

Message from Chairperson CPB



It is my great pleasure to share with you some news of note in the life of the CPB during the year ending in December 2022.

CPB, being the national institution through which major procurements are conducted, on behalf of the public bodies, has been attending with diligence, professionalism to its core business, as provided for, under the part III section 11 of the PPA with regard to vetting, evaluation, receiving and opening of bids, approving and issuing clarifications and addendum etc.

2022 has also been a year of transition as five new board members have been appointed to replace those outgoing, after completion of their non-renewable two terms. I take this opportunity to thank Mr. K. Mauremootoo, Mr. H. Rambhojun, Mr. S. Aboobakar, Mr. K. Bagwan and Mrs. S. Dindoyal for their top-class service to the Nation. As their replacement, we welcome Mr. S. Ragen, Mr. C. Jugroo, Mr. A. S. Sairally, Mr. F. Sénèque and Mr. D. Ramdhony who joined us as recently as August 2022. Understandably, there is a phase of learning curve to go through but overall, these various changes have no had any adverse effect on the performance of the Board

We also had a change at the level of the Chief Executive .We have a new Chief Executive Mr. D. Mannick, who was formally appointed in October 2022. Our manager Mrs. M. Pitois went on retirement in July 2022 and has not been replaced as yet.

However, there had been some difficulties encountered following the recent covid- pandemic as there had been huge volatility in prices and many bids received during the year had had to be cancelled because the bids received were in excess of the cost estimates. Furthermore, there had been a notable reduction in the number of bids received due to uncertainties.

This being the last newsletter of the year, we would like to thank all our partners for their most valuable collaboration. We earnestly hope that this collaboration will be further strengthened so that Mauritius will be a global reference for procurement.

Seasonal Greetings: We extend to you, dear readers and your loved ones, our best seasonal greetings, we wish you a very happy New Year 2023.

Chairperson, CPB

Raj H. Prayag GOSK. PDSM. C.Eng. P.Eng. FIEM

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Certified Evaluators to be Members of the Bid Evaluation Committee

The CPB, in its quest to continuously improve, had decided to train potential evaluators so that they will be classified as Certified Evaluators for selection as members of the Bid Evaluation Committee.

It is to be noted that the Procurement Policy Office is dispensing training to evaluators on how to navigate through the e-Procurement System. Section 6 (1)(b) of the Public Procurement Act which states that “*The Procurement Policy Office shall not in any way be operationally involved in conducting procurement proceedings or resolving procurement disputes*”.

Consequently, the Central Procurement Board (CPB) in collaboration with the Civil Service College, Mauritius (CSCM) have decided to design and develop a 5-module online course together with on-line assessment for all potential candidates to be considered for selection as evaluators.

There will be a compulsory general module which will provide an insight into the bid evaluation process within the procurement cycle including the procurement legislation, methods and principles. Participants will be able to better understand the role and responsibilities of bid evaluators. The other 4 modules will include evaluation of works, goods, consultancy services and provision of other services in the public sector.

CSCM will mount the modules online on its platform and at the end of each module there will be an assessment (multiple choice). A certificate will be issued on successful completion of each module.

It is expected that the online training of the 5 modules will be launched by mid-February 2023 by CPB and CSCM in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs.

Prospective evaluators will be invited through the media to register and take the 5 – module course online and at the end of which, after successful completion including the online assessment will become certified evaluators.

Swaminathan RAGEN
Vice Chairperson

The Journey for ISO 9001:2015 Certification

It all started around February 2021, when there was an urgent need for streamlining processes at the Central Procurement Board (CPB). The expected outcome of the implementation of this quality management system is to improve service delivery and enhance the CPB’s customer experience.

So far, staff of the CPB including the Board Members had been sensitised to this ISO Standard. All the processes having a major impact on service delivery had already been drafted and associated risks assessed. Mandatory documents in conformity with ISO 9001:2015 had also been prepared and approved.

The Quality Management System implemented at the CPB is under scrutiny through the internal audit which is also a mandatory requirement. The result of this audit shall be presented to top management for further improvements in the daily activities of the organisation.

A Quality Management Manual which is a guide to ISO 9001:2015 will be ready by January 2023. An external certification body has already been approached for surveillance and certification purposes.

It is expected that Central Procurement Board will be ISO -Certified by mid-March 2023.

Swaminathan RAGEN
Vice Chairperson

POST- COVID 19 IMPACTS ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCESS

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about significant changes in the way economies function worldwide and in the public procurement process. To combat the pandemic, Governments across the world had had to impose restrictions on mobility (lockdown). These restrictions have led to significant disruptions in the supply chain and freight transport sector resulting in volatility in the prices of goods and services.

