



Republic of Mauritius

ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021



Procurement Policy Office

Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development



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"If you're guided by a spirit of transparency, it forces you to operate with a spirit of ethics. Success comes from simplifying complex issues, address problems head on, be truthful and transparent."

- Rodney Davis

oreword

Section 7B of the Public Procurement Act 2006 requires the Procurement Policy Office to submit, not later than six months after the close of the financial year, a report of its activities in respect of the previous financial year to the Minister responsible for finance, who shall at the earliest available opportunity lay a copy of the report before the National Assembly. In this respect and as per legal provisions, I am pleased to hereby submit the Annual Report of the Procurement Policy Office for the financial year 2020/2021.

This report presents statistical data on nearly all procurement activities undertaken by Public Bodies which fall under the ambit of the Public Procurement Act (2006). In future, with the requirement of mandatory bi-annual returns by Public Bodies, the statistics are expected to reflect all procurement activities undertaken during a financial year.

Government has made it compulsory as from January 2021 for all procurement undertaken by Public Bodies to be on the electronic Procurement System (e-PS). The number of invitations for bids published on the e-PS has risen from 1036 for the period July 2019 –June 2020 to 6132 for the period July 2020-June 2021. The e-PS is here to stay and will become more versatile.

It is good to note that, the Policy Office has been instrumental in the elaboration of updated and more transparent procedures for Emergency Procurement in line with best practice principles of the European Union and the UN Commissions on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). New procurement methods and reporting procedures have been prescribed in this respect.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) in collaboration with the World Bank are presently carrying out an Assessment of our Public Procurement System (MAPS II) with the help of International Consultants. It is expected that their final report will be available by February 2022.

The Procurement Policy Office is continuing its collaboration with the Central Procurement Board, the Independent Review Panel as well as the Competition Commission with a view to exchanging experience in our respective fields.

I take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development as well as the staff of the Ministry and the Economic Development Board for their continued support to the Policy office in its endeavour to facilitate procurement activities. Last but not least, special thanks to our stakeholders namely: Public Bodies, Private Sector and members of the Civil Society as well as the Attorney General's Office for their unflinching support.

*H.RAMBHOJUN, OSK
Director
Procurement Policy Office
01.12.2021*



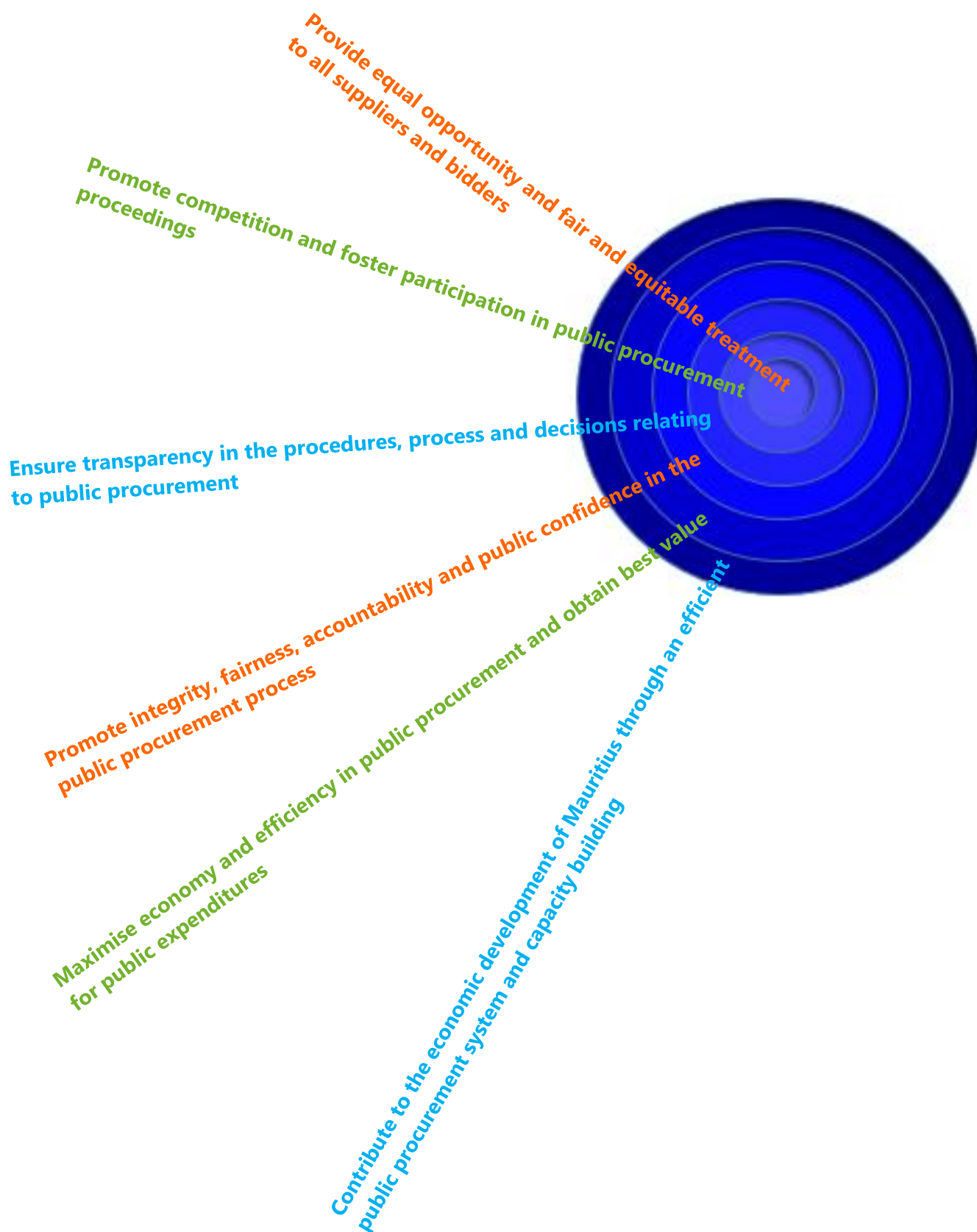
VISION

A world class procurement system for Republic of Mauritius

MISSION

To promote the development of a modern and efficient public procurement system for Mauritius based on international best practices through close monitoring, regular audits, review, capacity building and research.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



PART A

OVERVIEW

“The wisest and best are repulsive if they are characterized by repulsive manners. Politeness is an easy virtue, costs little and has great purchasing power.”

