

CPB NEWS



Central Procurement Board Newsletter

Issue 02-September 2018

Chairman's message

Dear reader

I hope you had found the Newsletter No.1 of July 2018 of interest.

We are continuing along the same vein with the objectives of providing you with as much information as possible on the various activities' incumbent on the CPB under the Public Procurement Act.

CPB has now recruited two new Engineers who are carrying out vetting and technical reviews of Bid Evaluation Reports on a full-time basis. CPB has also enlarged its list of Evaluators following a call for registration of interest. Induction course for the first batch was held on Friday the 28th September 2018, with the objectives to familiarize them with duties and responsibilities during vetting and evaluation exercises.

A meeting with selected Public bodies was also held in September at the CPB to discuss the pros and cons of the Design and Construct format of tenders. Experience so far acquired under this regime was discussed and experience shared did not show positive results in terms of responsiveness / competitiveness and the difficulties of project achieving their goals. It was argued that better results are obtained when the Public Body defined its requirements through a consultancy services contract and bids launched using BOQ and detailed drawings.

CPB continues to engage with PPO and the CCM on a monthly basis to improve communications, share information and provide feedback with a view to improve bid documents, ensure healthy competition, be on guard against potential collusion practice and promote value for money for projects.

CPB is committed to process bid evaluation within 15 working days after opening of bids.

The Board has approved and adopted a set of Codes of Conduct and Ethics for the Board members and for the staff of CPB. This was done in consultation with and collaboration of the Staff welfare Association.

You will see in this newsletter an article dedicated to the Staff Welfare Association. We urge you to visit our website www.cpb.govmu.org where you will find more detailed informed on status of projects.

We would appreciate hearing from you.

Happy reading.

Chairperson, CPB
Raj H Prayag, PDSM

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

- Business Transformation
- Design & Build Turnkey Projects
- Interaction with Procurement Policy Office
- Induction with New Evaluators
- Security at CPB
- Message from President of CPB Staff Welfare Association
- Facts and Figures

DESIGN AND BUILD TURNKEY PROJECTS

Public Bodies, in an attempt to accelerate procurement process, have been initiating many works related projects on a Design and Build basis. The experience of Public Bodies as well as the Central Procurement Board has been mostly negative. In many cases, there has been a lack of competition with only one or two bids received. Public Bodies do not obtain the expected products, the more so when the Scope of Works is ill-defined. Estimates are not realistic. There are serious difficulties in evaluating and comparing bids which have been prepared by different consultants. There is no level playing field and may be a deterrent for bidders to participate. Furthermore, Consultants, under a Design and Build procurement exercise, work in the interest of the Contractors.

In order to obtain feedback and their views, CPB organized a face-to-face meeting on 11 September 2018 with seven Public bodies that had submitted draft Design and Build bidding documents for vetting to the Board. The purpose of the meeting was to engage Public Bodies for a more efficient, cost effective and transparent bidding process.

As a result of this interaction, many Public Bodies have withdrawn their draft Turnkey documents. They are seriously undertaking preparation of detailed designs with Bills of Quantities as part of the bidding documents. It is thus reasonable to hope that future works projects will attract more competition and that Public Bodies will achieve their goals as well as value for money in their procurement exercise.



INTERACTIONS WITH PPO

In the exercise of its function, the Central Procurement Board (CPB) which is responsible for the vetting of bidding documents, receipt/evaluation of bids and approval of award of major contracts, strives to achieve the highest standards of transparency and equity in the execution of its duties. Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) are issued by the PPO which is an independent policy making and monitoring body. In the process of vetting and evaluation, the CPB often comes across matters that require to be discussed and incorporated in future or on-going bidding documents.

In this respect, a monthly consultation meeting is being held between PPO and CPB with a view to strengthen the procurement process and bring amendments to the SBDs, Regulations and Directives.

