



CENTRAL PROCUREMENT BOARD

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2016 – JUNE 2017



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
BEC	Bid Evaluation Committee
BOC	Bid Opening Committee
BOT	Build Operate Transfer
CIDB	Construction Industry Development Board
CPB	Central Procurement Board
CPO	Central Procurement Officer
CPBSWA	Central Procurement Board Staff Welfare Association
EOI	Expression of Interest
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
IRP	Independent Review Panel
MCSAR	Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms
Rs.	Mauritian Rupee
MOFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
PB	Public Body
PPA	Public Procurement Act 2006 as Subsequently Amended
PPO	Procurement Policy Office
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RRA	Rodrigues Regional Assembly
SBD	Standard Bidding Document
SIL	State Informatics Limited
TC	Technical Committee



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New Airport Access Road

SSR International Airport

◀ Chairman Message



I am pleased, as Chairman of the Central Procurement Board (CPB), to submit the 2016-2017 Annual Report in compliance with Section 8A of the Public Procurement Act (PPA).

The activities of the CPB increased considerably during this financial year as compared to the previous financial years. A total of 91 projects were received from 30 Public Bodies (PB) for a total estimated value of Rs.26.5 billion. The Board held a total of 282 meetings which included 104 regular meetings and 178 ad-hoc meetings held mostly with representatives of Public Bodies (PBs), members of Bid Evaluation Committees (BECs), for vetting of bidding documents and to consider urgent matters.

The number of ad-hoc meetings with Public Bodies increased as a result of issues encountered with shortcomings in bidding documents submitted for vetting. The issues related mostly to the non-utilization of the appropriate Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) as issued by the Procurement Policy Office (PPO), incomplete draft bidding documents, unreasonable cost estimates, inadequate technical specifications and insufficient information to bidders.

Consequently, this led to several requests for clarifications from bidders requiring, at times, the unavoidable postponement of closing dates. Furthermore, the fact that public officers are not released during office hours for evaluation, time taken for evaluation was stretched over much longer periods.

All those issues adversely impacted on the vetting, advertising and evaluation duration, in contradiction with the Board's objective to reduce procurement lead time.

The introduction of e-Procurement was meant to modernise the procurement process and reduce procurement lead time. However, at this stage of implementation, little progress towards this objective has been observed at the CPB. To improve further, the Board has taken measures inter alia, to enhance its IT system and internet bandwidth capacity.

The Board recommends that e-Procurement system be expanded and improved so as to cover most of the principal activities of the CPB, from vetting to approval of award, and be supported with appropriate solutions and resources.

The Board believes that serious consideration should be given to simplifying post-approval of award procedures at public bodies' level to ensure efficiency gains in Government projects delivery.

The Board has taken note of initiatives by the Government, through the adoption of the Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) Act in 2016 and the creation of the BOT Unit at the PPO, to encourage public bodies to consider implementing Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects as a serious alternative to publicly-financed projects. The CPB has reinforced its collaboration with the PPO and the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and this has contributed positively in simplifying some important issues related to the Margin of Preference and registration of bidders under the CIDB Act.

During the financial year 2016-2017, the CPB hosted five foreign delegations coming from Madagascar, South Africa and Swaziland comprising a total of 61 delegates. Such missions, which have become a regular feature at the CPB, allowed the sharing of experience and knowledge of procurement procedures of different countries and also to familiarize with the various functions and roles of the CPB as defined in the Public Procurement Act. In addition, in November 2016, the Board met Mr. Malik FALL, a representative of the African Development (AfDB), in the context of their mid-term review of the Country Strategy Paper for Mauritius.

Officers of the CPB participated in nine Due Diligence exercises carried out by Public Bodies to ensure that the considered procurement projects constitute value for money.

The Board has managed to cope with the increasing workload and requirements from all its stakeholders with the continuous and unflinching support of the Chief Executive and his dedicated managerial, technical and administrative teams.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and thanks to all the staff of the CPB and members of the Board for their continuous support and collaboration. This has enabled the CPB to perform its functions and duties in compliance with the PPA in an open, objective and transparent manner to achieve best value for money in public procurement. I also wish to thank all our stakeholders, especially the public bodies, evaluators and bidders for their cooperation and collaboration.

Madhukarlal BAGUANT, c.s.k.
Chairman

◀ Chief Executive Report



This 2016-2017 Annual Report provides an overview of the activities of the CPB and of how resources have been utilised to deliver effectively under the Public Procurement Act. The statistics in this report have been compiled from projects handled at the CPB during the financial year.

The mandate of the CPB is to approve award of major contracts of public bodies in accordance with the PPA, best policies and practices and taking into account the directives and guidelines issued by the Procurement Policy Office (PPO). Qualified and experienced administrative and technical personnel ensure strict compliance with the PPA 2006 thus enabling public bodies to meet their policy objectives in the delivery of better public services. Public sector procurement has played a significant role in the development of the airport, road construction, port (dredging works, cranes, etc.), water distribution, transport, energy, health, environment, telecommunications, and services.

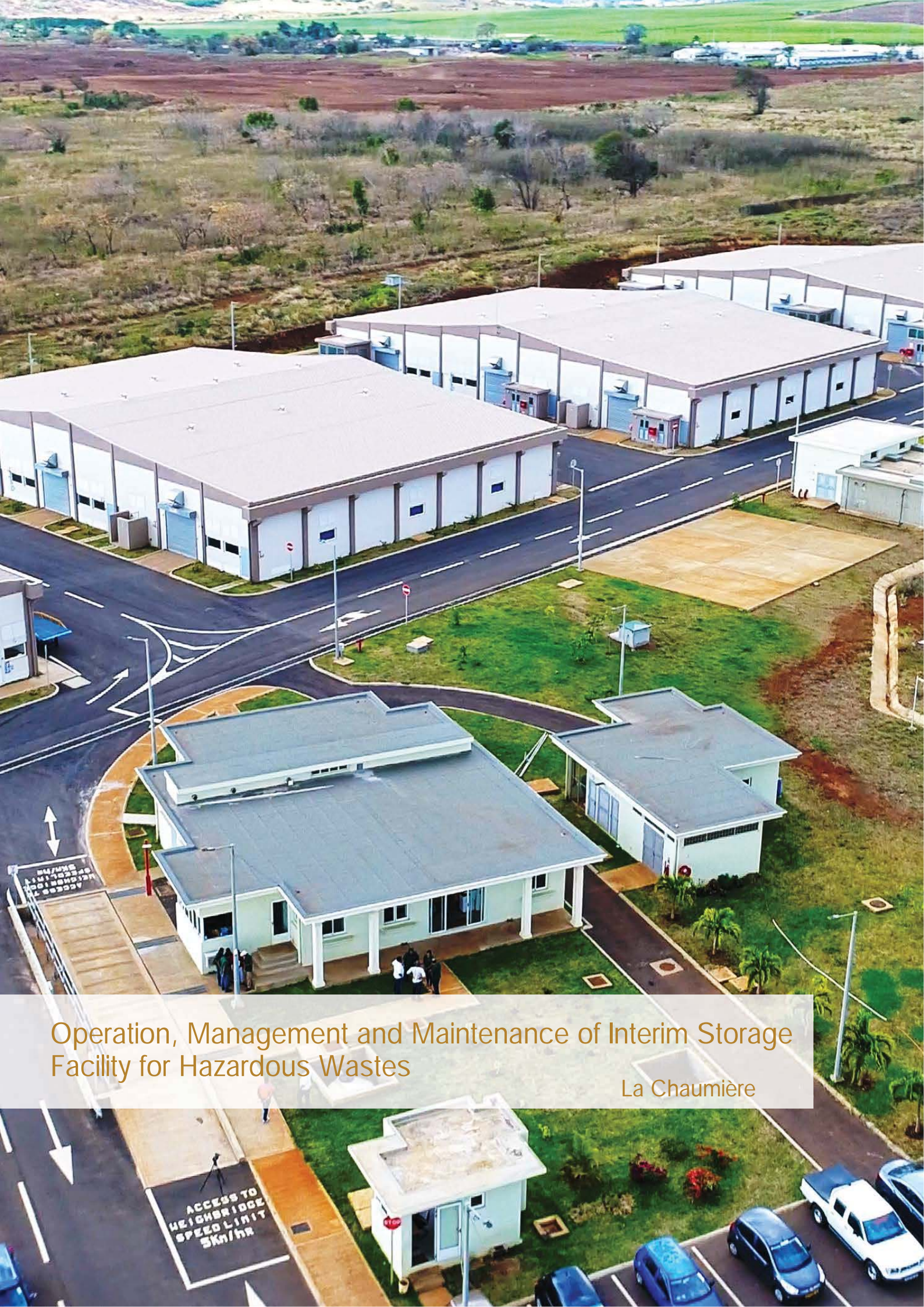
The financial year has witnessed a sharp increase in the number of major projects handled by the CPB. A total of 91 projects, of which 13 through the e-Procurement, were received. During the financial year, the CPB was involved in a total of 112 projects which included 21 pending projects for the two previous financial years. The Board approved the award of contract for 44 projects for a total value of Rs. 6.7 billion.