— Amos Bronson Alcott

- Quick facts
- The Procurement Legal Framework
- Public procurement Institutional Structure
- Procurement Policy

1.0 QUICK FACTS

Table 1: Number of Public Procurement Contracts Awarded (above Rs 100,000)

Category of Procurement	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016* (Jan - June)	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
Goods	1,666	3,525	4,184	3,792	1,825	3,739	4,366	4,875	4,504	3,831
Works	422	596	725	651	462	664	1,135	1,323	1,036	1,371
Consultancy Services	26	139	175	113	36	217	133	140	98	74
Other Services	436	579	856	973	465	868	1,224	1,385	1,068	938
Total	2,550	4,839	5,940	5,529	2,788	5,488	6,858	7,723	6,706	6,214

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies (e & oe)

Table 2: Value of Public Procurement Contracts (above Rs 100,000) awarded (Rs B)

Category of Procurement	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016* (Jan- June)	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
Goods	4.82	5.34	4.64	5.24	2.53	5.03	6.33	5.99	6.26	4.65
Works	3.1	6.14	9.92	3.36	1.9	9.61	9.37	6.6	7.23	6.44
Consultancy Services	0.16	0.58	0.52	0.29	0.8	0.32	0.29	0.53	0.16	0.34
Other Services	1.63	1.54	1.61	1.6	0.89	1.64	1.52	2.08	1.97	1.82
Total value of contracts awarded	9.71	13.6	16.69	10.49	6.12	16.61	17.51	15.19	15.63	13.24

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies (e & oe)

Table 3: Value of Public Contracts awarded to SMEs (above Rs 100,000)

Category of Procurement	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016* (Jan-June)	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
Goods (Rs M)	211.7	757.7	654.7	747.9	498.1	516.9	730.2	787.4	582.8	462.1
Works (Rs M)	187.3	650.1	432.7	813.3	321.7	676.6	1,356.20	1,685.80	667.3	1013.7
Consultancy Services (Rs M)	4.1	27	17.2	12.9	6.7	13.6	13.3	24.7	62.9	13.8
Other Services (Rs M)	70	221.3	252.3	189.1	144.1	226.7	366.7	426.4	251.3	167.6
Total (Rs M)	473.1	1,656.10	1,356.90	1,763.20	970.6	1,433.80	2,466.40	2,924.40	1,564.30	1,657.08

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies (e & oe)

Table 4: Value of Contracts awarded to SMEs (above Rs 100,000) as a percentage of Total Value of all Contracts

Value of Contracts	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016* (Jan-June)	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
SMEs only (Rs M)	473	1,656	1,357	1,763	971	1,434	2,466	2,924	1,564	1,657
All Contracts (Rs M)	9,707	14,666	16,685	10,496	5,412	16,606	17,506	15,194	15,634	13,244
Percentage of Contracts to SMEs	4.90%	11.30%	8.10%	16.80%	17.90%	8.64%	14.09%	19.24%	10.01%	12.51%

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies (e & oe)

Table 5: Cases filed at Independent Review Panel

Details	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016* (Jan - June)	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
No. of cases	40	35	44	38	15	32	25	16	22	21
Merit	10	7	20	15	3	12	11	8	4	7
No merit	13	10	8	9	2	7	8	3	8	13
Withdrawn	6	13	4	5	6	8	3	4	5	
Cases dismissed	4	2	9	2	0	0	0	1	4	
Set aside	5	3	3	7	3	5	2	-	1	1
Cancelled by Public Body	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
Outside delay	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	-	
Application Not entertained							1	-	-	

Source: Independent Review Panel (IRP) (e & oe)

* Note: For the period 2011 to 2015 the data is on a calendar reporting year basis.

With the change in Government's Budget year reporting from a calendar year to a financial year (July – June) as from 2016, the procurement data as from 2016/17 have been reported on financial year basis.

1.1 Collection of data on the Procurement Activities carried by the Public Bodies

1.1.1 The 205 Public Bodies regulated by the Public Procurement Act 2006 are required to submit their Returns on Procurement Activities as per Circular No. 11 of 2020.

1.1.2 The main constraint for the collection of the data for the financial year 2019/2020 was that the majority of public bodies did not submit the Return of Procurement Activities on time though reminders were sent to them. The delay had a major impact on the timely preparation of the Annual Report and the PPO has had to put a cut-off date for the compilation of the data.

1.1.3 As announced through the Budget Speech for the Financial Year 2020/2021, the electronic procurement system (e-PS) is henceforth for mandatory use by all public bodies. Thereafter, most of the data will be captured through the MIS of the e-PS.

2.0 THE PROCUREMENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Public procurement in Mauritius is governed by the Public Procurement Act 2006, which is based on the earlier version of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on Public Procurement, and its accompanying regulations, comprising of:

- a) Public Procurement Regulations 2008;
- b) Public Procurement (Suspension and Debarment) Regulations 2008;
- c) Public Procurement (Disqualification) Regulations 2009;
- d) Public Procurement (Framework Agreement) Regulations 2013;
- e) Public Procurement (Diplomatic Missions Mauritius) Regulations 2014;
- f) Public Procurement (Electronic Bidding System) Regulations 2015; and
- g) Public Procurement (Cancellation of Bidding Process) Regulations 2016

2.2 The Procurement Policy Office (PPO) has, *inter alia*, the responsibility to formulate policies relating to public procurement, including directives, procedures, instructions, technical notes and manuals, for the implementation of the Act and to act as a focal point to guide the Central Procurement Board (CPB) and public bodies with a view to ensuring consistency in the application of the Act and any regulations made under it. The PPO continuously reviews the Act and Regulations and makes recommendations to the Minister for any amendments required to facilitate the implementation of new policies usually announced through the budget.

2.3 The Procurement Legal Framework also comprises the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) Projects Act 2016 and the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Projects Act 2004. These regulate projects carried out under the BOT/PPP concepts. It is an arrangement whereby the private sector designs, builds, finances, operates and maintains a facility for a fixed tenure and at the end of which it may be transferred to the government.

3.0 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

3.1 The Public Procurement legal framework provides for a triple-tier institutional framework comprising the Procurement Policy Office (PPO), the Central Procurement Board (CPB) and the Independent Review Panel (IRP) to support the Public procurement system in Mauritius.

Procurement Policy Office

- Independent Policy Making and Oversight Body

Central Procurement Board

- Conduct of bidding process and approval of major contracts

Independent Review Panel

- Dealing with applications for review from aggrieved bidders

Procurement Policy Office

3.2 The PPO, established under Section 4 of the PPA, is administered by a Director and two members. The Office serves as an independent procurement policy and monitoring body but is not operationally involved in conducting procurement proceeding or resolving procurement disputes.

3.3 The Functions of this Office are:

- a. issue instructions to public bodies concerning the coordination of their actions with the Office, the Central Procurement Board and the Independent Review Panel;
- b. where appropriate, designate a public body to enter into and manage a framework agreement on its own behalf and that of other public bodies, or on behalf of other public bodies;
- c. formulate policies relating to procurement, including directives, procedures, instructions, technical notes and manuals, for the implementation of the PPA;
- d. issue standard forms of contracts, bidding documents, pre-qualification documents, requests for proposals and other similar documents for mandatory use by every public body implementing procurement;
- e. collect from the CPB, the IRP and public bodies information on procurement activities and monitor their compliance with the PPA;
- f. act as a focal point to guide the CPB and public bodies with a view to ensuring consistency in the application of the PPA and any regulations made under the PPA;
- g. attend to complaints from bidders or suppliers and advise the CPB or public bodies on the appropriate course of action;
- h. recommend, and facilitate the implementation of measures to improve the functioning of the procurement system, including the operation of annual procurement planning, the introduction of information and communications technology and the dissemination of publications and the setting up of websites dedicated to procurement;
- i. prepare and conduct training programmes for public officials, contractors and suppliers concerning procurement;
- j. solicit the views of the business community on the effectiveness of the procurement system;
- k. present an annual report to the Minister regarding the overall functioning of the procurement system;
- l. communicate and cooperate with international institutions and other foreign entities on matters of procurement;
- m. advise on and monitor foreign technical assistance in the field of procurement;

- n. advise the Financial Secretary regarding delegation of financial authority to public officers enabling them to approve contract awards and changes to contracts of a financial nature and the annual review of such delegations; and
- o. perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Financial Secretary.

Central Procurement Board

3.4 The CPB is established pursuant to Section 8 of the Act. It is composed of one chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and three other persons. An overview of the functions of the CPB in respect to major contracts is as follows:

- i. establish appropriate internal procedures for the operations of the Board and ensure compliance with them;
- ii. vet bidding documents and notices submitted to it by public bodies;
- iii. receive and publicly open bids;
- iv. select evaluators, set up bid evaluation committees and oversee the examination and evaluation of bids;
- v. review the recommendations of a bid evaluation committee and will either approve the award of major contracts or will require the evaluation committee to make a fresh or further evaluation on specific grounds; and
- vi. in respect to amendment regarding variation in contract value as recommended by a public body, the board may approve or reject the recommendation or require the public body to make fresh recommendation.

Independent Review Panel

3.5 Section 44 of the PPA establishes an Independent Review Panel consisting of a chairperson, a vice chairperson and four other persons appointed to review procurement proceeding following the application of an unsatisfied bidder as per Section 45 of the Act.

3.6 The IRP may sit in either one or two divisions to determine cases expeditiously within a specified 30-day period, in the absence of which the contract may be awarded by a public body.

Public Bodies

3.7 The PPA defines a “public body” as any Ministry or Government department, a local authority, a parastatal body, or any such other bodies as specified in the First Schedule of the Act.

3.8 Public bodies are bound to carry out their procurement activities in compliance with the Act. As mentioned previously, contracts with values above defined prescribed amounts, as per schedule to the Act, have to be vetted by the CPB. Also, the CPB is responsible for the evaluation and award for such contracts.

Exempt Organisations and Excluded Procurements

3.9 “exempt organisation” is defined, as per Section 2 of the PPA, as a body which is, by regulations, excluded from the application of the Act. Even though these organisations are excluded from the provisions of the Act, yet they have to define their own governance procedures. A list of these bodies with regards to the specified type of contract for which they are exempted, can be consulted in the First Schedule of the Public Procurement Regulations 2008

Procurement Operations: Procurement and Supply Cadre

3.10 The operational functions of public procurement in ministries and departments fall under the responsibility of the officers of the Procurement and Supply Cadre. This Cadre, headed by a Director and assisted by a Deputy Director, consists of some 450 officers, posted in different Ministries and Departments.

3.11 The responsibility of the Cadre is to promote efficient and effective public procurement and supply systems based on international best practices; review and maintain an efficient process of warehousing and disposal; contribute to Mauritius’ economic development; provide all suppliers and bidders with equal opportunity/treatment; and ensure transparency in procedures, processes and decisions.

4.0 PROCUREMENT POLICY MEASURES IN 2020/2021

4.1 Public Procurement Act

4.1.1 The PPA has been subject to several revisions over the years. In line with the Government Policy and with the view to increase its operational efficiency, the following amendments were made in the PPA through the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020:

- Section 2 - Interpretation was altered by amending and adding new definitions
- Section 11A – Award of public-private partnership project was repealed
- Sections 21 & 24(9)(b) – Emergency Procurement* and Request for proposals were amended respectively
- Section 25A – Sandbox for innovative technologies was added
- Sections 26B(1), 34(2), 39(1) & 46(A4) were altered.

4.1.2 The Public Procurement (Regulations 2008) was also revised during the financial year 2020/2021. The main changes were:

- (i) Reserved contracts to SMEs for specific types of goods and services
- (ii) Works contract up to the value of Rs 300 million, not requiring prequalification, reserved to local companies
- (iii) Advantage to domestic goods*

4.1.3 In addition, the following issued by the Policy Office to implement budgetary measures announced for 2020-2021:

- Directive 47 - Mandatory Use of the e-Procurement System
- Directive 48 – Amendments to Standard Bidding Documents, to ensure timely payment within shorter periods as follows:
 - For Government projects of up to Rs 300 Million, contractors will be paid within a shorter period of 28 days. Any retention amount will be paid fully within six months instead of twelve months.
 - Public Bodies will pay SMEs within 14 days from date of invoices in respect of supply of goods and services.
- Directive 49 - Applicable Margins of Preference* to Goods Contracts was issued to provide for:
 - a Margin of Preference of 20 percent on public purchases to all local manufacturing companies and 30 percent for manufacturing SMEs and
 - SMEs holding the ‘Made in Moris’ label to benefit from a Margin of Preference of 40 percent instead of 30 percent under Public Procurement.

**This section was further amended in the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021*

- Directive 53 –To facilitate the procurement of ICT projects by requiring public bodies to adopt a team approach and to carry out early market engagement based on performance requirements to benefit from systems with proven track record.

4.1.4 During the financial year 2020/2021, the Policy Office has also issued several circulars with a view to communicate to the public bodies of decisions or measures taken. Some of them were in relation to:

- Suspension of Margin of Preference for Works Contracts;
- Submission of Returns in respect of Emergency Procurement undertaken;
- Debarment of suppliers;
- Amendments to standard bidding documents;
- Public Procurement Regulations;
- Guidelines for rental of Office; and

4.2 Build Operate Transfer (BOT) Projects Act and Public Private Partnership Act

4.2.1 The Build Operate Transfer (BOT) and the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Legal Frameworks were amended as follows:

- (a) BOT Projects Act* and PPP Act* were amended through the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 in August 2020; and
- (b) New BOT Projects (Prescribed Threshold) Regulations 2020 and PPP (Prescribed Threshold) Regulations 2020, were issued in October 2020.

4.2.2 The amendments to the BOT and PPP Legal Frameworks relate to the following:

- (i) The BOT Projects Unit may hire the services of a technical advisory firm to be remunerated by the private party;
- (ii) The BOT projects Unit may select a consultant by direct procurement for a small assignment up to the prescribed value of Rs 1 M;
- (iii) For a project above the prescribed threshold of Rs 300 M, a contracting authority shall carry out its procurement for the selection of a private party through the Central Procurement Board (CPB);
- (iv) For a project up to the prescribed threshold of Rs 300 M, the procurement for the selection of a private party shall be carried out at the level of the contracting authority; and

**This section was further amended in the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021*

- (v) A contracting authority may hire the services of a technical advisory firm to assist it in the procurement of a private party for a BOT/PPP project as follows:
 - (a) For a project of up to the prescribed threshold of Rs 300 M, the procedure will be carried out internally at the level of a public body; and
 - (b) For a project above the prescribed threshold of Rs 300 M, the procurement will be carried out through the CPB.

4.3 Assessment of the Public Procurement System using the Methodology for Assessing the Procurement System (MAPS II)

4.3.1 The MAPS II methodology, 2018, is a universal tool available for the assessment of a public procurement system. The outcome of the assessment leads toward sustainable and inclusive public procurement reforms.

4.3.2 After two decades, the Government of Mauritius, through the Procurement Policy Office operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, decided to benefit from the MAPS II analytical framework with a view to capture existing public procurement challenges, gaps and opportunities.

4.3.3 The MAPS II rests on four pillars namely:

- (i) Existing legal and policy framework regulating procurement in the country;
- (ii) The institutional framework and management capacity;
- (iii) The operation of the system and competitiveness of the national market; and
- (iv) The accountability, integrity and transparency of the procurement system.

4.3.4 Based on findings obtained from the assessment, a comprehensive and inclusive strategic plan will be formulated to guide the way forward toward improved procurement procedures and outcomes.

4.3.5 The MAPS II project started on 12 August 2019 with the request made by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development to the world bank for a financial assistance its implementation.

4.3.6 On 20 April 2020, a virtual meeting was held by the World Bank (WB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) with the PPO and the following procedures were agreed upon:

- (i) AfDB will finance the project;
- (ii) the WB will assist in providing Technical Staff and reviewing the reports; and
- (iii) the project will be completed in 10 to 12 months from the starting date.

4.3.7 Subsequently, on the 1 December 2020, the AfDB and the Government of Mauritius through the PPO settled on:

- (i) The scope of the Assignment;
- (ii) The Concept Note; and
- (iii) The Coordination of the work between the Government of Mauritius and the AfDB.

4.3.8 On 15 February 2021, the Concept Note forwarded by the AfDB was circulated in its final version with the following recommendations:

- (i) The setting up of a Steering Committee chaired by the Director of PPO after consultation with MOFEPD, comprising representatives from MoFEPD, Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Economic Development Board (EDB), World Bank, European Union, Central Procurement Board and the Mauritius Council of Social Services (MACOSS).
- (ii) The setting up of a Working Committee chaired by B. Dabeesing, Member of PPO and staff of PPO

4.3.9 The Maps assessment (Mauritius) steering committee meeting was held on Wednesday 17 March 2021 to Validate the Concept Note, take cognizance of the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee, Assessment Timetable and an updated Status of activities.

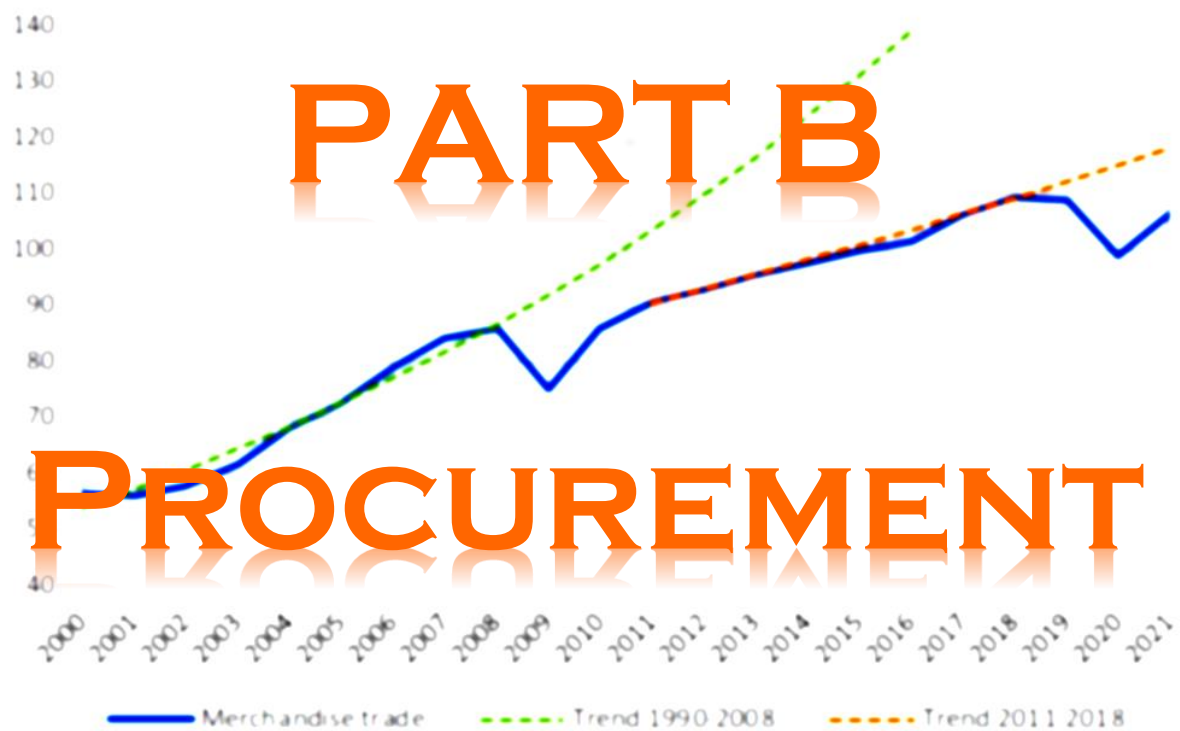
4.3.10 On 19 May 2021, PPO and the AfDB hosted a virtual Launch Workshop whereby the key challenges of the public procurement system of Mauritius and the MAPS Assessment roadmap were communicated to various Stakeholders.

4.3.11 For the sake of conducting the assessment, it was imperative to collect information (in qualitative and /or quantitative terms as appropriate) on each pillar of the MAPS Tool, its indicators and sub indicators.

In the last quarter of the financial year 2020-2021, the PPO working Committee (Mauritius) and the Assessment Team (AfDB) have focused on data collection and information gathering.

4.3.12 Data were collected through the following means: -

- (i) Survey forms sent to private stakeholders;
- (ii) Collection of historical Procurement data from Public Bodies; and
- (iii) Survey forms sent to Civil Society



TREND

- ☐ Public Procurement Trend
- ☐ Share of SMEs in Public Contracts
- ☐ Cases filed at the Independent Review Panel

5.0 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TREND

5.1 Data on procurement activities mentioned in this report are based on the Returns on procurement activities submitted by public bodies. For this period, analysis of figures is however limited to the returns received from 194 out of 205 public bodies which fall under the purview of the PPA (2006). The remaining 10 public bodies not having submitted their returns are mainly those with no significant procurement activities.

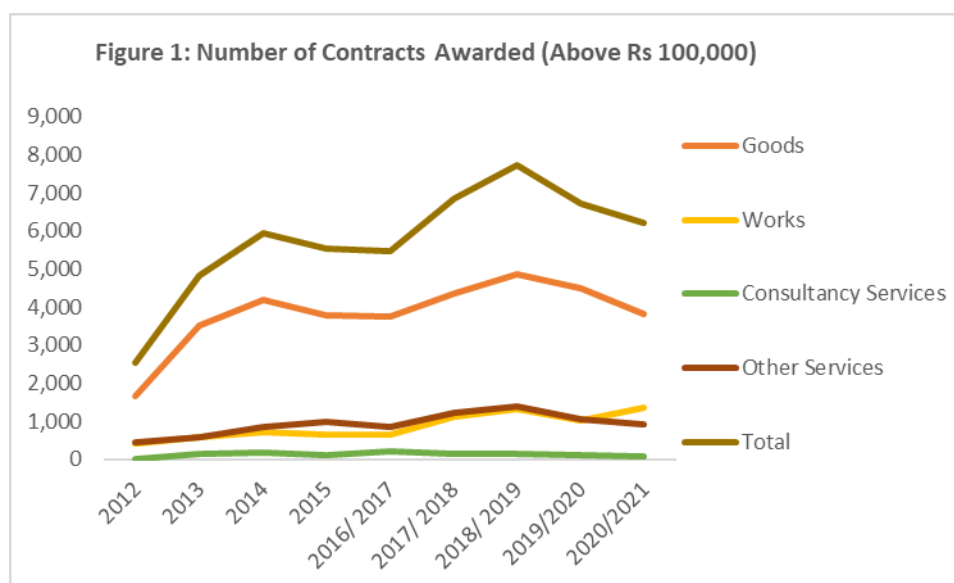
Number of Contracts Awarded above Rs 100,000

5.2 A total number of 6214 contracts for procurement value above Rs 100,000 was awarded by public bodies during the financial year 2020/2021 as compared to 6706 contracts in the financial year 2019/2020. This represents an overall decrease of 7.3% of the total number of contracts awarded. Except for the number of contracts awarded for works which registered an increase of 32.3%, the other procurement categories experienced a decrease of 14.9% for goods, 24.5% for consultancy services and 12.2% for other services i.e. non consultancy services. A breakdown of the total number of public procurement contracts, by category, awarded since year 2012 is shown in Table 6 and same is depicted in Figure 1.

Table 6: Number of Public Procurement Contracts Awarded (above Rs 100,000)

Category of Procurement	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016* (Jan - June)	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
Goods	1,666	3,525	4,184	3,792	1,825	3,739	4,366	4,875	4,504	3,831
Works	422	596	725	651	462	664	1,135	1,323	1,036	1,371
Consultancy Services	26	139	175	113	36	217	133	140	98	74
Other Services	436	579	856	973	465	868	1,224	1,385	1,068	938
Total	2,550	4,839	5,940	5,529	2,788	5,488	6,858	7,723	6,706	6,214

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies (e&oe)



Value of Public Procurement Contracts Awarded above Rs 100,000

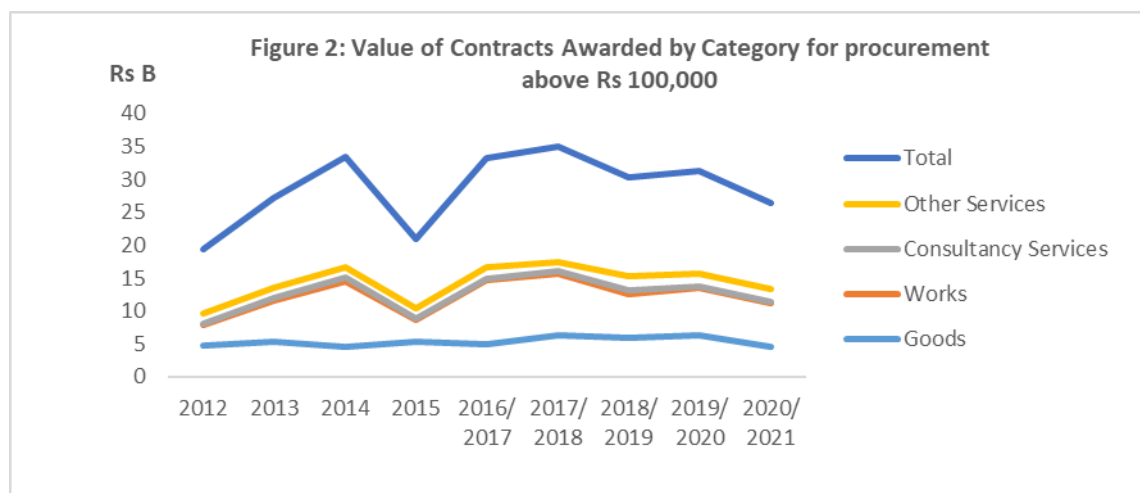
5.3 Along with a 7.3% decrease in the total number of contracts above Rs 100,000, the total value of these contracts awarded during the reported period has also undergone an overall 15.3% decrease as compared to the previous year. This decrease is accounted for by the significant decrease in the value of awarded contracts of goods, works and other services by 25.7%, 10.9% and 7.6% respectively.

Table 7 provides a breakdown of the value of contracts above Rs 100,000 awarded per category. Same is depicted in Figure 2.

Table 7: Value of Public Procurement Contracts (above Rs 100,000) awarded (Rs Billion)

Category of Procurement	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016* (Jan-June)	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
Goods	4.82	5.34	4.64	5.24	2.53	5.03	6.33	5.99	6.26	4.65
Works	3.1	6.14	9.92	3.36	1.9	9.61	9.37	6.6	7.23	6.44
Consultancy Services	0.16	0.58	0.52	0.29	0.8	0.32	0.29	0.53	0.16	0.34
Other Services	1.63	1.54	1.61	1.6	0.89	1.64	1.52	2.08	1.97	1.82
Total value of contracts awarded	9.71	13.6	16.69	10.49	6.12	16.61	17.51	15.19	15.63	13.24

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies (e & oe)



