

CPB NEWS



Central Procurement Board Newsletter

Issue 07 - December 2019

Dear Reader

I am pleased to inform you of some of the tasks undertaken, during this last quarter of 2019, to further improve on the quality of services provided by the CPB to the nation within the procurement landscape.

In line with its philosophy of constantly challenging itself to be better and to provide a service of excellence with regard to procurement in Mauritius, CPB, through its parent Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, has sought external and independent assistance to review the operation of the CPB. In this respect, CPB is very grateful to the European Union, for the services of an international expert to help review the procurement processes in place, and to propose new and innovative mechanisms with checks and balances to ensure a holistic approach to procurement from project inception to post completion report and audit. Value for money and life cycle costing would be an integral part of this new approach. During the present first phase of his mission, the expert has met with most of our partners such as the PPO, CC, IRP, NAO, Public Bodies, Evaluators, funding agencies as well as representatives of MCCI (private sector) for a better understanding of the procurement system in place and to seek their views and input to making the procurement process more user friendly, to attract more competition and to get the best deals for Mauritius.

E-Procurement is taking shape through a transitional phase and CPB is undertaking online evaluation with the technical assistance of PPO. When all stakeholders are fully on board of this system, this methodology of procurement will greatly reduce evaluation time and further enhance the reputation of Mauritius regarding ease of doing business.

CPB is well placed to detect potential cases of collusion etc. and will fully collaborate with CC and others to discourage and eradicate such practices.

This newsletter together with our regular posting onto our website enable us to communicate with the public at large on the status of project under consideration.

The CPB has signed the Anti-Corruption Policy developed by the ICAC and is now finalising its own anti-corruption policy which sets out the full commitment of the CPB for the deterrence and detection of corruption and for adherence to a culture of integrity

A CPB implementation team is also working on putting in place the National Management Systems Scheme under the MS ISO 9001:2015.

Regarding new and emerging technologies where competence is short for evaluation purposes, CPB has launched a request for proposal for providing such services.

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 2020, full of achievements, happiness and above all be kind to yourself.

Chairperson, CPB
Raj H Prayag PDSM

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Enhancing the Capacity of the CPB for Management of Public Procurement of Major Projects

With a view to further improve the procurement and evaluation process, the CPB has initiated, through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MOFEPD), a request for technical assistance from the European Union (EU). In response to the MOFEPD's request, a Consultant – Mr. Bernard Abeillé – financed by the EU was retained to assist in conducting a review.

The Objectives of the Review are as hereunder:

1. Improve the current procedures by implementing best practices and methods.
2. Align the evaluation and selection process with international best practices.
3. Assist CPB in the practical application of the "Value for Money" (VfM) concept; and
4. Build capacity of various stakeholders.

During his first field visit, from 2 to 23 December, Mr. Abeillé made a diagnostic of the overall procurement landscape which covered the following tasks:-

- Examination of the procurement process and award procedures as they are currently done by the CPB. This task included the review of contracts sample and discussions with key stakeholders, including public bodies – namely the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Road Development Authority (RDA) and the Central Electricity Board (CEB).
- Consultations with relevant stakeholders, including CPB staff, evaluators assisting CPB in the evaluation process and the above -mentioned public bodies involved in the sample of selected contracts.
- A gap analysis of the current public procurement practices and systems in relation to international best practices. The analysis included: (i) procurement strategy; (ii) procurement plans; (iii) the quality of bidding documents and bid evaluation reports; (iv) efficiency in contract signing; (v) arrangements for contracts supervision; (vi) reporting of contract completion; (vii) procurement and technical audits; and (viii) anti-corruption measures.
- Identification of weaknesses and constraints of the current public procurement processes implemented by the CPB through a review of CPB annual reports, CPB logistical assets including IT system and offices, and the records keeping system.

At the end of the first field visit, Mr. Abeillé presented an Inception Report and following comments provided by the CPB, PPO, MOFEPD and EU, a training program shall be elaborated by the Consultant at the same time that the preliminary draft report.

The preliminary final report will be presented at a workshop during the second field visit in February 2020 and after validation of same, the Consultant shall deliver a final report comprising a diagnostic, a strategy and an action plan.

Implementation of ISO 9001:2015

To address one of the challenges identified under the heading "Improved processes" under the "Public Sector Business Transformation Strategy Action Plan", the CPB has decided to embark on the challenging mission of an MS ISO 9001:2015 Certification, planned for around mid-2020.

In June this year a team of four staff members attended a training course held by the Mauritius Standards Bureau exposing them to the MS ISO9001:2015 project so they could in turn drive the implementation within the Central Procurement Board.

The Board, strongly believing in the possibilities of improving the level of services, in both quality and time, gave its unconditional support to the development and documentation of a Quality Management System (QMS) so that the CPB would confirm its commitment to meet customer and regulatory requirements and demonstrate continuous improvement.

An "ISO Project Team", composed of representatives of the Board, top-management and all departments, is driving this particular venture at the CPB.