At the last consultation meeting between CPB and PPO held on 26 September 2018, the following salient features were addressed and appropriate action have already been initiated:-

Margin of Preference;
e-procurement (second stage);
Training of Evaluators; and
Establishment of a Technical Working Group on “*Estimates of Cost*”

ACCESS CONTROL

Since 17 September 2018, an electronic access control system is in place on the first floor of the NPF building, housing the Central Procurement Board. In view of various occurrences of trespassing by unauthorised or unwarranted persons encountered recently, the Board took the decision to restrict access to the building exclusively to authorised personnel and visitors. The main objective is to protect physical and human assets.

The CPB, as per the Public Procurement Act, is entrusted, *inter-alia*, the safe custody of bids for major contracts and as such had to ensure that same were guarded in a secure environment.

Apart from the current staff members, evaluators and other authorised visitors must now register themselves first for a controlled access to the building. The current system restricts unauthorised people from reaching predefined areas. The main entrance door is hence controlled as well as the two secondary doors giving access to the eastern and western wings. The system also caters for a videophone to identify and clear access to visitors in specific circumstances. The installed system caters for appropriate actions in situations of emergency ensuring constant occupational safety and health compliance.

It is for sure that henceforth, there are no more chances of encountering members of the public loitering in the corridors of the CPB claiming having lost their way out! Hopefully, staff members will also have a feeling of reinforced security when it comes to access to their respective offices.

BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

“The bottom line for transformation is about improving our quality of service so that the quality of life and customer experience of the public and our clients is improved.” Ms. K Susan Culver

In March 2016 the Prime Minister’s office issued a communiqué, announcing that the Public Sector has embarked on a Business Transformation Initiative, with the technical assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC). Government wants to pursue with its transformation agenda to create “a new model for the Mauritius Public Service aligned to a common purpose, vision, sense of belonging, behavior and goal”.

Under the Aegis of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms, aligning with Vision 2030, Ms. Kelly Susan Culver, a Consultant designated by the COMSEC, has developed a Strategy, which focuses on the review of existing reform initiatives. The consultant further establishes a roadmap along with a guideline for its implementation, which she describes as being “an ecosystem requiring convergence in thinking.

In line with Government’s initiative, the Central Procurement Board (CPB) wants to bring into play a game-changing model aiming at curtailing the decision cycle so as to impact positively on efficiency and economy. Our objective is to attain the goal of public procurement in a timely, efficient and effective manner without compromising on the basic principles of public procurement:

Transparency, Integrity, Economy, Openness, Competition and Accountability

In addressing the public procurement principles above to deliver on the bottom line, the CPB will have to redesign its work flow under a new technology- based architecture to become more agile, responsive and more efficient.

The CPB has been putting in place a collaborative framework for pre-engaging with public bodies prior to launching of bids for major contracts and for developing synergies with other institutions such as the Procurement Policy Office and the Competition Commission of Mauritius. We are hoping in a near future to extend collaboration to the ICAC as well.

There is an invaluable body of knowledge and know-how, within the CPB that has been acquired over years of experience, which remains within individual boundaries. Individual silos must be broken down and consolidated to allow for the emergence of a repository for institutional knowledge.

Obviously, the business transformation process will have to operate in an ecosystem endowed with a mechanism which will generate a business continuation model while simultaneously monitoring performance and incorporating adaptive solutions. Algorithms will have to be developed and continually upgraded to automate processes than can free resources to be directed to other creative and productive areas.

Engaging with Public Bodies and peer institutions requires a certain level of preparation, starting from an assessment of internal capabilities and redefining or acquiring appropriate structures and tools to deliver on objectives. At the same time procurement is an ongoing process and interactions with public bodies are happening daily. Consequently, an interim mode with a potential of incremental change is being deployed.

The CPB has opted for a proactive and adaptive engagement. A new ethos is being inspired within the CPB along with the ambition of replicating it outside its boundaries, in a ripple effect while engaging with public bodies.

Our goal is to contribute towards the generation of a culture of team work, ethical behavior and collaboration across institutions and throughout the procurement cycle, creating a sense of belonging which in turn will bring in its wake added value and quality service to our stake holders.

