

Ms. Christen Dobson, Senior Project Lead & Researcher & Phil Bloomer (Executive Director)

Subject: Official response for comment regarding Thilawa Complaints Management Procedure (TCMP)

In response to the request for comment on the matter above, the Yangon Regional Government (YRG) which is taking a leading role for resettlement, relocation and income restoration program for Thilawa SEZ project and the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee (TSMC) which fully collaborates with the YRG for the same task would like to affirm our support for the initiatives to further develop the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) whilst ensuring communities affected by the project are treated equitably and be given fair consideration for remedial measures.

Key to this is the Thilawa Complaints Management Procedure (TCMP) that was implemented following consultations with more than 300 stakeholders within and external to the SEZ. The measures of the TCMP were put in place to efficiently address concerns and facilitate access to financial and vocational assistance for affected people, in compliance with international best practice and the laws of the country.

Through the TSMC which represents our position on the development of the SEZ that is helping to drive investment and growth in various industries for the country, we will continue to engage any party on the matter and work towards better serving the interests of project stakeholders and encourage more businesses to invest in Myanmar.

Thilawa SEZ has been successful thus far in positively impacting the country's economy, gaining more than US\$280 million in investment in the 2017-2018 fiscal year alone, including promotion of existing investment, according to Myanmar's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). With every success Thilawa SEZ achieves, Myanmar sees further benefits in terms of GDP growth, improved employment and capacity-building opportunities for its citizens as well as the development of crucial infrastructure for the nation.

However, we do recognize the need for continued dialogue and engagement with all of Thilawa SEZ's stakeholders and the communities affected in transparent terms, even as we move forward with its development. To this end, we support the TCMP and the efforts by the TSMC to ensure that it is effectively and properly implemented to fairly serve the interests of all those impacted by the project.

Minister
Electricity, Industry and Communication
Yangon Region Government

Chairman
Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee