

Message from Chairman, CPB

Hello everyone, it is good to be able to return to some normality and touch base and share with you some of the things that have happened at the CPB, since December 2020.

With the Pandemic casting a huge shadow on the country, I must say that business at the CPB has been as normal as it possibly could be.

We take it as our sacred mission to keep the show going and hence no project has suffered any delay in terms of vetting, evaluation or award. We have tried to stay on course with our target of 15 working days for vetting and 15 working days for evaluation. For this, we are grateful to all our magnificent and dedicated staff and evaluators who provide this very valuable service to the Board.

Talking of evaluation, we are going through a phase of enlarging our pool of experts by bringing in new experts and also living up to our policy of providing equal opportunities to all and therefore, to the extent possible, the board is appointing at least one female evaluator in each Bid Evaluation Committee. Furthermore, the board also calls on external experts for their input on highly technical matters where in-country expertise is not readily available.

Transparency, accountability and communications remain the Board's key objectives as there is a need to re-assure all that the CPB is worthy of their trust and is the premier institution in matters of procurement.

Confidence in the procurement system and the CPB is primordial to attract competition and therefore the best bids and the best value for money. CPB goes the extra mile in ensuring that the project or the service needed is the best for the purpose. The Board is very privileged to have amongst its members experts in matters of project management, financial analyst, experienced economist, and valuable experience of the private sector.

I take this opportunity to thank the Board members (time is up for renewal of some Board members, having completed two terms) for their loyal, and high level of professionalism in dealing expeditiously with all matters of procurement. Their selflessness and fearlessness in taking the right decisions in the higher interest of the Nation have been exemplary.

To end this note, I give you some facts and figures on the projects that CPB has handled from the beginning of the year till 30th June 2021. They speak volumes on the mammoth works of the CPB.

Total number of projects received over period 1.1.2021 to 30.6.2021 were 46 for vetting, out of which 24 had been vetted and 25 awards were approved. The total value of the projects processed amounted to MUR 4.2 billion.

Please kindly respect the sanitary protocols and keep ourselves and our beloved Mauritius safe.

Raj H Prayag

30.06.2021



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Towards Excellence in a Fair, Transparent and Value for Money Public Procurement Process

Prior to my appointment by the Government as Vice Chairperson of the Central Procurement Board, I have had a long, progressive and fruitful career in the Public Service until my retirement as Secretary for Public Service in May 2021.

When viewed through the lens of the administration of numerous Ministries and Departments where I have served, I had a contrasted perception of the key role played by the CPB in the Public Procurement Process. At times, it was frustrating to experience that stringent, albeit, necessary rigour imposed by the CPB had precedence on the objective to meet tight deadlines on project implementation. Understandably, the expectations of a Ministry or Department and that of the CPB may not always converge but the objective to provide timely and value for money services to our citizens through a totally transparent and accountable process remains inalienable.

Whilst Public Bodies have a duty to ensure the promptness in implementing their projects and initiatives, the CPB has a key role to ensure utmost fairness, transparency, accountability and value for money procurement as provided for in the Public Procurement Act.

I now have a crisp appreciation of the key cogs of the Public Procurement Process where Public Bodies, the Procurement Policy Office, the CPB and the Independent Review Panel each has an important role to play. I would therefore make an earnest appeal to all the stakeholders involved in Public Procurement to take time to clearly understand and appreciate the role of each of the above institutions as we are all collectively responsible to the timely execution of projects and initiatives of Government where tenders are involved.

However, to be honest, there is a common and tenacious perception prevailing in the Public about the pervasiveness of corrupt practices in the Public Procurement Process. Such a situation is often compounded by people having an agenda of their own and who have as only objective to dent trust and discredit Public Institutions. However, I can vouch that such a perception is wrong and remains by and large unsubstantiated. It is therefore our duty to deal with this serious matter openly and communicate effectively so as to restore confidence in the population and uphold the reputation of the independent institutions.

Indeed, corruption is a very serious problem afflicting our society. Corrupt acts have dire social and economic consequences no matter who are involved and how severe these acts are. These stifle the development of a country and siphon off scarce resources that could otherwise be used for the common good of a country.

Unlike many other scourges afflicting the world, corruption is man-made and can only be solved by man. It is therefore important that we develop and nurture the moral strength to keep away from any action that will put at stake our honesty, integrity and reputation. We should unconditionally reject the notion that we are gripped by forces that we cannot control such as the attraction for easy personal gains.

Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has had its toll in our fight against corruption, worsened inequalities and has the potential to tearing us further apart.

The fight against corruption should therefore remain a collective resolve against cynicism and in rejecting a culture of greedy consumerism in a world where inequality is growing and trust is fading.

However, it is equally a fact that there exists a handful of undesirable Public Officers who are involved in acts of corruption particularly those concerned in Public Procurement. I can assure you that there is a zero-tolerance policy for any act of corruption or malpractice at the CPB which is embedded in our proven anticorruption framework.

The Board is firmly committed to continuously improve on the already stringent and transparent operations and processes and there is culture at the CPB which repudiate and act pitilessly against those who, in very remote instances, commit offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act (POCA).

I would, therefore, reiterate my appeal to all stakeholders in the Public Procurement Process to challenge institutional defensiveness and to relentlessly push further the boundaries of Good Governance and Accountability. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every cent of Public funds is judiciously spent and that we bequeath a Public Procurement system that is efficient, fair and transparent.

Swaminathan RAGEN
Vice Chairperson

Procurement Planning

Procurement Planning

Procurement Planning is the most important process when engaging in any procurement exercise. It can be defined as identifying and consolidating the requirements of any specific works/goods/services. It also determines the timeframe involved in that particular procurement exercise, that is, by the time the request is received and by the time it will be processed.

