

CPB NEWS



Central Procurement Board Newsletter

Issue 03-December 2018

Chairman's Message

Dear reader

This is the third newsletter of this year for period ending December.

As is the tradition, in this edition, we look back on the achievements of the year, to provide you with a brief on the various aspects of the duties and responsibilities incumbent on CPB and how they were dealt with.

The CPB has been very busy as it has processed a record number of tenders during 2018. In this edition, you will see the numerous actions taken in support to the Public Bodies, in diligently processing their requests for floating tenders and approving awards.

Over and above its duties under the Public Procurement Act, the CPB has also endeavoured to improve its communications with the public at large. An in-house committee has been set up to operationalize its business transformation strategy. Already, it has embarked on the implementation of the paperless policy.

E-Procurement will be mandatory as from mid-2019 and necessary steps are being taken for the staff to be fully on board and in this respect an implementation team under the leadership of the Chief Executive has been set up.

The CPB has updated and revamped its website and now provides a gamut of information on the status of tenders being processed. This gives stakeholders and the public at large factual information on the status of projects on a regular basis.

Another important decision of the CPB has been to set a target of 15 days for producing the bid evaluation reports (BER) and thereafter a target of 3 days to carry out the technical reviews of the BER.

CPB has widened its pool of registered evaluators during the year by enlisting new evaluators in different fields of expertise to serve as Bid Evaluation Committee members. Thus, there are more specialist evaluators available to carry out evaluation of bids. The CPB has adopted and published a code of ethics and conduct for all board members and staff and is presently finalising its anti-corruption manual based on the format provided by the ICAC.

Integrity, transparency, accountability, fairness and diligence are the key principles by which CPB carries out its duties; one thing is certain, CPB leaves no stone unturned in terms of its effort to faithfully represent those values expected from it.

CPB continues to engage with the Public Procurement Office as well as with the Competition Commission of Mauritius with the clear objectives to share information and to improve the tender process and provide a level playing field to all.

I wish to thank all our partners and all stakeholders with whom we work for their wonderful collaboration and wish them the best of Season's greetings.

I thank each and every member of the Board for their exemplary collaboration and their unflinching support to making CPB the best it can be. The Board has held 102 formal meetings and 224 Ad-hoc meetings. This gives an indication of the volume of work undertaken by the Board.

I thank the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive and all the CPB staff for their loyal commitment, dedication and hard work.

With best Season's Greetings to you.

Raj H Prayag PDSM

Chairperson, CPB

December 2018

Vision

To be the model for efficient and effective public procurement in Mauritius

Mission

To ensure value for money in public procurement and timely acquisition through a fair and transparent process

Core Values

Transparency - Integrity - Ethical Practice - Equality/Fairness - Accountability

In This Issue

- Chairman's Message
- Message from Mrs. Dindoyal
- Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework
- Land for Parking Facilities
- Margin of Preference
- Facts and Figures
- End of Year and Children's Party

Importance of public procurement

The importance of public procurement cannot be underestimated as it is one of the most indispensable elements in any country's agenda to promote economic and social development. The role of public procurement institutions is critical. Public Procurement institutions' overriding objective has to be effective and efficient procurement with zero tolerance towards any fraudulent or corrupt practice. Public procurement is a part of the government that every citizen sees at both national and international levels. It is one of the country's most important barometers to assess whether the index of corruption in that particular country is high, moderate or low. The media must show extreme care and diligence in their reports on public procurement as this has repercussions on a country's credibility and reputation worldwide.

The CPB, being one of the procurement institutions set up by Parliament, with a clear mandate to act in all transparency, fairness and equity in dealing with the procurement of major contracts has over the years been striving to meet expectations and not fall short on deliverables.

Year 2018 which witnessed a change of Chairmanship and the replacement of one member by another (both the Chairman and the Member having come to the end of their contracts) was extremely eventful and significant in terms of projects vetted, evaluated and awarded and the implementation of new modernization initiatives.

The Policy Procurement office, which according to law is engaged in policy making and monitoring, is now holding regular meetings with the CPB. Such joining of hands to ensure effective and efficient public procurement has innumerable benefits which will clearly show very positive results in the near future and in years to come.

Meetings are also being held with the Competition Commission of Mauritius (CCM) so that both institutions exchange information that will assist both of them to have knowledge of essential information regarding bidders to prevent cartel, collusion and unfair practices. A Memorandum of Understanding covering the essential areas of cooperation has been signed by CCM and CPB.

The other initiative that needs to be underlined is with regard to CPB's communication strategy. It has been noted that the one area which the CPB may be falling short is its public relations and interaction with public bodies. As the CPB is bound by secrecy and confidentiality with regard to its vetting, evaluation and award activities, all delays in the procurement process has been often attributed to the CPB. Such unfounded and unfair perceptions have caused the Board to review its public relations strategy.

The one visible outcome is this newsletter which is meant to showcase the activities of the CPB. The other will be a stakeholder's forum which will soon be organized together with the Policy Office. Another initiative which is in the pipeline is the training of evaluators. Other changes have been made in house to go paperless, to establish committees to progress and sensitize staff on improving performance.