Despite the sharp increase in CPB's workload, there has not been any increase in personnel though there were several vacant posts at the administrative and technical levels. The technical personnel were reinforced with the recruitment of four professionals in May 2017. However, the CPB was successful in meeting its deliverables as shown in the report. It is hoped that all the vacant posts be filled in the course of the financial year 2017-18 for an equal and fair distribution of workload.

The CPB, in line with government policy, supports staff empowerment and development through skills enhancement initiatives offered within the public service and by other local and international academic institutions. During the financial year 2016-17, a number of its officers have benefitted from specialised training through the Mauritius Civil Service College. Several officers followed part time courses at the University of Mauritius, University of Technology and Open University. Furthermore, the Board members and staff participated in a two-day workshop on BOT organised by PPO in February 2017.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the full support that I received from the Chairman, Board members and staff of the CPB at all levels. It is my sincere wish that this report proves useful to all stakeholders and gives a full insight of the performance and activities of the CPB.

Kreetykant DOSIEAH
Chief Executive



Operation, Management and Maintenance of Interim Storage Facility for Hazardous Wastes

La Chaumière

1. CENTRAL PROCUREMENT BOARD ◀

The Central Procurement Board (CPB) is one of the legal and institutional frameworks for public procurement established by virtue of the Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2006. The CPB together with the Procurement Policy Office (PPO) and the Independent Review Panel (IRP) have complementary and distinct functions and responsibilities.

“To provide for the basic principles and procedures to be applied in, and regulate, the public procurement of goods, public works, consultant services, and other services and for the institutions responsible for those matters”, PPA 2006.

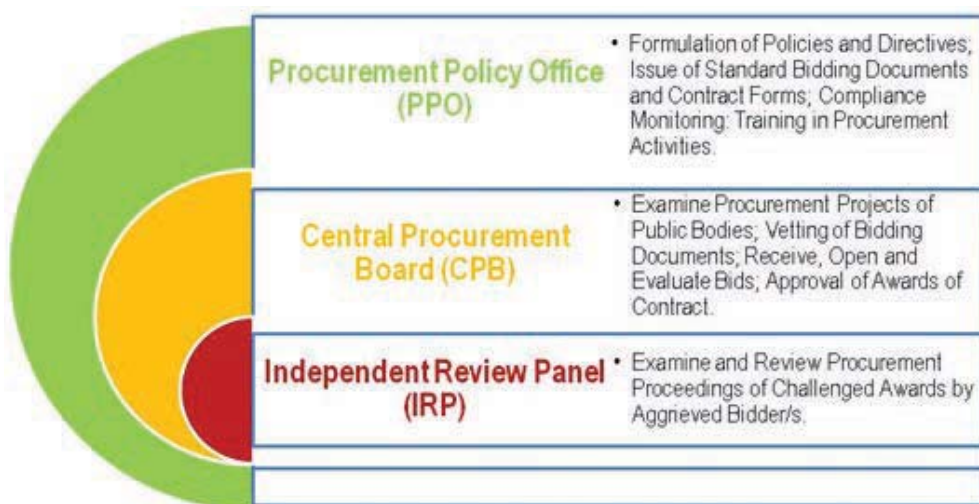


Chart 1: Institutional Structures as per PPA.

The CPB is responsible for the approval of award of major contracts for the procurement of goods, works, consultancy services and other services for Ministries/Departments, Local Authorities including Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) and other Public Bodies (PB) including parastatal institutions. In addition, the CPB is also responsible for the assessment and approval of projects involving the private sector under the Build, Operate and Transfer Act 2016 and the Private-Public Partnership Act 2004.

Public procurement, or the governmental purchases of goods, works and services from the business community, has increased substantially over the past years due to the sustained socio-economic development of the country. Total Public Sector Investment Programmes estimate for the financial year 2016/17 was about Rs. 35 billion. Major projects estimates amounted to Rs.30 billion, representing more than 85 percent of total public sector investment. The CPB processes procurement transactions for major contracts termed as large and complex in terms of estimated cost thresholds. As per Part I to V of Schedule of amended PPA in 2016, the thresholds for major contract are generally in the range of Rs.50 million for Ministries/Departments and Rs. 100 million for other Public Bodies (PB). However, the estimated cost thresholds for Local Authorities and Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) are respectively Rs.15 and Rs. 25 million.

1.1. ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES ◀

Establishing and maintaining procurement systems that meet standards of quality and transparency, and of open, and fair competition are the basic values of the CPB. Such standards are designed to create an economically efficient procurement system, thereby creating conditions that support a sustainable economic development.



To be the Model for Efficient and Effective Public Procurement in Mauritius



To ensure Value for Money in Public Procurement and Timely Acquisition through a Fair and Transparent Process



**Accountability - Ethical Practices;
Equality/Fairness - Integrity;
Quality - Transparency**

1.2. E-PROCUREMENT

Development and procurement co-ordination functions become important as a result of an increase in the demand for government initiatives and support in areas that are subject to rapid technological changes. One area that is strongly supported by technological development is e-Procurement, which was launched by the PPO in 2015 with a long term objective of replacing the traditional paper-based method. The Government e-Procurement System (e-PS) aims at digitalizing the complete public procurement process through a considerable reduction in bureaucratic issues and increase in the use of ICT in the work environment.

During the financial year, the CPB received from three public bodies, 13 standard bidding documents through e-Procurement. The Public Bid Opening Session for e-Procurement is usually scheduled three days after the bid closing date so as to allow bidders to perform the decrypt and re-encrypt operations for the downloading of the different bids received. In the beginning, the CPB had been facing many problems in downloading online bids during the bid opening sessions. The CPB initiated some working discussions with the PPO to improve the functionalities of the e-Procurement system, The CPB also hired the services of the State Informatics Ltd. (SIL) to upgrade its IT infrastructure

1.3. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The structure of the Central Procurement Board, as illustrated in the organigram on the next page, consists of the Board and the Management Team. While the Board is composed of appointed members for a fixed term, the Management Team constitutes the core of the staff of the CPB which comes from the administrative and technical cadres of the public service. The Management Team is headed by the Chief Executive who is also responsible for the execution of the policy of the Board. The Chief Executive is assisted by a Deputy Chief Executive whose incumbent is yet to be appointed.

The Board ◀



*Mr. Madhukarlal BAGUANT, c.s.k.
(Chairperson)*



*Mr. Krishna Menon MAUREMOOTOO
(Vice-Chairperson)*



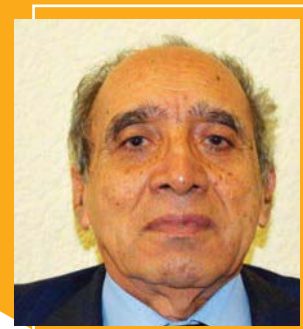
*Mr. Hirendranath RAMBHOJUN
(Vice-Chairperson)*



*Mr. Kirsley Errol BAGWAN,
(Member)*



*Mrs. Sharda Devi DINDOYAL
(Member)*



*Mr. Dawood Mamode Ally ZMANAY, o.s.k.
(Member)*

◀ The Management



*Kreetykant DOSIEAH
Chief Executive*



*Dinesh MANNICK
Deputy Chief Executive
(Acting)*



Distribution of CPB Staff as end June 2017

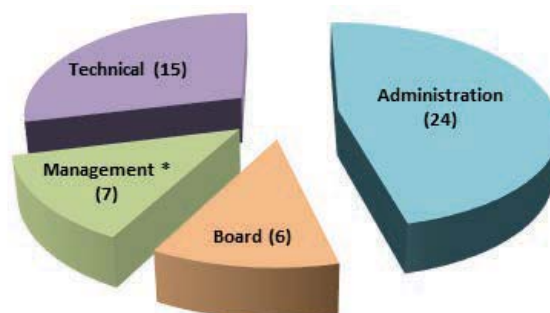
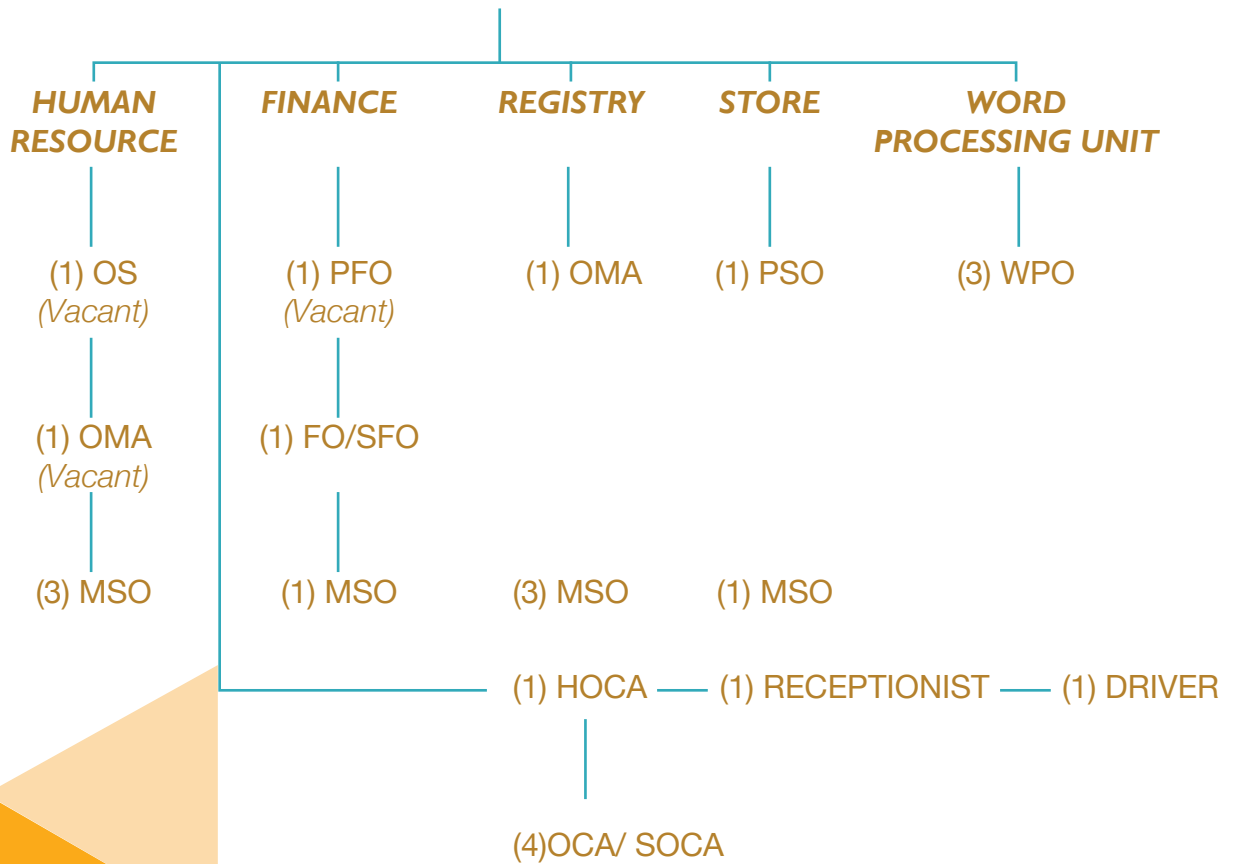


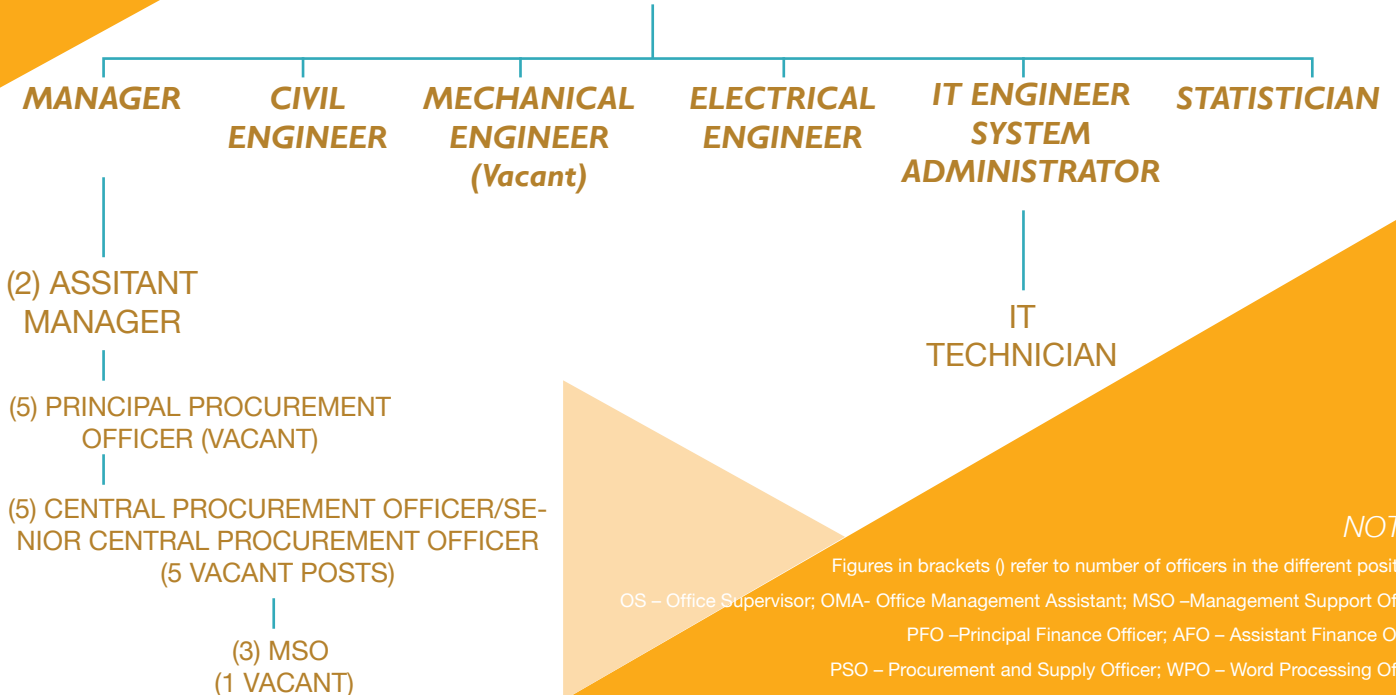
Chart 2: Distribution of CPB Staff as end June 2017.

**- Includes 4 Confidential Secretaries working with Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members of the Board and the Management.*

Administrative



Technical



NOTES

Figures in brackets () refer to number of officers in the different positions.
 OS – Office Supervisor; OMA- Office Management Assistant; MSO –Management Support Officer;
 PFO –Principal Finance Officer; AFO – Assistant Finance Officer
 PSO – Procurement and Supply Officer; WPO – Word Processing Officer;
 HOCA – Head Office Care Attendant; SOCA – Senior Office Care Attendant
 OCA - Office Care Attendant.

1.4 Human Resources ◀

The Management Team of the CPB, which is considered as the core staff of the department, has two distinct units, namely administrative and technical.

The administrative unit is responsible among others for planning, coordination, supervision and performance of functions relating to human resource management, budgeting, information technology, supplies, registry and records management. There were 28 established posts including four vacant posts. Twelve officers from the administrative unit were providing continuous support to the activities of the technical unit.



Central Procurement Officers of the CPB



Assistant Managers of CPB

The technical unit performs a wide range of activities in respect of procurement documents of major contracts. The unit is mainly staffed with Central Procurement Officers (CPO), qualified engineers and other professionals. A total of 15 officers including six contract officers were involved in performing related activities under the supervision of the Chief Executive and the Board. Five contract posts remained vacant and were filled in May 2017. As at 30 June 2017, five posts of Principal Central Procurement Officer (PCPO), five post of Central Procurement Officer (CPO) and one post of Mechanical Engineer were still vacant.



Engineers of the CPB

1.5 Operational Costs ◀

The CPB operational costs for the financial year was about Rs. 49.8 million and showed an overall reduction of about Rs. 0.6 million as compared to the total operational costs of financial year 2015-2016 (Table 1). This reduction was mainly attributable to unfilled vacant established posts which decreased staff costs by about Rs. 1.4 million.

Evaluation fees paid to Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) members constitute an important share of the CPB total operational costs. During the financial year, CPB's expenditure for evaluation fees amounted to Rs7.3 million which was 15 percent more than the previous financial year's evaluation fees (Chart 3).

ITEM	AMOUNT	
	2015-2016	2016-2017
Staff Costs	33,109,819	31,662,922
Evaluation Fees	6,755,595	7,301,530
Rent Equipment and Other Utilities Costs	6,593,283	6,516,695
Sundries and Postage	2,054,662	2,029,291
Maintenance of Building, Equipment, Vehicles and Others	1,342,006	1,329,404
Printing and Stationery	435,343	598,149
Other Expenditure	128,386	383,860
TOTAL	50,419,095	49,821,852

Table 1: Comparative CPB Operational Cost (Rs.) for Financial Years: 2015-2016 & 2016- 2017

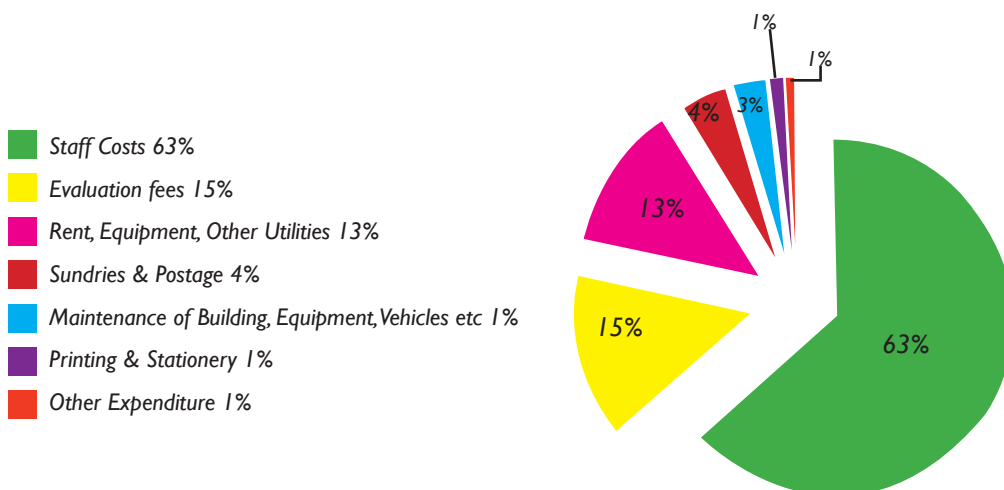


Chart 3: Percentage Share of CPB Total Operational Cost by Broad Item of Expenditure

1.6 The Board ◀

The Board consists of (a) a Chairperson; (b) 2 Vice-Chairpersons; and (c) 3 Other Persons, having wide experience in legal, administrative, economic, financial, engineering, scientific or technical matters and appointed by the President of the Republic as per the PPA 2006. Every member of the Board shall hold office for a period not exceeding 3 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term. The Board may co-opt other persons capable of assisting it with expert advice but no such person shall have the right to vote on any matter considered by the Board.

The functions of the Board, in respect of major contracts, are as follows:

- ◀ *Establish appropriate internal procedures for the operations of the Board and ensure compliance with them;*
- ◀ *Vet bidding documents and notices submitted to it by public bodies;*
- ◀ *Receive and publicly open bids;*
- ◀ *Select persons from a list of qualified evaluators maintained by it to act as members of a Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) and oversee the examination and evaluation of bids;*
- ◀ *Review recommendations of the BEC;*
- ◀ *Approve award of contract; or*
- ◀ *Require the BEC to make a fresh or further evaluation on specified grounds.*
- ◀ *Review the recommendations of a public body with respect to an amendment that increases the contract value pursuant to section 25(2)(c) or (d) or 46(3), or a variation pursuant to section 46(4) and –*
- ◀ *Approve variation or amendment proposed;*
- ◀ *Require the public body to make a fresh recommendation; or*
- ◀ *Reject the variation or amendment proposed.*
- ◀ *Award public-private partnership/build operate transfer projects*
- ◀ *Where the Board requires the evaluation committee to make an evaluation pursuant to subsection (1) (e) (ii), the bid evaluation committee shall, within 5 working days, comply with the requirement of the Board.*
- ◀ *Where the bid evaluation committee fails to comply with a requirement under paragraph (a) or the Board is not satisfied with the fresh or further evaluation, the Board may appoint another bid Evaluation committee to make a fresh or further evaluation within such time as the Board may determine.*



Board Meeting in the CPB Conference Room

1.7 Foreign Delegations ◀

During the financial year, the CPB had several working sessions with foreign delegations (Table 2). The main objective of those missions was to share experience and knowledge and also to familiarise with the various functions and roles of the CPB in its procedures in the vetting, bidding, evaluation and the approval of award of contract for major contracts in compliance with the PPA. Table 2 lists the countries and institutions which visited the CPB.

COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	NO. OF DELEGATES	DATE
Madagascar	Regulatory Authority of Public Procurement	1	30 Sep. 2016
Swaziland	Procurement Regulatory Authority	4	17 Nov. 2016
Gauteng, Republic of South Africa	Provincial Legislature of Republic of South Africa	8	7 Feb. 2017
Madagascar	Projet d'Appui a la Gouvernance Institutionnelle (PAGI)	15	03-Mar-17
Madagascar	Ecole Nationale d'administration de Madagascar (ENAM)	33	26-Apr-17

Table 2: List of Foreign Delegation Hosted by CPB.

The Board also received on 16 November 2016 a representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr. Malik FALL, in the context of their mid-term review of the Country Strategy Paper for Mauritius.



Delegation from Madagascar - Projet d'Appui a la Gouvernance Institutionnelle (PAGI)

1.8 Training & Workshops ◀

Public officers are given the opportunity to follow some tailored training programmes to enhance their skills in support to their personal career development. In addition, these training programmes are essential to keep the staff motivated on learning new concepts and ultimately be more efficient and productive. During the financial year, the staff of the CPB attended the three following specific training programmes:

1. *Training on sustainability in Managing Safety and Health;*
2. *Strategic HR and Talent Management and Development qualification; and*
3. *Training courses on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) projects.*

In addition, a number of officers opted to follow some special training courses offered by the Civil Service College as follows :

- 1) *Code of ethics and Good Governance;*
- 2) *Communication and Personal Skills;*
- 3) *Customer Service Excellence;*
- 4) *Handling Difficult Customers;*
- 5) *Improving Efficiency in Organisation;*
- 6) *Increasing Productivity through Stress;*
- 7) *Managing Performance in public Sector;*
- 8) *Managing Time Efficiency;*
- 9) *Team Building and Bonding;*
- 10) *Using Internet and Email; and*
- 11) *Working Force Planning.*

A few officers, especially in the Technical unit, followed specialised courses offered at the University of Mauritius, University of Technology and the Open University. The Board members and the technical staff of CPB participated in a two-day workshop on BOT organised by the PPO in November 2016.

Extension and Strengthening

Mauritius Container Terminal Quay Project
Dredging Works



2. ACTIVITIES DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

◀ 2.1 Projects Received

All bidding documents for major projects received from various public bodies are closely examined by the technical staff of the CPB prior to submission to the Management and the Board for final vetting before issue of invitation to bid.

Chart 4 illustrates a simplified sequence of the activities that outlines the main steps of how each procurement project is handled at the CPB. At each stage, the process involves well defined activities that are in compliance with CPB's standard procedures and rules to ensure transparency and efficiency.

A total of 91 projects were received during the financial year including 13 through the e-Procurement system. The total estimated cost of those projects amounted to Rs. 26.5 billion.

The methods used for major contracts for the procurement of goods, works, consultancy services and other services are in accordance with the PPA and are as follows:

- ◀ *Open advertised bidding (OAB);*
- ◀ *Open international bidding (OIB);*
- ◀ *Open national bidding (ONB); and*
- ◀ *Restricted bidding (RB).*

Open national bidding (ONB) was the preferred procurement method (Chart 5) among all projects received during the financial year. Fifty projects were advertised through open national bidding (ONB), thus providing bidding opportunities to local contractors and suppliers. Twenty-four projects went through open international bidding (OIB) and five projects through restricted bidding.



Chart 4: Sequence of Activities

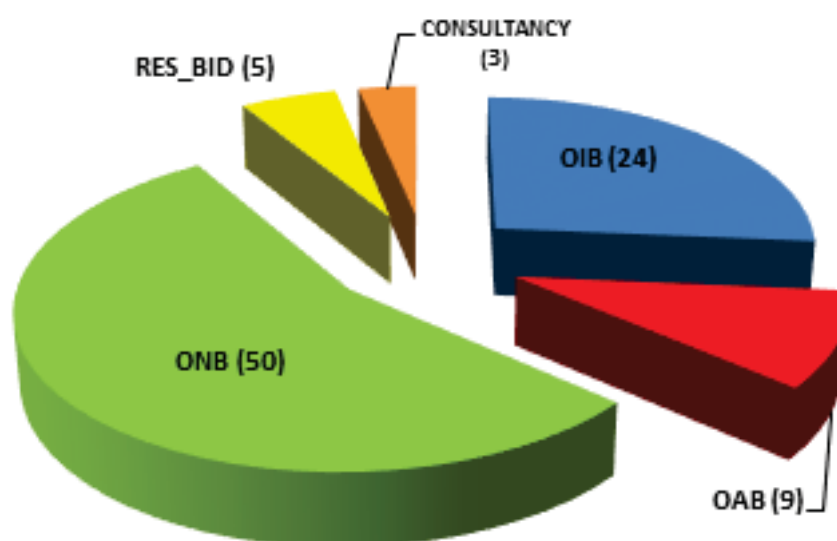


Chart 5: Distribution of Received Projects by Procurement Method.

PROCUREMENT METHOD						
TYPE OF PROJECT	IOB	OAB	ONB	RESTRICTED BIDDING	CONSULTANCY	TOTAL
BUILDINGS	9	2	22	1	-	34
ROADS	5	-	3	-	-	8
WATER	1	2	13	-	-	16
GOODS	3	2	1	4	-	10
OTHERS	6	3	11	-	3	23
TOTAL	24	9	50	5	3	91

Table 3: Distribution of Type of Project by Procurement Method

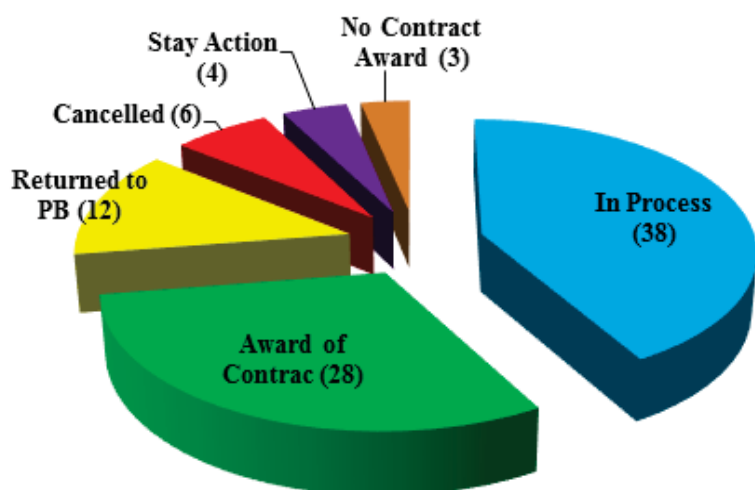
A total of 34 projects for the building sector was received of which 22 went through the open national bidding (ONB) and 9 projects through open international bidding (OIB). Table 3 gives the distribution of procurement method by the five broad types of project. Thirteen out of the sixteen water projects were through ONB.

PROJECTS RECEIVED		TOTAL ESTIMATED COST (RS. MIL.)
TYPE	NUMBER	
BUILDINGS	34	7,121
ROADS	8	9,925
WATER	16	3,662
GOODS	10	2,922
OTHERS	32	2,909
TOTAL	91	26,539

Table 4: Total Estimated Cost by Type of Project

Table 4 gives the number and the total estimated costs for the five broad types of projects. Road projects had the highest total estimated cost of almost Rs.10 billion for the 8 projects received while building had a total estimated cost of about Rs.7 billion for 34 projects.

Bidding documents for the 91 projects received were examined as and when they were submitted in the course of the financial year. A total of 31 projects were completed and submitted to Board for approval of award. However, the Board approved award of contract for twenty-eight projects for a total value of 3.6 Rs billion. The Board also examined three projects, but did not approve any award of contract as bids for two projects were substantially above the estimated costs and bids received for the third project were non-responsive.