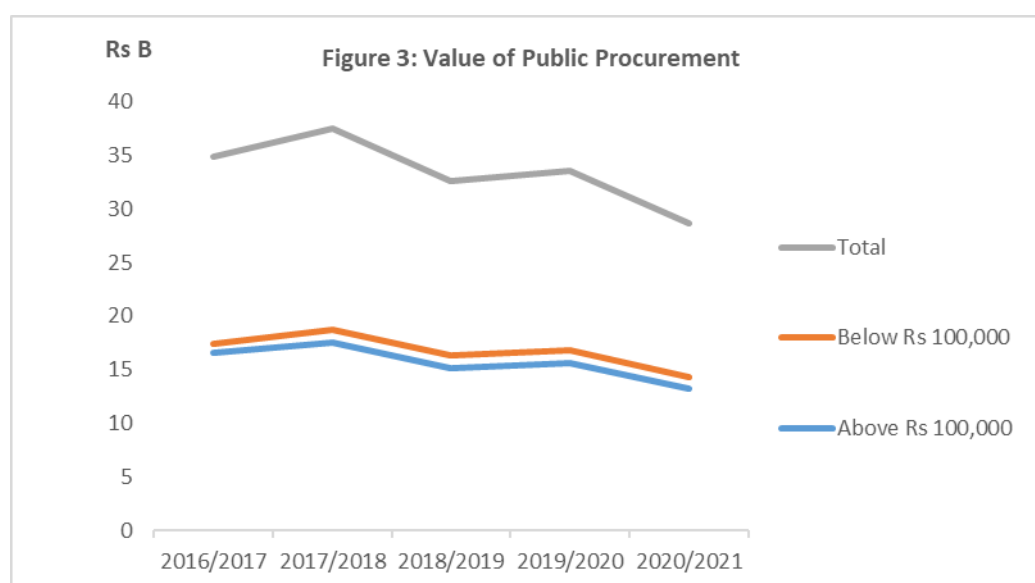
Total value of all contracts awarded under PPA

5.4 The total value of all contracts awarded through public procurement, including procurement of contracts below Rs 100,000, has decreased over the reported period by 14.64%, as detailed in Table 8 and depicted in Figure 3.

Table 8: Value of Public Procurement (Rs B)

Contract Amount Approved	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Above Rs 100,000	16.61	17.51	15.19	15.63	13.24
Below Rs 100,000	0.81	1.23	1.12	1.16	1.09
Total	17.42	18.74	16.32	16.80	14.34

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies (e & oe)



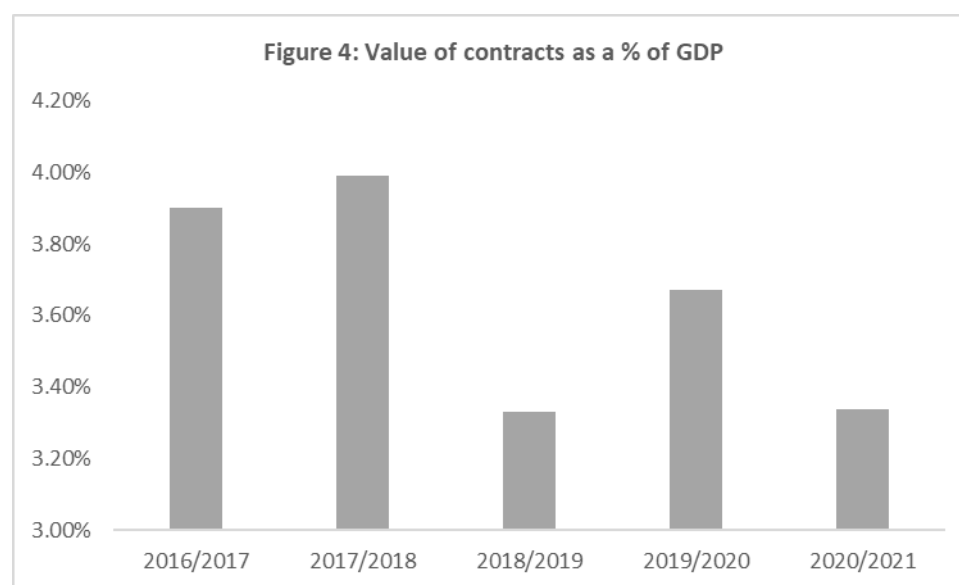
5.5 The share of the value of public procurement contracts awarded of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Current Market Price has decreased from 3.67% to 3.34% from financial year 2019/2020 to 2020/2021. The general trend is on the low side from 3.90 % in 2016/2017 to 3.34% in 2020/2021.

The compilation of these figures is shown in Table 9 and illustrated in Figure 4 below.

Table 9: Value of Public Procurement Contracts Awarded as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product

Procurement Category	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Value of contracts awarded (Rs B)	17.42	18.74	16.31	16.8	14.34
GDP at current market prices (Rs B)	446.4	469.7	490.6	457.9	429.69
Value of contracts as a % of GDP	3.90 %	3.99 %	3.33 %	3.67 %	3.34 %

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies and from Statistics Mauritius' National Accounts (e & oe)



6.0 SHARE OF SMEs IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS

6.1. Participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) has increased over the reported period as shown in Table 10, where the total value of contracts awarded to the latter (Rs 1,657 M) has increased by 5.93 % in comparison to previous financial year (Rs 1,564 M).

Table 10: Value of Public Contracts awarded to SMEs (above Rs 100,000)

Category of Procurement	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016* (Jan-June)	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
Goods (Rs M)	211.7	757.7	654.7	747.9	498.1	516.9	730.2	787.4	582.8	462.1
Works (Rs M)	187.3	650.1	432.7	813.3	321.7	676.6	1,356.20	1,685.80	667.3	1013.7
Consultancy Services (Rs M)	4.1	27	17.2	12.9	6.7	13.6	13.3	24.7	62.9	13.8
Other Services (Rs M)	70	221.3	252.3	189.1	144.1	226.7	366.7	426.4	251.3	167.6
Total (Rs M)	473.1	1,656.10	1,356.90	1,763.20	970.6	1,433.80	2,466.40	2,924.40	1,564.30	1,657.08

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies (e & oe)

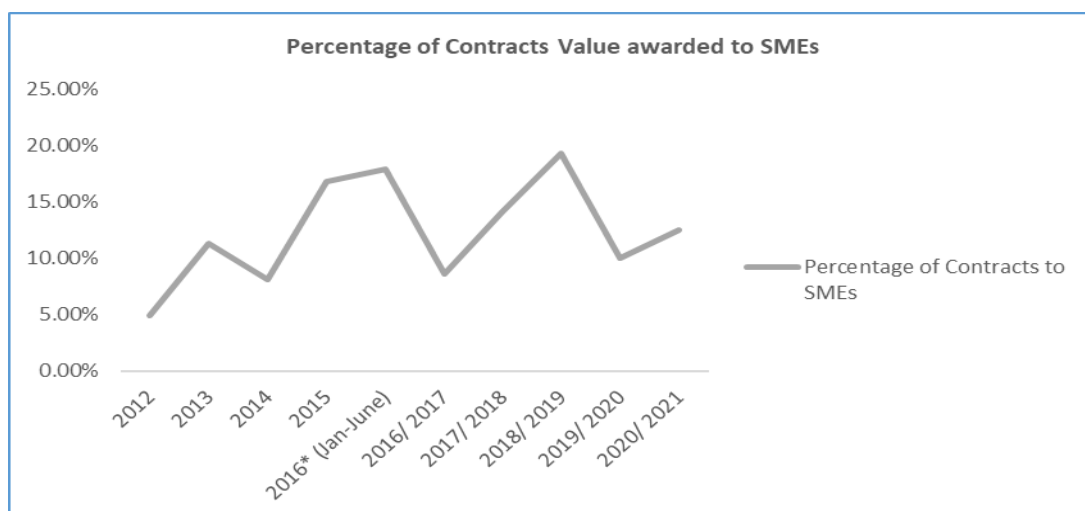
6.2 The share in the value of public contracts awarded to SMEs was 12.51% in the reported period as compared to 10.01% in the financial year 2019/2020.

