - b. MCW will select contractors from the Contractors' Registration and Classification System (CRCS) or for goods and services, identify tenderers for invitation.
 - c. Bids are issued for the prescribed duration and received at the MCW tender box.
 - d. Tenders are opened and records made of submissions and bid amounts, which are subsequently presented to tenderers.
 - e. Tenders received are evaluated by the Procurement Committee and in accordance with the evaluated report, a contractor or vendor is awarded the contract.

7.7 Preparation of Tender Document

- 7.7.1 In accordance with Section 8(4) of the Regulations for goods, works or services being procured through Request for Quotations or through the restricted tender process as outlined above, the CID and the FPO will be the responsible officers for the preparation of the scope document for the Request for Quotations solicitations or the restricted tender documents. The CID and the FPO may engage other officers to assist in the preparation of the referenced documents, as may be required.
- 7.7.2 Documents being prepared for Request for Quotations for goods, works or services should clearly outline, in quantity and description, the requirements of the vendors or contractors.
- 7.7.3 Documents being prepared for Restricted Tenders for goods, works or services will be developed in accordance with Section 16 of the Act. MCW has prepared standard template documents for the procurement of goods, works and services, which are the documents that will be used for any restricted tender solicitations.

7.8 Selection of Contractors from the CRCS

- 7.8.1 MCW, in accordance with Section 11(1)(b)(ii) of the Act, is required to choose contractors for works from the CRCS when undertaking a restricted tender or solicitation of request for quotations. However, restricted tenders and request for quotations for goods and services do not have that specific stipulation to select vendors

and consultants from the CRCS. Therefore, the MCW will use available methods and resources to engage vendors for goods and services.

7.8.2 For the selection of contractors, MCW will engage the following methods singularly or in combination:

1. Obtain the names of contractors from the CRCS via the District Representative in the district in which the works are being performed.
2. Obtain the names of contractors from the CRCS via the Minister for the Ministry of Communications and Works.
3. Obtain the names via MCW personnel searching through the CRCS and identifying contractors to engage and issue an invitation.

7.8.3 As noted above, a combination of all methods may be used to achieve the established threshold of six (6) contractors for restricted tenders and three (3) contractors for request for quotations.

7.8.4 There is the possibility that contractors from the CRCS that are registered and in a particular district may be used on multiple occasions due to the limitations of contractors registered in a particular district. MCW will endeavor to keep track of contractors being used for invitation to tender and will extend the invitation to contractors that are outside of the district to meet the threshold minimum of six contractors.

7.8.5 In addition, if a particular contractor was selected from the CRCS, invited and subsequently awarded a contract, that contractor will not be engaged in additional invitations to tender until the other contractors on the list are invited. For clarity, there may be some exceptions to previously-awarded contractors being invited earlier than given above. For example, if the works are more complex and the previously-awarded contractor forms part of a limited group with the requisite skill set, then that contractor may be invited in advance of the full list being exhausted.

7.9 Issuance of Tenders

7.9.1 In accordance with Section 5(9) of the Act, the procuring entity or MCW will be responsible for engaging in the procurement of goods, works or services.

7.9.2 For Request for Quotations, the CID in collaboration with the FPO may permit officers as assigned to engage on behalf of MCW to solicit quotations from vendors and contractors once the required scope documents are prepared for issuance. MCW has established that a minimum of three (3) vendors or contractors are required to be engaged during the Request for Quotation process to be deemed a valid and legitimate

tender in accordance with Section 11 (2) of the Act. In instances where there are only two vendors available to provide the goods, works or services due to the specialized nature of the requirement, then two (2) vendors or contractors are permissible, with an attached explanation.

- 7.9.3 For Restricted Tenders, the CID in collaboration with the FPO will develop the restricted tender document. The CID in collaboration with the FPO may engage officers to develop and or supply relevant information in the preparation of the restricted tender documents. In accordance with Section 24 (3), restricted tenders when administered to domestic participants alone will be issued for a minimum period of 14 days whereas 21 days will be the minimum period for restricted tenders in all other cases.
- 7.9.4 In accordance with Section 11 (1) (b) (i) of the Act, MCW is required to solicit a sufficient number of tenderers to ensure effective competition and in accordance with Section 11 (1) (b) (ii) of the Act, in the case of works, select tenderers from those registered under the CRCS. Therefore, to ensure full participation in keeping with the Act, MCW has established, that six (6) contractors be solicited and invited for works tendered and be selected wholly from the CRCS.
- 7.9.5 For the procurement of goods and services via the restricted tender process, MCW will solicit and invite a minimum of three (3) vendors or contractors.

7.10 Receipt of Tenders

- 7.10.1 For the receipt of Request for Quotation solicitations, the submissions should be provided and addressed to the Permanent Secretary, MCW attention to the FPO. The FPO shall be responsible for assessing the quotations in conformity to the scope documents and the lowest quotation for award.
- 7.10.2 For the receipt of tenders via the restricted tender process, all tenders will be submitted via sealed bid envelope in accordance with Section 17 of the Act, inclusive of providing to all tenderers a receipt identifying the date and time the tender was received. The MCW has constructed a tender box (located in the offices of MCW at Manuel Reef, Tortola, BVI) in which all tenders via the restricted tender process will be deposited until the scheduled deadline in accordance with Section 17 of the Act.
- 7.10.3 Restricted tenders will be opened in accordance with the requirements as set out in Section 19 of the Act.

7.11 Evaluation of Tenders

7.11.1 Tenders obtained via the restricted tender process will be evaluated in accordance with Section 20 of the Act. Tenders obtained via the restricted tender process will be evaluated solely and wholly by the Procurement Committee established in and by the MCW.

7.11.2 Tenders obtained via the request for quotation process will be assessed by the FPO in accordance with Section 24 (3) of the Act.

7.11.3 Award of contract will be made known to the contractor upon conclusion of the evaluation along with the notification to the other contractors that they were not successful in the particular tender process.

8.0 Project Categorisation/Descriptions

8.1 Maintenance Projects

8.1.1 Maintenance Project Description

Projects that fall under the maintenance scope are as follows:

- a. Overlaying of asphalt of an existing public road;
- b. Removing and replacing a section of concrete from a concrete road once the total cost does not exceed the threshold value established in Section 9(1) of the Regulations and in accordance with the Chart of Accounts.
- c. An enhancement to an existing public road such as improved drainage, kerb wall, sidewalk and the like once the total cost does not exceed the threshold value established in Section 9(1) of the Regulations.
- d. An enhancement to an existing public ghut or wall structure such as increasing the culvert size, repair to damaged sections and the like once the total cost does not exceed the threshold value established in Section 9(1) of the Regulations.

8.1.2 Maintenance Project Execution

These types of projects which may include maintenance of roads, bridges and ghuts can be charged against the Civil Mitigation Vote for the respective district, based on funding.

8.2. Capital Projects

8.2.1 Capital Project Description

Projects that fall under the capital project scope are as follows:

- a. Any project works with an actual expenditure value in accordance with the thresholds set in Section 9(2) of the Regulations
- b. Any project works with a value in accordance with section 9(1) of the Regulations that is not considered as general maintenance

8.2.2 Capital Project Execution

- a. These types of projects will be executed under the MCW under the applicable capital subheads or the applicable Civil Mitigation Vote and based on funding. Approvals, statutory and otherwise, will be sought and obtained by and/or from the required agencies.

9.0 Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects

9.1 Summary

9.1.1 The annual Budget Estimates allocate funds for projects to be accounted for by designated persons. Funds for projects typically allocated under the Capital Estimates of the budget, specifically under the MCW, are to be accounted for by the Permanent Secretary, MCW. Funds for projects allocated to PWD are to be accounted for by the Director, PWD. Therefore, the clear assignment of who will best properly monitor and evaluate projects is defined by how funds are allocated in accordance with the annual Budget Estimates.

9.2 Project Monitoring Capacity

9.2.1 There is sufficient capacity in the ministry and departments of the MCW to monitor and evaluate projects to successful completion.

9.2.2 Under the MCW, there is a Project Unit that is comprised of skilled personnel knowledgeable in the field of construction management and project management that have experience in leading on major large-scale projects.

9.2.3 Under the PWD, there is a Construction Management Unit that is comprised of skilled personnel knowledgeable in the field of construction management and project management that have experience in leading on small to large projects.

- 9.2.4 In the WSD, there are personnel, although not in a defined construction management unit such as PWD or MCW, that have the requisite skills and experience to manage small to medium sized projects.
- 9.2.5 As has been the general practice, there is the ability and opportunity to incorporate the various skillsets afforded by a combination of the three entities above to oversee, lead and manage on projects of any size.

9.3 Monitoring Functions

- 9.3.1 The MCW or PWD will be responsible for fulfilling the monitoring functions as set forth below in accordance with the projects that fall under their respective remit:
- a. Appointment of a Project Manager and/or Project Coordinator who will be the lead person responsible for the oversight of the project and the preparation of, or delegation to another officer, the various reports identified below (9.3.1 e,f,g & 9.4.1 a,b);
 - b. For Maintenance projects that are to be executed under the PWD, the Director of PWD will assign an officer as the Project Manager responsible for the execution of the project;
 - c. For Capital projects that are to be executed under the MCW, the Permanent Secretary will assign an officer as the Project Manager responsible for the execution of the project;
 - d. Periodic site visits with frequency determined by scope and magnitude of project;
 - e. Preparation of Site Visit Report, which should capture the current state of works with accompanying pictures. This report should generally be completed on every visit to the project site.
 - f. Preparation of Project Status Report, which provides a comprehensive picture on the financial, scope and schedule status and identifies risks and ongoing issues for mitigation and resolution respectively. These reports are generally produced monthly, but can be completed on a bi-weekly basis if the project scope and schedule are small.
 - g. Preparation of Financial Status, which tracks payments processed, balance remaining and variations processed.

9.4 Evaluation Functions

9.4.1 The Project Manager at the conclusion of the project will seek to provide the following:

- a. A Project Closeout Report that summarizes the scope of works performed, the final costs inclusive of any variations, and an assessment of the project schedule against the initial schedule.
- b. An Evaluation Report that incorporates the Project Closeout Report and also assesses whether the project outputs and outcomes were achieved. A review of risks and issues and how they were mitigated and lessons learned during the project lifecycle should be included.

10.0 Conclusion

10.1 The strategy policy for civil mitigation projects seeks to build on established structures under the Procurement Act 2021, the Public Finance Management Act 2004 and other governing structures, policies, regulations and instructions. The policy further refines the monitoring and evaluation functions in accordance with the designated Accounting Officer.

10.2 It is anticipated that with the creation of the Technical Assessment Committee, the one current deficiency would be addressed, which is to provide a transparent and streamlined process for determining what type of project is to be undertaken by GoVI and what type of project is for private individuals or entities within the local districts. The current structure creates the appearance of conflict of interest due to the interests that district representatives and public officials may have for a specific project. Initiating the strategy through a committee allows for sufficient assessment to be implemented to mitigate against conflict of interests that may arise based on a decision being obtained from a group in contrast to a singular person.