As at 30 June 2017, there were 38 projects which were still being processed and had either reached vetting, bidding, evaluation stages or being reviewed by the Technical Committee (TC) before submission to the Board for approval of award of contract. (Chart 6)

Chart 6 Status of the 91 projects received during the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Twelve projects were returned to the respective public bodies either at the vetting stage or after the public opening of bids. At the vetting stage, it was observed that several bidding documents were not in conformity with the prescribed documents of the PPO and required substantial modifications and clearance from the latter prior to Board vetting. At the public bid opening, bids received for those projects had contract values well below the threshold for major contracts and were returned to the respective public bodies for in-house evaluation and approval of award.

Six projects were cancelled as bids received were non-responsive. Four projects were put on hold at the request of the concerned public bodies.

Table 5 gives the total contract value by type for the 28 projects which the Board had approved award of contract. The highest number of approval of award was for building projects. Award was approved for 15 building projects for a total contract value of Rs. 2.2 billion (Table 5), five goods projects for a total contract value of Rs. 618 million and four water projects for a total contract value of Rs. 505 million.

TYPE OF PROJECTS	NUMBER OF APPROVAL OF AWARD	TOTAL CONTRACT VALUE (RS. MIL.)
BUILDINGS	15	2,152
WATER	4	505
GOODS	5	618
OTHERS	4	346
TOTAL	28	3621

Table 5: Total Contract Value (Rs. Mil.) by Type of Project



NHDC Chebel

Construction of Housing Units
& Associated Infrastructural Works

2.2 Procurement Activities during ◀ Financial year

The activities undertaken by the CPB from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 were related to a total of 112 projects which included 21 projects of the two previous financial years in addition to the 91 projects received during the period of 1 July 2016 to 20 June 2017.

The 21 projects of the previous financial years were at various stages of the procurement activities of vetting, advertising, bidding, evaluation or approval as at 30 June 2016. The Board approved award for 16 projects. Two projects were cancelled at the vetting stage following instruction from the PBs concerned. Three projects were returned to the respective PBs after the opening bid sessions as all the bids received were below the CPB procurement amount threshold

2.3 Vetting of Bidding Documents ▶

The process of vetting of bidding documents, as required by Section 11 of the PPA under the heading “Functions of the Board”, is fundamental in public procurement proceedings in the context of major contracts, because it is at this stage itself, that the Board starts exercising its functions of striving to achieve the highest standards of transparency and equity.

Vetting generally starts with technical staff of the CPB and involves a few stages before reaching the Board. It starts with an initial check to confirm whether the project falls under the purview of the CPB with respect to the estimated costs as per thresholds set in the relevant schedules of the PPA. All relevant bidding documents are then processed by the Central Procurement Officer (CPO) who undertakes among others the following checks:

- a) Use of appropriate Standard Bidding Document as prescribed by PPO;
- b) Appropriateness of proposed procurement method; and
- c) Completeness of procurement project documents such as check list, detailed estimated cost and procurement plan.

In cases of missing information, the Public Body concerned are requested to submit same so that vetting may be resumed.

The next step is to submit the complete set of bidding documents to a Technical Committee (TC) which has the responsibility to examine all the technical specifications and requirements, qualification criteria, evaluation methodology and criteria as to ensure that

- a) bidders will have a clear idea of the requirements of the procurement of the Public Body;
- b) there is no bias in the specifications that may favour or penalise a particular bidder or a particular brand or make; and
- c) the evaluation criteria are clear, transparent and fair.

The TC then submits the bidding documents together with their comments to the Board which, during a special meeting, examines and approves or makes recommendations for amendments to bidding documents required by the Board. Ad-hoc meetings with representatives of the concerned PBs are sometimes held for better understanding and quick decision on eventual amendments to bidding documents required by the Board.

For a few complex projects, the Board enlists the services of technical experts from outside to assist in the vetting.

VETTING OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS	2015-2016	2016-2017
NO. OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS	45	98
TOTAL VETTING DURATION (DAYS)	583	1690
AVERAGE VETTING DURATION (DAYS)	13	17

Table 6: Vetting of Bidding Documents for Financial Years 2015-2016 & 2016-2017

A total of 98 bidding documents were vetted during the financial year which was well above the number of the previous financial year (Table 6). The overall total vetting duration, which is measured as the number of days as from the date of receipt of the complete bidding document from the PB to its approval by the Board, for all the 98 projects was 1690 days. The average vetting period per bidding document was 17 days as compared to 13 days for the previous financial year. This high average vetting duration was the result of the increasing number and complexity of bidding documents received coupled with the submission of incomplete and inaccurate bidding documents requiring more clarifications and updates on the part of PBs.

2.4 Public Bid Opening Sessions ◀

Following the public advertisement of the procurement projects, bids are received, registered and deposited in the tender box at the CPB on the closing date. A bid opening committee (BOC), generally chaired by at least one Board Member, is then setup to conduct bid opening as per the requirements of the PPA.



Public Bid Opening Session in CPB Conference Room

A total of 73 public bid opening sessions was carried out during the financial year which was almost twice the figure of 38 public bid opening sessions of the previous financial year. The total number of bids received was 381 working to an average of 5 bids per project which was much less than the average of 9 bids per project in financial year 2015-2016 (Table 7).

PUBLIC BID OPENING SESSION	2015-2016	2016-2017
NUMBER OF SESSIONS	38	73
TOTAL NO. OF BIDS RECEIVED	331	381
AVERAGE NO OF BIDS PER SESSION	9	5

Table 7: Public Bid Opening Sessions of Project for Financial Years 2015-2016 & 2016-2017.

2.5 Evaluation of bids received ◀

Following the opening of bids, a Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) consisting of a minimum of three evaluators is constituted as provided under the PPA. The Board selects and appoints a Team Leader and one member from the list of qualified evaluators maintained by the CPB. The BEC membership is completed with the appointment by the Board of a third member normally recommended by the Public Body (PB) from among its officers having worked on the project and being knowledgeable on the subject matter.

A secretary is designated by the PB to assist the BEC in taking minutes of meetings and keeping record of all matters considered by the committee.

In approving the constitution of each BEC, the Board takes into account the subject matter of the project, the various expertise required and the urgency of the project which sometimes may call for appointment of full time evaluators.

The law provides for the Board to appoint, following a request of the BEC, an advisor or a technical sub-committee to assist the BEC on highly technical or complex issues. In such cases, the terms of reference of the advisor or the technical sub-committee are approved by the Board.

Pre-evaluation meetings are held with the appointed members. The pre-evaluation brief covers extensively the terms of reference of the BEC as approved by the Board. Emphasis is laid on the requirement to produce a comprehensive and thoroughly documented report within the shortest possible time frame whilst upholding values such as fairness, equity and transparency and compliance with the PPA.

During the financial year, bids for 55 major projects were evaluated. The BECs met on an aggregate of 1058 days and worked for a total of 2036 hours. The average evaluation period per exercise was 19 days (Table 8) which relates to the number of days from the first BEC meeting to the day of the submission of the final evaluation report. The average time taken per exercise was 37 hours spread over the 19 days.

PROJECTS EVALUATED	2015-2016	2016-2017
NO. OF MAJOR PROJECT	35	55
TOTAL EVALUATION DAYS	696	1058
AVERAGE EVALUATION DURATION (DAYS)	20	19

Table 8: Evaluation of Projects for Financial Years 2015-2016 & 2016-2017

The total fees paid to the BEC members for the financial year amounted to Rs. 7.3 million as compared to Rs. 6.8 million for the previous financial year when 35 BECs were appointed. The average fees per BEC was 31 percent less than that for the previous financial year in spite of the increased number of BECs and higher hourly rates paid to BEC members as from March 2017. The reduction in average fees per BEC was the result of overall reduction in time taken to complete evaluation.