Effective QMS' are rigorous processes which are able to continually increase the economic and quality value of services. They work to make trust obvious and enhance the experience of our customers - who are mainly Public Bodies, which, for an institution like the CPB, is essential when it comes to ensuring values of integrity, fairness and transparency.

The development of ISO 9001:2015 QMS is primarily risk-based; risk-based thinking ensures risks are identified, considered and controlled throughout the design and use of the quality management system. It starts with the process of risk identification - a process to find, recognize and describe the risks that could affect the achievement of objectives and is followed by the risk analysis process that is used to understand the nature, sources and causes of risk and to estimate their potential impact and consequences. The last stage is the risk evaluation process that is used to compare risk analysis results with risk criteria and determine what is acceptable or tolerable.

We strongly believe that governance relates to processes and structures that ensure the CPB is directed, controlled and held to account. By implementing the ISO 9001:2015, we shall focus on how the CPB is managed, how risks are monitored and mitigated and how value is added for the community at large, government and other stakeholders. In taking a risk-based approach, the CPB will become proactive rather than purely reactive, preventing or reducing undesired effects and promoting continual improvement.

Implementing and maintaining a Quality Management System at the CPB is indeed a big challenge; it requires above all the ability to engage people. Fortunately, at the CPB, we can state with pride that our biggest asset is our staff and the prevailing team spirit. While we are all aware that this venture will ruffle some feathers and take a few out of their usual comfort zone, still, we are convinced that we shall reach the destination safe and sound!

CPB Anti-Corruption Framework

Corruption in Procurement means the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly anything of value to influence the action of a public official in the competitive selection process or contract execution.

The Central Procurement Board (CPB) is conscious that the risk of corruption is present and may occur in the organisation. The fight against corruption is an endless task as the risk may evolve in the light of changing circumstances and working environment. The CPB is committed to maintain the highest level of integrity in the conduct of its affairs through the adoption of corruption prevention strategies in the organisation.

In this context, the CPB is presently developing its Anti - Corruption Policy in line with the Public Sector Anti - Corruption Framework. Through this policy, the CPB would engage itself to fully and unequivocally adopt a zero - tolerance stance towards corruption and other malpractices and shall ensure compliance with the anti- corruption legislation.

Waste Paper Recycling

As its contribution to the conservation and protection of the environment, the CPB has embarked on a paper recycling project. All waste paper generated at the CPB as well as in the NPF building is being collected and taken by a recycler. For this purpose, recycling bins have been placed on the ground floor of the NPF Building, Rose Hill .

This initiative is in line with the CPB's vision of going greener and contributing towards sustainable development and furthers the movement of the CPB towards going paperless.



Intended Joint Ventures in the Bidding Process

The Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) for works in the Instruction to Bidders (ITB) under the clause " Eligible Bidders" sets out the conditions (such as CIDB registration) for a JV or an intended JV to be eligible to participate in a bid. For non-works procurement, there is no requirement for the equivalent registration with CIDB.

In a recent ruling of the Supreme Court of Mauritius, Record No 118126 of 5 November 2019, an aggrieved bidder who was in an intended JV was seeking redress, the Court stated that such JV is without legal personality and therefore without any civil rights.

According to the Procurement Policy Office, this ruling" *has no incidence on the applicability of the ITB*. CPB has taken note.

However, this matter has been further brainstormed at the level of the Board in order to clarify the legal status of such bidders in relation to the bidding process and an advice has been received from the State Law Office a few days ago. This is being studied for further action.

Site Visit to Sans Souci Dam

On 6 November 2019, the Board, together with officers of the Central Electricity Board, conducted a site visit to Sans Souci Dam. The aim of this visit was to ascertain the various issues on-site prior to the launching of the "Design, Supply, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of Labyrinth Type Fuse Gate at Sans Souci Dam" project for the CEB.



Staff Outing to Ile aux Cerfs

The Human Resources section organized a family outing at Ile Aux Cerfs on 9 November 2019 for CPB staff. Activities included a visit to the waterfall at Grand River South East and lunch on the island of Ile Aux Cerfs. The event was a success and was very much appreciated by all staff who participated.



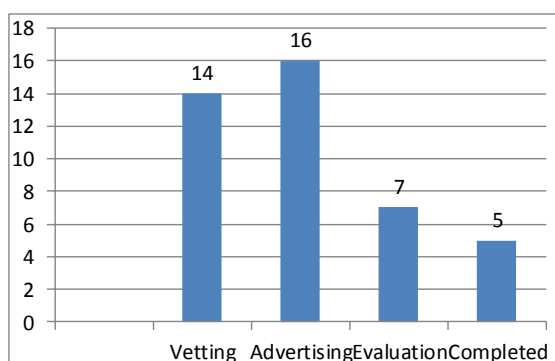
End of Year Party 2019

The CPB organized its Annual End of Year Party on Friday 20 December 2019 at Pearle Beach Hotel, Flic en Flac. 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.



PROJECT STATUS

As at 31 December 2019, the CPB was handling 37 procurement projects falling under the category of major contracts. Out of those, 14 projects were at vetting stage, 16 at bidding stage and 7 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.

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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