Furthermore, the CPB website provides live status report on all projects under consideration.

The aim of this article is to sensitize readers that the CPB is now keen to be known and understood so that all the activities it has been doing and will be doing are not shrouded in opacity.

PUBLIC SECTOR ANTI-CORRUPTION FRAMEWORK

To show its commitment towards the prevention of any form of corruption at the CPB, The CPB has agreed in collaboration with the Independent Commission for Corruption (ICAC) to launch two half-day training session for members of its Board and staff on 25th January and 8th February 2019 respectively.

The aim of this two day training session is to sensitize the CPB on the legal framework in place for the Prevention of Corruption as well as the mechanisms that are required in public sector organizations for a robust anti-corruption framework

The CPB has already issued its Code of Conduct and Ethics for Board members and members of staff. It is now moving forward towards the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Committee.

LAND FOR PARKING FACILITIES

A plot of land of 1,240m² in area, located adjacent to the NPF Rose Hill Building, has been vested in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for the construction of a new building for the CPB.

In the first phase, the land will be levelled, made secure with improved fencing and used as a parking space. This will alleviate the acute parking requirements for staff, evaluators and visitors. By the end of this financial year, it is our objective to prepare detailed design and estimates for the future CPB House with a view to including a budget Item in the 2019-20 Budget.

STATISTICS

The implementation of Government Projects has picked up momentum during this year and this is reflected in the increase in number of projects being handled at the CPB. Some statistics for 2018 are as follows:

Projects received during the year	68
Projects for which approval of Award was given (includes projects submitted in 2017)	43
Projects at vetting stage at close of 2018 (as at 31 December)	10
Projects at Evaluation stage at close of 2018 (as at 31 December)	6
Projects that were annulled (from July to December)	3
Projects sent to Public Bodies (as bids were below threshold) (from July to December)	2
Number of evaluated projects in 2018	55

SUSPENSION OF MARGIN OF PREFERENCE

Section 28(2) of the Public Procurement Act mentions that - *In appropriate cases and subject to regulations to that effect, a bidding document may provide for an advantage or preference to a bidder.*

Section 35(1) & (2) of the Public Procurement Regulations further mentions that *...Any applicable preference shall be stated in the bidding document and shall be in accordance with directives issued by the Policy office.*

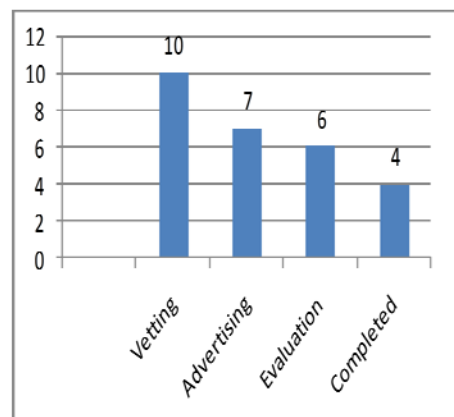
In 2012, PPO issued Directive No 12 (**Margin of Preference for Procurement of works**) and Circular No 13 (**Revised margin of preference for procurement of works**). These related to a preference varying between 10 to 20% allocated to bidders (Small & Medium enterprises and bidders incorporated in the Republic of Mauritius) for employing 80% of local labour.

The CPB, at its regular meeting with the PPO, flagged issues such as eligibility for MOP, distortion of market prices, scarcity of local labour and difficulties in ensuring that contractors are effectively employing 80% local labour.

Consequently, in December 2018, the PPO (after seeking clearance from Government) issued Circular No 2 *whereby Public Bodies were informed that policy on MOP allowed for use of local labour for the procurement of works contracts is being suspended in all invitations of Bids up to 30 June 2019 with immediate effect.*

PROJECT STATUS

As at 31 December 2018, the CPB was handling 23 procurement projects falling under the category of major contracts. Out of those, 10 projects were at vetting stage, 7 at bidding stage and 6 at evaluation stage (graph below).



A dash-board is published on a weekly basis giving our stakeholders and the public at large a representation of where each public procurement project, in respect of major contracts, lies.

END OF YEAR AND CHILDREN'S PARTY 2018

The CPB organized its Annual End of Year Party on Friday 14 December 2018 at Ambre Hotel, Belle Mare. Current CPB Staff as well as those who were transferred from CPB during the year were invited and the event was a great success. Various activities aimed at fostering team building and team spirit among the CPB staff were organized at the hotel that day.



The Children's Party was organized on Monday 24 December 2018 to celebrate Christmas. Staff brought along their children and gifts were distributed to them at the end of the party. The lucky draw for the Corbeille Menagère 2018 was also carried out that day.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information and visit our website for additional information.

Central Procurement Board

1st Floor, NPF Building
Julius Nyerere Street
Rose Hill

Tel: +230 465 9300
Fax: +230 465 9999
Email: cpb@govmu.org
Website: cpb.govmu.org