Table 11 shows details of these figures with a trend analysis in Figure 5.

Table 11: Value of Contracts awarded to SMEs (above Rs 100,000) as a percentage of Total Value of all Contracts

Value of Contracts	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016* (Jan-June)	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
SMEs only (Rs M)	473	1,656	1,357	1,763	971	1,434	2,466	2,924	1,564	1,657
All Contracts (Rs M)	9,707	14,666	16,685	10,496	5,412	16,606	17,506	15,194	15,634	13,244
Percentage of Contracts to SMEs	4.90	11.30	8.10	16.80	17.90	8.64	14.09	19.24	10.01	12.51

Source: Figures computed from returns submitted by public bodies (e&oe)



7.0 CASES FILED AT THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL

7.1 A comparative number of cases filed since 2012 at the Independent Review Panel (IRP) is shown in Table 12 along with the results of the determination.

Table 12: Cases filed and determination by IRP Panel

Details	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Jan - June)	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
No. of cases	40	35	44	38	15	32	25	16	22	21
Merit	10	7	20	15	3	12	11	8	4	7
No merit	13	10	8	9	2	7	8	3	8	13
Withdrawn	6	13	4	5	6	8	3	4	5	
Cases dismissed	4	2	9	2	0	0	0	1	4	1
Set aside	5	3	3	7	3	5	2	-	1	
Cancelled by Public Body	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
Outside delay	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	-	
Application Not entertained							1	-	-	

Source: Independent Review Panel (IRP) (e&oe)

7.2 Over the period 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, the trend in the number of cases filed at the IRP has registered a general decrease (from 32 to 21 cases).

SN	Items Tendered	Applicant	Respondent	Cause	Decision
1	supply, installation and commissioning of an integrated information system	State Informatics Ltd (SIL)	Mauritius Qualification Authority (MQA)	(i) The applicant was the lowest evaluated bidder as compared to Leal Communications & Informatics Ltd (the successful bidder), and (ii) was more substantially responsive to the bidding documents as compared to Leal Communications & Informatics Ltd.	The application was found to be devoid of merit and was therefore set aside. 01 July 2020
2	provision of security services to the Respondent's Head Office and its 23 Training Centres	Top Security Service Ltd	Mauritius Institute of Training and Development	The Applicant appealed for review on the following grounds: (i) "Minimum wages consideration as per directive 37 of Government Notice No: 223 of 2019." (ii) The price of RSL Security Services Ltd, one of the successful bidders was substantially higher than the applicant. (iii) the applicant's bid was substantially responsive and should have been retained.	The Panel ordered a fresh financial evaluation of the bids to be carried out. 13 July 2020
3	Construction of six additional classrooms at La Ferme College, Rodrigues	Erick Contracting & Waterproofing Ltd	Commission of Education and Others, Rodrigues Regional Assembly	Ground 1 - as a Grade G Contractor registered with the CIDB, the applicant was allowed to undertake works up to a threshold of Rs10M. Ground 2 - the requirement was to have a Contract Manager/Supervisor with 5 years' experience in works. Ground 3 - non-submission of the original document with regards to the minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities of Rs 2.5M.	Since the Applicant has failed under Ground 2, the Panel has decided that the application be set aside. 24 July 2020
4	design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 10 hydroponic greenhouses, complete with fertigation system and civil works to be located at Melrose	Golden Valley Sonalall JV	Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI)	(i) the estimated cost of the successful bidder is almost lower than 50% of estimated cost, (ii) the lowest bidder could not by any means proposed a design in respect of a proper greenhouse (iii) the design submitted by the successful Bidder (IV) the system of air circulation was not taken into consideration.	The matter was referred back to FAREI for a differently-constituted BEC to carry out the evaluation anew with the direction that a clear "updated estimated cost" be defined and, abnormally low bids, if any, are to be dealt with in accordance with section of the Act. 05 Oct 2020

SN	Items Tendered	Applicant	Respondent	Cause	Decision
5	Procurement of security services for all hospitals and other health institutions	RSL Security Services Ltd	Ministry of Health and Wellness	(i) the bid of the successful bidder should have been rejected as its financial offers are abnormally low and do not satisfy the minimum qualification criteria as per the ITBs (ii) The contract prices of Rapid Security Services (one of the successful bidders) do not meet its contractual obligations as the labour cost estimates based on the applicable remuneration order exceed the contract prices. (iii) the Public body failed to review the financial soundness and capabilities of Rapid Security Services (iv) the Public body has failed to carry out a proper evaluation and assessment of bid as Rapid Security Services is not the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bidder	The Panel ordered a re-evaluation of the bids by a newly constituted BEC 06 Nov 2020
6	Procurement of full cream and skimmed milk for all hospitals	Agiliss Ltd	Ministry of Health and Wellness	the Applicant was the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bidder and the contract should have been awarded to it	The application is dismissed for being frivolous and in breach of Regulation 56 of the Regulations. 10 Nov 2020
7	Design-Build/Turnkey for countermeasure works to slope failure at Batelage, Souillac	Frankipile (Mauritius) International Limited	Road Development Authority	(i) the successful bidder does not have the required experience (specific) which are mandatory as per the bidding documents (ii) the bid ought to have been rejected as it does not satisfy the mandatory requirements and minimum experience criteria (iii) the bidder has not performed similar works as described in the bidding document under Employer's Requirement (iv) the Applicant's bid should have been selected and it has extended the validity of its bid up to 16 Nov 2020.	The Panel finds no merit in this application and is therefore set aside 18 Nov 2020
8	Design, supply, installation, and commissioning of centralised access control and CCTV systems for port area	Security and Property Protection Agency Co. Ltd	Mauritius Ports Authority	(i) The Applicant was not notified that an arithmetical error in its bid had been corrected - in breach of section 37(5) of the PPA (ii) The Applicant was not informed of the reasons its bid had not been retained (iii) The public body wrongly evaluated the bid with regards to item under BoQ, contrary ITB and Data Sheet of the bidding documents	The Panel recommends a re-evaluation of the bids by a BEC to be set up by the CPB 08 Dec 2020

