

CPB NEWS



Central Procurement Board Newsletter

Issue 04 - March 2019

Chairman's Message

Dear Reader

Hello & Welcome to our quarterly newsletter for the period January to March of 2019.

Already, we know that this is going to be a very busy year and also that all projects will be labelled "urgent". Hence all hands must be on board and this will be a year of walking the talk.

To be able to live up to the challenge, which we must do, then clarity in communications and closer collaboration with our partners and stakeholders will be crucial to achieve our goal. Towards this end, CPB is fully committed to going the extra mile.

In this context, CPB is taking many new initiatives amongst which is organizing a workshop with the Public Bodies on the 29th March 2019 so that CPB can share its experience and provide some guides to improve the tender documents which thereafter would require minimal changes and lesser time for vetting. This in turn will expedite the approval of the tender documents. On an average, this will lead to a saving of 6 weeks per project. On the other hand, CPB is committed and geared to carry out evaluation and recommend awards within an average of 15 working days.

Another initiative is that CPB is enlarging its pool of evaluators to carry out diligently and expeditiously the evaluation exercises. We are encouraging our evaluators to work full time on the evaluation exercise. In this regard, we thank the PPO for organizing training workshops for the new and first-time evaluators. We want to carry out the evaluation in a minimum of time without compromising the quality of the outcome. Ethics, confidentiality, professionalism and integrity of the CPB are at the top of our priorities.

There is a lot of information and experience sharing done during our monthly meetings between CPB and PPO and also between PPO, CPB and CCM. The aim is to improve the Standard Bidding Documents, with experience gained in the field, make them more user friendly for the Public Bodies to prepare their projects tender documents, with maximum of information to potential bidders including criteria for evaluation. The objectives are to inspire confidence in the procurement system and entice better competition at National, regional and international levels, through better bid documents .

All these changes will bring about better understanding of the dynamics of the market. Our objectives are to reduce the processing time from vetting, to floating of the tender, from evaluation of offers to the award the contract to the lowest evaluated and substantially responsive bidder. CPB's responsibility is also to ensure that the allotted tender represents the best value for money over the project's lifetime.

CPB is also providing assistance in carrying out due diligence for other national projects, not subject to CPB scrutiny but undertaken under G to G arrangements.

There are some very interesting and most informative papers in this newsletter which I hope you will very much enjoy reading.

We kindly urge you to visit our website www.cpb.govmu.org where you will find more detailed information on the status of the various tenders under consideration. Happy reading. Drop us a line, if you have any comments, please.

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DIRECTIVES 38 & 39 OF THE PROCUREMENT POLICY OFFICE

On 11 January 2019 the PPO issued Directives 38 (**Procedures to be followed in cases of complaints to the IRP**) & 39 (**Re-evaluation of Bids**). Both Directives take effect immediately.

Directive 38 requires that *the CPB shall ensure that Public Bodies/Public Enterprises which resort to borrowings to finance their investment projects shall strictly comply with the Financial Instructions No 1 of 2018 prior to the Board making any recommendation for award of contracts.*

Financial Instruction No 1 stipulates, inter alia, that **ALL** borrowings by Public Enterprises to finance investment projects, whether such borrowings require Government guarantee or not, shall need the written prior approval of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

Directive 38 therefore makes it imperative for the CPB to seek proof of Financial Clearance prior to approval of Award of a major project which is being financed through borrowings.

Directive 39 deals with the constitution of Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) in cases where the IRP determines that bids are to be re-evaluated. This directive states that *a completely new BEC , including its Secretarial Services, shall be reconstituted and shall not include any person involved in the previous exercise.*

PUBLIC SECTOR ANTI-CORRUPTION FRAMEWORK

The Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) has developed an anti-corruption framework to reinforce public sector efforts and capacity building in preventing corruption and fostering public sector integrity. The objective of the Public Sector Anti Corruption Framework Manual is to assist public bodies in the setting up of anti-corruption strategies, evaluating them independently and improving on existing measures.

In that context, the Central Procurement Board (CPB) has launched, in collaboration with the ICAC, two half-day training sessions for members of its Board and staff on 25th January and 8th February 2019 respectively. The aim of those two half - day training sessions was 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.

In mid February 2019 the CPB has set up its Anti Corruption Committee.

The terms of reference of the Anti-Corruption Committee would be amongst others to formulate an anti-corruption policy, to develop a corruption prevention plan, to develop and implement an integrated corruption risk management plan, to oversee and coordinate implementation of corruption prevention strategies for the CPB and build and sustain an ethical culture to promote integrity of staff within the organization.

STAFF RECRUITMENT

Five (5) Central Procurement Officer/Senior Central Procurement Officers assumed duty on 05 March 2019 at the CPB against vacant posts to assist the Principal Central Procurement Officers in their duties.