2.6 Approval of award ◀

The BEC evaluation report is examined by a Technical Committee (TC) for due diligence which submits its findings to the Chief Executive. The latter ensures and certifies compliance with procurement rules in accordance with the PPA and presents a paper to the Board for approval.

The Board, as per PPA, reviews the recommendations of the BEC and the TC reports. The Board may then approve the award of contract or require the BEC to make a fresh or further evaluation on specified grounds. As provided under the PPA, the Board may, if still not satisfied, set up another BEC to carry out a fresh evaluation.

A total of 47 BEC reports were finalized and technically cleared by TC for submission to the Chief Executive and subsequently to the Board for approval of award. The Board approved the award for 44 projects during the financial year. The Board did not approve award in the case of three projects where all bids received were considered non-responsive.

The total contract value for the 44 projects amounted to Rs. 6.7 billion as compared to a total contract value of Rs. 14.8 billion for 39 projects in the previous financial year.

The total contract value of Rs. 6.7 billion by type of project is shown in table 9 and illustrated in chart 7. The Board approved award of contract for 20 building projects for a total value of Rs. 3.8 billion representing about 56 percent of the total contract value of all approvals.

TYPE OF PROJECTS	NUMBER OF PROJECT	TOTAL CONTRACT VALUE (RS. MIL.)
BUILDINGS	20	3,785
ROADS	4	832
WATER	3	370
GOODS	7	855
OTHER	10	892
TOTAL	44	6,735

Table 9: Total Contract Value (Rs. Mil.) by Type of Project (2016-2017);

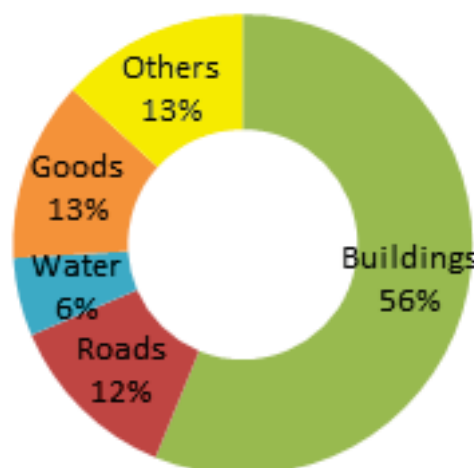


Chart 7 Distribution (%) of Total Contract Value by Project Type

2.7 Challenges and Appeals ◀

Bidders are entitled to challenge bidding documents within five days from either, the invitation to bid or from opening of bids.

Bidders who claim to have suffered, or to be likely to suffer, loss or injury due to a breach of a duty imposed by the PPA on a public body or the Board may challenge the procurement proceedings. The challenge has to be submitted to the Public Body (PB), in accordance with the PPA, within the prescribed time. The Board would then provide to the public body material for reply to the challenge of aggrieved bidders. In the absence of a decision by the PB within the prescribed time of seven days or if bidders are still not satisfied with the decision of the PB, they may apply to the Independent Review Panel (IRP) for a review of procurement proceedings.

During the financial year, challenges were received from aggrieved bidders in respect of 14 major contracts. In three cases, aggrieved bidders were satisfied with the replies of the PB. Eleven filed applications for review. The IRP found no merit in four cases while two cases were recommended for re-evaluation. The IRP found merit and awarded compensation in the case of one application. Decision with respect to five applications was still pending as at 30 June 2017.

2.8 Live Projects ◀

As at 30 June 2017, there were 38 projects under processing at different stages of the procurement activities. Evaluation was completed for eight projects and Due Diligence by TC was ongoing. Twelve projects had been advertised and nine projects were at vetting stage (chart 8).

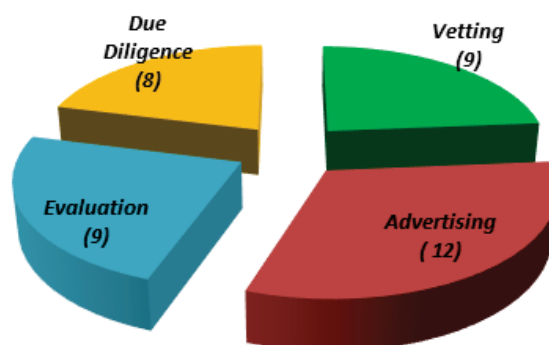


Chart 8: Status of the Live Projects as at 30 June 2017.

2.9 Issues Encountered in ◀ Procurement Activities

The execution of major projects in the Public Sector requires Public Bodies (PBs) to carefully plan the various stages involved from inception to successful completion/commissioning. The procurement process, being a very critical stage in the implementation, is but one step in the culmination of the project.

The PPA confers upon the CPB the responsibility of vetting bidding documents, public opening of bids, evaluation and approval of award of major contracts to successful bidders. The CPB endeavours to minimise the time taken to complete the part of the procurement cycle entrusted to it. However, from experience gathered at the CPB, particularly during the financial year 2016-17, there are a few issues highlighted below which, if addressed properly, will certainly contribute to reducing procurement lead time.

2.9.1 Pre-bid Issues ▶

It has been observed that a number of bidding documents contained many shortcomings as listed hereunder and which impacted negatively on procurement lead time:

- (i) Non-utilization of the appropriate Standard Bidding Document (SBD) as issued by the PPO;*
- (ii) Incomplete draft bidding documents, including drawings, check lists and procurement plans;*
- (iii) Delays in uploading soft copies of draft bidding documents on the CPB e-Procurement system;*
- (iv) Unreasonable cost estimates, inadequate technical specifications and other missing information which inevitably require ad-hoc meetings of the Board with concerned PBs;*
- (v) Lack of proper planning - procedures for vesting of land (compulsory acquisition), way-leave procedure, soil tests etc., are not completed prior to launching of bids;*
- (vi) Abnormal delays by PBs to attend to amendments in bidding documents as proposed by CPB during vetting; and*
- (vii) Lengthy periods between vetting by Board and launching of bids mainly with respect to foreign funded projects.*

Most of the above issues require the submission of revised and updated bidding documents by the concerned PBs. In many cases, these are completed after undue delays.

2.9.2. Issues during the Bidding Period ◀

Issue of addenda and clarifications, following queries from potential bidders, were common in works and consultancy procurement and depended mostly on the nature and complexity of projects. During floating of bids, PBs brought major changes to bidding documents which resulted in the need to extend closing date for submission of bids. The preparation of addenda and clarifications should require more rigour from public bodies and should be issued in a timely manner following Board's approval. Furthermore, numerous addenda and clarifications create hurdles at evaluation stage and therefore more time in finalisation of Bid Evaluation Reports.

2.9.3. Issues during Post-approval of Award ◀

After approval of award of contract by the Board, PBs have to issue notification of award to all bidders within the prescribed time of five days. In a number of cases, lengthy internal procedures at the level of public bodies delayed considerably the notification process. This added unnecessary constraints on bidders which required them to extend the validity of their bids and bid securities.

It has been noted that certain public bodies did not proceed with the award of contract where the IRP had not determined the application for review within the prescribed period of 30 days. This not only delayed the award of contract, but had in one case even led to the cancellation of the project.