INDUCTION WITH NEW EVALUATORS

On Friday 28th September, the CPB held a meeting with those who have registered themselves, for the first time, to be considered as evaluators for major contracts.

It was an opportunity to introduce the Central Procurement Board following which, a briefing on what is expected from future evaluators was delivered.

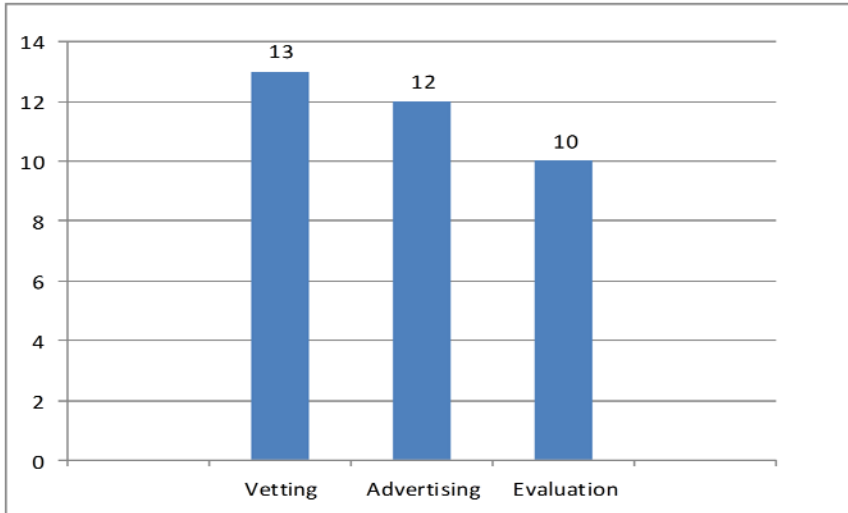
The session which was carried out under the chairmanship of Mr. Raj Prayag, Chairman of the CPB, allowed some queries to be cleared during the question and answer part before the official closing.

This session is in line with the vision of this new board to engage with stakeholders and communicate more transparently for effective results.



PROJECT STATUS

As at 30 September 2018, the CPB was handling 35 procurement projects falling under the category of major contracts. Out of those, 13 projects were at vetting stage, 12 at bidding stage and 10 at evaluation stage (graph below).



A dashboard 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.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CPB STAFF WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The Central Procurement Board Staff Welfare Association celebrates its 10 years of existence this year. It was an initiative taken in 2008 by the Board with a view to enhancing the quality of life of employees at work. The Board and the management recognise that a happy and healthy workforce is critical to strengthen the cohesion and performance of the organisation. In fact, we all agree that our human resource component is the most valuable asset in driving the mission and vision of the institution.

Therefore, to keep the staff motivated it is of utmost importance that their well-being is ensured and safeguarded. Over the last decade the Association has tried to maintain a work/social balance by promoting a family and cosy atmosphere at work. Several types of activities such as team building, outings, lunch, health care, fund raising and end of year parties have been organised and many more are yet to come. It is the ambition of the Association to innovate in the near future, with the help of the new Board in creating and developing a "keep-fit" corner where some gym equipment will be made available for staff to work out during recess time. This will also be in line with the action plan of Prime Minister to promote sport activities among the citizens. In addition, we are also planning to conduct trainings/seminars/ grooming classes etc to better polish the behaviour of our staff.

The Association has another important mission which is to harmonise staff and processes at the Central Procurement Board to make it one of the best performing organisations and a reference in the public sector.

I am heartened and would like to express my gratitude to the Board Members and staff for their unflinching support.

Thank you
Mrs R Ramjuttun

STATISTICS

Quarterly Statistics for period July to September 2018

Type	Number
Received Projects	18
Projects for which closing date has been issued (i.e. vetting completed)	12
Public Openings	20
Projects for which evaluation has started	13
Approved Projects	11

The public body has cancelled the procurement proceedings for **1** project;

The contract value is below the prescribed amount for **1** project;

The bid prices are substantially above the cost estimates for **2** projects;

The bids are technically non-responsive for **1** project.

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