Bidders for capital projects are experiencing great difficulties to determine with certainty the prices to be quoted for the bids on account of escalation and instability in the prices of goods, services and freight charges. Thus, some bidders for capital projects prefer not to participate in the bidding process due to: -

- the volatility in the prices of goods and uncertainty in the supply of goods pertaining to the said projects; and
- the fact that in the event their bids are in excess of 25% of the estimated cost of the project, their bids will subsequently be rejected as provided in the Public Procurement Act 2006.

When the quoted prices of bids are more than **15% and less than 25%** of the estimated cost, **Directive 61** empowers a public body to negotiate with the bidders as a complimentary measure.

The Central Procurement Board (CPB) is bound by the provisions of the Public Procurement Act 2006 not to proceed with the award of the contract for the projects where the lowest evaluated bid is above 25% of the estimated cost of the project. Consequently, the bidding process has to be started afresh resulting in undue delays in implementation of projects.

For this calendar year, at least six projects had to be cancelled and relaunched.

A study of the evolution of Construction Price Index (CPI) has also revealed unprecedented patterns. The CPI which stood at 118.6 in October 2021 had made a weighty leap to 131.0 at the end of July 2022. This trend line further corroborates the fact that construction reliability is disrupted with challenges.

Nevertheless, it is important to mention that from July 2022 to September 2022, the Construction Price Index has increased at a relatively decreasing pace of 0.9% which might inspire confidence into a gradually stabilising market situation.

The road to full recovery after the COVID-19 crisis will likely be long and difficult. It is to be noted that the repo rate has recently risen and currently positioned at 4.50 points. Whether there is substantial stimulus or not, this is a critical time that could define the future resiliency and efficiency of the country's infrastructure.

Chittaman JUGROO
Vice Chairperson

My experiences as the newly appointed Chief Executive (CE) Central Procurement Board and the challenges I anticipate going forward

The challenges that I anticipate going forward is to create a bond of friendship amongst the staff which will create a synergy towards knowledge driven process with continuous improvements – the Gemba Kaizen Theory.

Motivate the staff which will create some sort of impetus that will make them become hungry for innovation and change due to ever-increasing economic pressure which is creating a disbalance in procurement system because of price volatility thus making it difficult to make realistic cost estimates.

If there is an area which is friendly shinning for innovation and actually succeeding, it is procurement without any doubt.

From the Central Tender Board Act 1994, Public Procurement Transparency and Equity Act 1999, reinstatement of Central Tender Board Act 2000 and lastly The Public Procurement Act 2006. So, the procurement section is on perpetual innovation as the market is constantly challenging it. Recently, we had the introduction of e-Procurement System which is now being challenged by the Monitoring and Assessment of the Procurement System (MAPS) which will bring more innovation in

Visibility is the key to success and we are all witnessing how procurement is being redesigned and upgraded within organisations. At the end of the day, we have to create excellent procurement professionals toward result orientation and outcome driven.

Hence, the qualities of leadership are very important. A visionary leader with skills and capabilities to add value through outstanding leadership and human capital development, are essential ingredients to be a CE for the next decades.

Dinesh MANNICK
Chief Executive

Impression of Board Member, Mr. Sénèque

After ten months spent at the Central Procurement Board as a Board Member, I would like to share my views on the way that I see the Board operating.

Public Procurement, there is no doubt, is a very complex process. It involves a lot of important decisions and responsibilities that must be totally assumed by those who take them. And decisions must be taken while ensuring equality of opportunity, fairness of treatment, and absolute transparency amongst other qualities.

I am convinced that the CPB has at its disposal the perfect tools to achieve the above goals. In all its decision-making processes, the CPB constantly stands guided by the PPA Act, Regulations and the various Directives issued by PPO and it continuously strives to reach the right decision by going through a system of checks, balances and well-established proven procedures at different levels of the organisation.

A very important aspect is the people. To succeed in the role that it plays in the country the CPB highly relies on the dedication and the uncompromising integrity of its people at all levels. But people are humans and, as in all organisations, there are ups and downs. This is where management normally steps in to ensure that people constantly remain focused and motivated. On the whole, however, I find the system and structure that are in place at the CPB to be working and the organisation is delivering. There is of course always room for improvement.

François SÉNÈQUE
Board Member

Impression of Board Member, Mr. A.S. Sairally

Join the Central Procurement Board (CPB) in February 2022, and from day one, I appreciated the confidential nature of the duties at CPB. We have to demonstrate a high degree of professionalism, operating within a strict legal framework as spelt out by

The Public Procurement Act 2006 supplemented by The Public Procurement Regulations 2008. Furthermore, a set of directives issued by The Procurement Policy Office which is the policy arm of the parent Ministry. At the CPB several levels of scrutiny have been established to uphold the rigor of transparency and enforcement.