Redevelopment
of Saint Louis
Power Station



3. Approved Award

OF CONTRACTS IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-2017

PROCUREMENT DESCRIPTION	NAME OF PUBLIC BODY	CONTRACT VALUE (RS. MILLION)
IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY IN LALLMATIE, BON ACCUEIL AND PONT BLANC AREAS.	CENTRAL WATER AUTHORITY	131
IMPROVEMENT OF RIVIÈRE DU REMPART DISTRIBUTION NETWORK.	CENTRAL WATER AUTHORITY	122
REPLACEMENT OF PIPELINES IN ROCHE NOIRES & PLAINES DES ROCHES REGIONS FOR CONTRACT C2015/128.	CENTRAL WATER AUTHORITY	117
OPERATION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY FOR HAZARDOUS WASTES AT LA CHAUMIÈRE.	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER & BEACH MANAGEMENT	230
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF LA LAURA TRANSFER STATION & TRANSPORTATION OF WASTES TO MARE CHICOSE LANDFILL.	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER & BEACH MANAGEMENT	97
NEW FIRE STATION AT ROSE BELLE.	MAURITIUS FIRE RESCUE SERVICES	50
CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINS IN CUREPIPE.	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CUREPIPE	30
CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINS & GUTTERS IN QUATRE BORNES.	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF QUATRE BORNES	19
CONSTRUCTION OF MEDICLINIC AT FLOREAL.	MINISTRY OF HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE	79
EXTENSION & STRENGTHENING OF MAURITIUS CONTAINER TERMINAL QUAY PROJECT-CONTRACT MPA 297A/2015 DREDGING WORKS PACKAGE.	MAURITIUS PORTS AUTHORITY	1,666
STORMWATER DRAINAGE WORKS AT PEREYBERE.	PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE	52
CONSTRUCTION OF 196 HOUSING UNITS & ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS AT BASSIN (104 UNITS) & CHEBEL (92 UNITS).	NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT	326
CONSTRUCTION OF 86 HOUSING UNITS & ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS AT CAMP DE MASQUE.	NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMPANY	138
CONSTRUCTION OF 164 HOUSING UNITS & ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS AT HENRIETTA - LOT 6.	NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMPANY	216

PROCUREMENT DESCRIPTION	NAME OF PUBLIC BODY	CONTRACT VALUE (RS. MILLION)
CONSTRUCTION OF 86 HOUSING UNITS & ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS AT PITON.	NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMPANY	111
CONSTRUCTION OF 206 HOUSING UNITS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS AT ST. JULIEN.	NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMPANY	329
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF A GRADE SEPARATED JUNCTION ALONG MI AT DECAEN STREET IN PORT LOUIS	ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	321
THE CONSTRUCTION OF GRADE SEPARATED JUNCTIONS AT PONT FER/JUMBO/DOWLUT ROUNDABOUTS & AI-MI LINK ROAD- PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS.	ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	284
REPAIR TO EMBANKMENT ON MOTORWAY M3 AT RIPAILLES.	ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	227
CONSTRUCTION OF ST JULIEN BYPASS.	ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	39
PROPOSED STADIUM AT ROCHE BON DIEU, RODRIGUES.	RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	28
UPGRADING OF CAMP DU ROI STADIUM, RODRIGUES.	RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	74
CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY SCHOOL AT BAIE MALGACHE, RODRIGUES.	RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	96
CONSTRUCTION OF A SOCIAL SECURITY HOUSE AT MONT LUBIN, RODRIGUES	RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	61
CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE STATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & MANAGEMENT CENTRE AT MON PLAISIR, RODRIGUES	RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	111
CONSTRUCTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AT SONGES, RODRIGUES	RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	36
EXTENSION OF TERRE ROUGE SECONDARY SCHOOL, RODRIGUES.	RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	135
SEWERAGE PROJECT AT HIGHLANDS PHASE I. SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF AIR GROUND VHF COMMUNICATION SYSTEM & VSAT EQUIPMENT FOR SSR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.	WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY CIVIL AVIATION	79
PROCUREMENT OF GAS OIL FOR TWO (2) TERMINALS OF THE CARGO HANDLING CORPORATION LIMITED (UNDER FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT).	CARGO HANDLING CORPORATION LIMITED	140
CLEANING OF BEACHES - LOTS 1 AND 4.	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER & BEACH MANAGEMENT	77

PROCUREMENT DESCRIPTION	NAME OF PUBLIC BODY	CONTRACT VALUE (RS. MILLION)
<p>PROCUREMENT FOR STREET CLEANING, REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, CLEANING OF MARKET/FAIR, PUBLIC PLACES, PUBLIC TOILET, INCLUDING CARTING AWAY OF POST CYCLONIC WASTE AT TRIOLET, LE HOCHET AND BAIE DU TOMBEAU.</p>	<p>DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PAMPLEMOUSSES</p>	<p>47</p>
<p>PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR STREET CLEANING, REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, CLEANING OF MARKET/FAIR, PUBLIC PLACES, PUBLIC TOILET ETC, INCLUDING CARTING AWAY OF POST CYCLONIC WASTE.</p>	<p>DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RIVIERE DU REMPART</p>	<p>77</p>
<p>BEACH CLEANING, REFUSE COLLECTION & MAINTENANCE OF TOILET BLOCKS & PROVISION OF SECURITY ON MAIN PUBLIC BEACHES</p>	<p>MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER & BEACH MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>81</p>
<p>PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES IN PORT LOUIS.</p>	<p>MUNICIPALITY OF PORT-LOUIS</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>PROCUREMENT OF LAUNDRY SERVICES FOR HOSPITAL CLOTHING.</p>	<p>MINISTRY OF HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE</p>	<p>231</p>
<p>PROCUREMENT OF LIGHT DIESEL OIL (GAS OIL) FOR PERIOD JANUARY 2017 TO DECEMBER 2019 (UNDER FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT).</p>	<p>MAURITIUS PORTS AUTHORITY</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>PROCUREMENT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS UNDER FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT.</p>	<p>MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND TRANSPORT</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF DIGITAL ONLINE VIDEO PLATFORM & SETTING UP OF A BROADCASTING CONTROL ROOM.</p>	<p>NATIONAL ASSEMBLY</p>	<p>76</p>
<p>PROCUREMENT OF GAS OIL FOR THE SIX (6) DEPOTS OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT CORPORATION (UNDER FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT).</p>	<p>NATIONAL TRANSPORT CORPORATION</p>	<p>478</p>
<p>PROCUREMENT OF MEDICAL GASES.</p>	<p>MINISTRY OF HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE</p>	<p>82</p>
<p>PREQUALIFICATION FOR PAILLES GUIBIES SEWERAGE PROJECT PHASE 2 - CONSTRUCTION OF TRUNK SEWER RETICULATION, NETWORK HOUSE CONNECTIONS & CWA PIPE REPLACEMENT CONTRACT WW 260W.</p>	<p>WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATION AND INNOVATION</p>	<p>142</p>
<p>FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR CONNECTIVITY SERVICES FOR SKYGOVNET PROJECT 2017-2020.</p>	<p>MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER & BEACH MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>85</p>
<p>CLEANING & MAINTENANCE OF TOILET BLOCKS ON PUBLIC BEACHES FOR LOTS NO.1 TO NO.4.</p>	<p>.</p>	<p></p>



Riviere Des Anguilles Dam

4. CPB STAFF ◀ WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The Central Procurement Board Staff Welfare Association (CPBSWA) was established in 2009 and falls under the aegis of the Public Officers' Welfare Council (POWC). The main objective of the CPBSWA is to promote the welfare of the staff and their Families' through various social, cultural and recreational activities.

The CPBSWA is managed by an Executive Committee comprising of 10 members selected for a two-year period at the General Assembly of its members. It functions in accordance with the rules and regulations as issued by the Registrar of Associations.

The funding of the CPBSWA is mainly from monthly subscription fees of its members. Occasionally fund raising activities are held to supplement the members' contributions to meet the expenses of planned activities.

During the financial year, there were no major planned activities besides the usual end of year party attended by the staff of the CPB.







CENTRAL PROCUREMENT BOARD
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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