Two (2) Management Support Officers also assumed duty on 08 March 2019 and 18 March 2019 to fill vacant posts following promotion of previous MSO's to the grade of Assistant Procurement & Supply officer.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY ON 11 MARCH 2019



The traditional flag raising ceremony was organised at the CPB on Monday the 11th March 2019. The guest of honour was Justice Dr. Satyabhooshan Gupt Domah, who has had a distinguished career in the legal and judicial profession starting as a magistrate in 1980 and retiring as a Supreme Court Judge in 2003. He had participated in and has delivered lectures, key-note addresses, run legal, judicial or related workshops in the national, regional and international fora: in Africa, Australia, Europe, America, Asia

and for the International Association for the Prevention of Torture, A3 Initiative for the Prevention of Torture in Africa. He was also the first Chairman of the Central Tender Board from 1995 to 1996. In his short but much appreciated message on this occasion, Dr. Domah spoke on the theme of discipline as in his experience the Mauritian society is in deficit of discipline and professionalism, which are important ingredients for the success of the Nation and of the person, himself. He also talked about the citizen's rights and responsibilities, which is embedded in our constitution. He stressed that rights and responsibilities go hand in hand to achieve success. However, he added that it is regretful that sometime the citizen is only mindful about his rights and does not live up to his responsibilities.

WORKSHOP ON ENGAGING WITH PUBLIC BODIES ON 29 MARCH 2019

The CPB organized a Workshop on Engaging with Public Bodies on Friday 29 March 2019 at Caudan Arts Centre, Port Louis. High level officials such as CEOs from various Public Bodies (PB) were invited to this interactive session. In The Chairperson of the CPB, in his welcoming speech, elaborated on the need for the CPB and PBs to work together to minimize the vetting time of projects and called for better collaboration. He stated that there was a urgent need to improve the bid documents and consequently to reduce the vetting time which at present is 31 days against the 15 days target. He also briefly spoke about the four presentations that followed. Mrs. Pitois (CPB Assistant Manager) talked on the shortcomings in submission of bidding documents to CPB for vetting. She was followed by Mr. Ramdin (CPB engineer), who elaborated on the topic of project estimates, and the great importance thereof, as many a time, bids exercises have had to be put aside because the quotations received well outside the 15% margin of acceptance. Mr. Rambhojun (CPB Vice— Chairperson), on his part, spoke on the concept Design & Build and a short presentation on Activity Schedule v/s BOQ. The Vice— Chairperson, Mr. Mauremootoo expounded on, among others, the need for engagement with public bodies for preparation of bidding documents with focus on the concept of Value for Money (VFM).



Some 30 minutes were dedicated to a general discussion. During this time, clarifications to many issues in relation to the Public Procurement Act and its Regulations were provided by the Director of the Procurement Policy Office.

The workshop and the interaction that followed clearly helped create a more conducive and collaborative relationship and hopefully, will lead to improvement in quality of bidding documents and a shorter vetting time.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN AT THE CPB

The CPB is very conscious of the environment and also mindful of its carbon footprint. One of the initiatives taken by the Board is to electronically circulate all incoming mails, letters, evaluation reports, flimsy copies for information, comments, decisions or for record. Inevitably some papers are used for statutory record keeping. In this case, copies are made on both sides of paper recto - verso. Furthermore, all waste paper is collected and handed over free of charge to a paper recycling firm.

The CPB with the collaboration of the NPF Building Manager at Rose Hill is currently working on a waste paper recycling scheme to establish a common collection point for recycling of waste paper generated at this complex. For this purpose, a committee comprising representatives of the various offices at the NPF is in the process of being set up. This move is in line with the Government's policy regarding E-procurement (leading to paperless) , which will become mandatory as from July 2019.

Statistics on the number of reams of paper used at CPB

	2016	2017	2018	Jan – March 2019	Projected Total for 2019
Number of A4 paper reams used	548	413	536	101	404

Vision

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

Mission

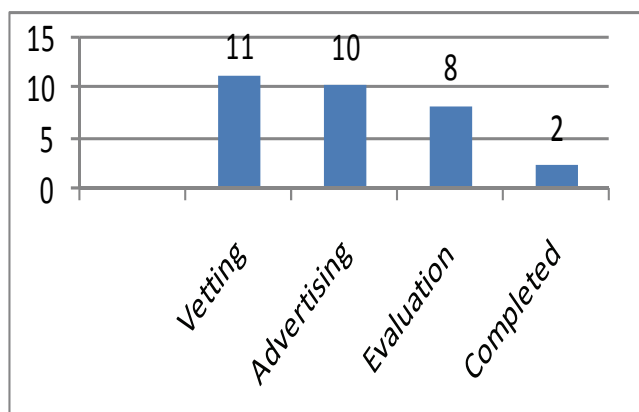
To ensure value for money in public procurement and timely acquisition through a fair and transparent process

Core Values

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

PROJECT STATUS

As at 31 March 2019, the CPB was handling 29 procurement projects falling under the category of major contracts. Out of those, 11 projects were at vetting stage, 10 at bidding stage and 8 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.

Contact Us

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

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