Our service meets international requirements thus add to the reputation of Mauritius and gives the comfort for foreign bidders to participate and also Funding Institution to fund our projects.

The CPB in its quest for innovation has revamped the existing list of experienced evaluators and is mounting a tailor-made course in collaboration with Civil Service College to enhance the standard and provide high degree of proficiency in procurement procedures.

Abdool Samad SAIRALLY
Board Member

Impression of Board Member, Mr. D. Ramdhony

After having completed 3 months as member of the CPB, here is my appreciation and observation on the operation of the Board. Central Procurement Board (CPB) is a body headed by a professional who is very meticulous and open with a participative approach.

Board members have a diverse mix of skills and experience and are distinguished by their professional ability, integrity and independence of opinion.

The Board is constantly seeking to upgrade its services and addresses high quality of standard in all area of operations. This vision can be enhanced if an Operational Quality Manual is prepared and published on the “Roles and “Responsibilities for employees”.

The implementation of ISO specification 9001:2015 at CPB will be a big achievement. This will be an opportunity to redefine the responsibility of each and every one with the objective of providing an optimal and efficient service. A Quality Assurance Manager will furthermore, ensure higher level of professional service of international standard.

The Chief Executive Officer must actively ensure the management Policy System Responsibility, Authority and Communication at all levels for a smooth process of each business.

Online vetting and EPS where dashboards providing business intelligence on the performance of CPB can be extrapolated.

In addition to the above, the more so I would propose the implementation of a health and safety standard compliance with the occupational and safety act, to the scope at vetting process, which I believe is of paramount importance.

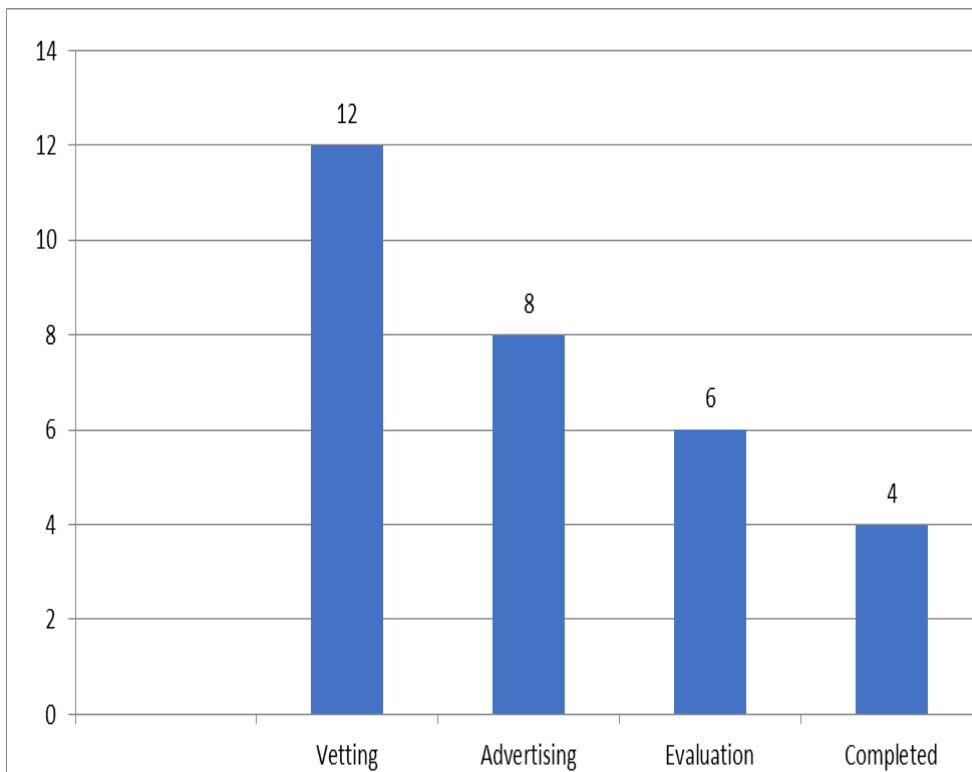
Dyaneshawar RAMDHONY, OSK
Board Member

Calendar Year Statistics Snapshot

No. of Projects Received	83
No. of Bidding Documents vetted (completed)	75
No. of Public Openings	70
No. of Projects Evaluated (Completed)	46
No. of Approvals of Award	39

PROJECT STATUS

As at 16 December 2022, the CPB was handling 26 procurement projects falling under the category of major contracts. Out of which, 12 were at vetting stage, 8 at advertising stage and 6 at evaluation stage.



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

Contact Us

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

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