It is therefore imperative that a procurement plan is prepared for a procurement exercise which will be then be the road map for any organization in implementing projects

Procurement Plan

A procurement plan is a document which contains the process of finding and selecting the most appropriate provider for the supply of the required goods/services. The plan enables the management to validate and justify the need for an external party to deliver the required goods/services. It also explains the process through which the external party would be identified taking into consideration the project requirements, assessment of the capacity of the service provider to fulfill his/her obligations under the contract as well as meeting any post-contract requirements.

The main aim of a procurement plan is to be more efficient, operative and transparent in the procurement process. It describes how the required works/goods/services will be procured and how the selected contractor will perform based on proven strategies / methodologies and finally deliver during implementation of the project.

The procurement plan may include the following:

- the end-user requirements;
- review and approval processes for requirements;
- security requirements;
- estimated cost (based on market prices)of the works/goods/services;
- all the risk involved the project;
- how the risk can be mitigated;
- the preferred procurement process and how it will be performed;
- the type of bidding document to be used;
- the planned delivery;
- the standard that must be met;
- policies and procedures outlined in the contracts;
- how the performance of selected supplier will be monitored; and
- post contract requirements.

Benefits of a procurement planning.

- increases the transparency and predictability of the procurement process
- determine whether the project is a realistic one;
- helps management in deciding the procurement process;
- avoids wastage;
- helps in determining the expectations from both the end-users and selected supplier;
- to complete the project within the timeline;
- the post contract requirements already prepared;
- data analysis; and
- compare real-world performance with the planned project activities.

Raj Guzadhur
Central Procurement Officer, CPB

My First impression at the CPB- An Engineer's Point of View

I was posted to Central Procurement Board on 22 October 2020 on establishment basis from the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development (National Infrastructure Division).

Upon my first day at work, I was warmly welcomed by the board members and the staff alike and was given an expose about the nature of work that I would be expected to carry out as an Engineer/Senior Engineer at the Central Procurement Board.

Public Procurement in the Republic of Mauritius is governed by the Public Procurement Act 2006, proclaimed on 17 January 2008, which provides for the establishment of three institutions, namely, Procurement Policy Office (PPO), Central Procurement Board (CPB) and the Independent Review Panel (IRP). The CPB is responsible for the vetting of bidding documents of Public Bodies for major projects, as per the threshold defined in Public Procurement Regulations (PPR 2008), select qualified evaluators for Bid Evaluation, carry out due diligence of BEC reports and approval for award of Contracts. Therefore, as an engineer working at such an institution, I am empowered under the PPA Act and the CPB's missions and visions, in ensuring the highest standards of transparency, equity and professionalism in the list of duties, roles and responsibilities as ascribed by the Public Service Commission (PSC) and any cognate duties by Chief Executive/Board, directly related to these duties.

Although it has been only eight months since I started working at this much highly respected and esteemed institution in the Republic of Mauritius, I have had the utmost privilege and pleasure of having been assigned many important public projects, which will not only improve the wellbeing and welfare of the Mauritian Population on a daily basis but also define the landscape of Mauritius, both on the local, regional and international scene, contributing towards the long term of vision of the Government, in becoming a high income Country.

During this relatively short but intense lapse of time, I got the opportunity to get valuable and insightful experience and capacity building in multidisciplinary fields ranging from Procurement, finance, Auditing, accounting, economics, Consultancy and IT services. My tenure at the CPB is empowering me on a daily basis to have a wholistic approach in my work, gaining valuable expertise and knowledge from senior Engineers, employed by the CPB. I am in constant learning process and my tenure at the CPB, working with officers having background in finance, procurement, accounting, economics, Human Resources, is proving to be a catalyst, revolutionizing my transformation into a high calibre Engineer and complete professional, with valuable contributions both in my professional and personal realms.

I wish to put on record my deepest appreciation to all at the CPB, for their friendly approach, useful guidance and advices, unflinching support and camaraderie on a daily basis. Indeed, I can proudly state that my tenure as an Engineer at the CPB is among the best working experience that I have ever had. in my relatively young career and I am delighted to be a member of the CPB family. This wonderful work environment instilled by the Management and Board is conducive for us, officers at the CPB, to excel in our duties and thrive towards excellency in our work.

Kavish Sobron
Engineer/ Senior Engineer (Civil)

Site Visit to Roche Bois Transfer Station

On 19 January 2021, the Board conducted a site visit at the Roche Bois Transfer Station in the presence of officers from the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and the personnel of the Operation and Maintenance Contractor, Square Deal Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd to get a deep understanding on the operation of a Transfer Station.

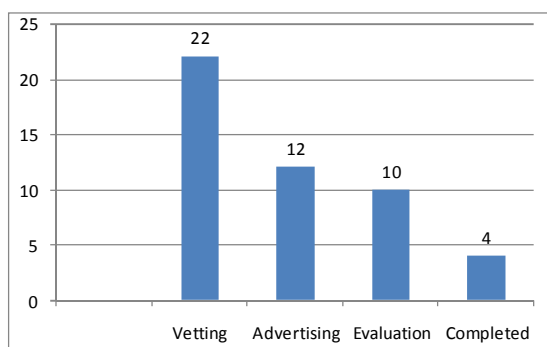


Financial Year Statistics Snapshot

No. of Projects Received	85
No. of Bidding Documents vetted (completed)	63
No. of Public Openings	65 (24 on e-procurement)
No. of Projects Evaluated (Completed)	56
No. of Approvals of Award	50

PROJECT STATUS

As at 30 June 2021, the CPB was handling 44 procurement projects falling under the category of major contracts. Out of those, 22 projects were at vetting stage, 12 at advertising 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.

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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