SN	Items Tendered	Applicant	Respondent	Cause	Decision
9	Procurement of security services	Rapid Security Services Ltd.	Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security	The successful bidder cannot meet the labour costs as per the Worker's Rights Act	The Panel recommends a re-evaluation of the bids by a newly constituted BEC 08 Dec 2020
10	Procurement for security logistics and equipment for the port area of the island	NEC XON (South Africa)	Mauritius Ports Authority	The decision to award the tender to Brinks (Mauritius) Limited, the successful bidder is wrong, unlawful, unfair, unreasonable and untenable as it did not take into consideration the profile, experience, technical expertise and financial proposal made by the applicant	The panel recommends the re-evaluation of the eight bids by a BEC set up by the CPB 08 Dec 2020
11	Construction of La Vigie - La Brasserie - Beaux Songes link road (phase 1)	Sinohydro Corporation Limited	Road Development Authority	Being the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bidder, the applicant feels aggrieved that the CPB engaged into negotiation with the 2nd lowest evaluated substantially responsive bidder and have subsequently awarded the contract to it.	The Panel is of the view that the application for review is set devoid of merits and is accordingly, set aside 31 Dec 2020
12	Renovation of Plaza Theatre (Phase III)	RBRB Construction Ltd	The Municipal Council of Beau Bassin - Rose Hill	<p>(i) The decision of the BEC is in contradiction with Directive 46 of PPO.</p> <p>(ii) The selected bidder is in breach of the mandatory bidding requirements as provided in Clause 2.2.1 of section III of the evaluation criteria.</p> <p>(iii) Reference is made to S35 of the PPA, the selected bidder has been previously debarred as a result of poor performance and extreme delays in the completion of a contract. There was also a prohibition notice issued to him by the Ministry of labour.</p> <p>(iv) The bidder does not have the required experience in renovation and refurbishment of heritage works.</p> <p>(v) An advisor of the National Heritage Fund should have assisted the BEC.</p> <p>(vi) Architect/Engineer appointed by the Public Body as Consultant for the project has worked in close association with the selected bidder in numerous projects, which may amount to a situation of conflict of interest.</p> <p>(vii) The BEC and Public Body should have given due weightage to the applicant which is a local company with local shareholders compared to the selected bidder</p>	The Panel finds no merit in this application and therefore dismissed the application 09 Feb 2021

SN	Items Tendered	Applicant	Respondent	Cause	Decision
13	Supply, installation, testing, training and commissioning of Liquid chromatography high-resolution mass spectrometry system (LC-HRMS)	HemaScia Ltd	Forensic Science Laboratory	Failure to carry out a proper evaluation and assessment of the bids. The Selected bidder is not the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bid.	The application was found to be devoid of merit and was therefore set aside 15 Feb 2021
14	Supply, installation and commissioning of 128-Slice CT Scanner for Radiology Department, Victoria Hospital	IBL HealthActiv Ltd	Ministry of Health and Wellness	The Applicant is of the view that the BEC has failed to properly compare the specifications of the equipment with that submitted by the applicant and with the specification described under section 10(c) of the bidding documents. Moreover, the specific model of scanner selected by the respondent does not appear on the website of the US FDA	The application was found to be devoid of merits and was therefore set aside 25 Feb 2021
15	Operation and maintenance of mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering services at the new Supreme Court, PL	Manser Saxon Facilities Ltd	The Judiciary	Respondent has failed to consider the shortcomings of the grounds for review as major deviation	The application was found to be devoid of merits and was therefore set aside 19 March 2021
16	Construction of boundary wall and lighting works at Rodrigues Prison at Pointe La Gueule	B. Hurreeram & Sons Co. Ltd	Commission for Child Development, FW and Ors, Rodrigues Regional Assembly	The applicant has failed to take into consideration of an addendum issued and has not been able to adjusted its bid accordingly. This was considered as a major deviation and the offer has been considered as non-responsive	The application was found to be devoid of merits and was therefore set aside 19 March 2021
17	Supply, installation and commissioning of Mobile C-Arm with Flat Panel Detector for Orthopaedic Surgery for 5 Regional Hospitals	Ducray Lenoir Ltd	Ministry of Health and Wellness	The financial evaluation of the technically responsive bids for a particular item was not carried out properly. For the sake of transparency, in the public interest and to avoid any perception of bias , the applicant is making an appeal that the decision of the Public Body be annulled.	The Panel has decided to annul the decision of the Ministry to retain the successful bidder's bid and the matter has been remitted back to the Ministry to decide the course of action 24 March 2021

SN	Items Tendered	Applicant	Respondent	Cause	Decision
18	Procurement of security services for all hospitals and other health institutions	Rapid Security Services Ltd	Ministry of Health and Wellness	re:12/20/IRP - a new BEC was set up. The applicant is of the view that the CPB has failed to give due consideration to the audited financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2019, the explanation/computation regarding the breakdown of the amount quoted, the undertaking of the applicant for the timely acquisition or arrangements of additional resources and logistics. The applicant also considers that the CPB and the Public Body has acted in breach of natural justice and have failed to give a hearing to the applicant pursuant to S10(E) of the Constitution. The applicant feels aggrieved that its bid has been rejected and awarded to the highest bidders.	The application was found to be devoid of merits and was therefore set aside 07 May 2021
19	Underground Cable Works (framework agreement)	Vishnudutt Foollee	CEB	The evaluation of the Public Body is erroneous and perverse in the circumstances in respect of both categories namely LV and MV cables and HV cables works in as much as the applicant did proposed two registered civil engineers in its bid.	The application was found to be devoid of merits and was therefore set aside 17 May 2021
20	Wastewater rehabilitation works at Dubreuil	Safety Construction Co. Ltd	WMA	ITB 10 of the bidding document has failed to comply with the mandatory exigencies of Directive No.30 issued by the PPO	The application was found to be devoid of merits and was therefore set aside 17 May 2021
21	Sewer extension works and sewer deviation works at Nicolay (Port louis) and Coromandel	Safety Construction Co. Ltd	WMA	ITB 10 of the bidding document has failed to comply with the mandatory exigencies of Directive No.30 issued by the PPO	The application was found to be devoid of merits and was therefore set aside 17 May 2021



PART C

INNOVATION

“What is the calculus of innovation? The calculus of innovation is really quite simple: Knowledge drives innovation, innovation drives productivity, productivity drives economic growth.”

William Brody (born 1944), Scientist

- ☐ Sustainable Procurement
- ☐ e-Procurement System
- ☐ Framework Agreement
- ☐ ISO 9001-2015 Certification
- ☐ Public-Private Partnership Model of Procurement

8.0 SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT*

8.1 The Government of Mauritius recognizes that procurement decisions by public bodies have inherent social, public health, environmental and economic impacts both locally and globally on an immediate and long-term basis.

8.2 In this context, measures have been initiated to stimulate effective Sustainable Procurement. Standard bidding documents for SPP have already been prepared by a consultant, namely, Environmental Management Centre LLP for the following goods items and services:

- passenger cars
- cleaning materials
- cleaning services
- paper product and
- ICT equipment (PCs, laptops and printers)

9.0 E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

9.1 The e-Procurement System is a web-based software application that enables public bodies and suppliers to conduct all public procurement processes digitally (<https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>).

9.2 The e-Procurement System is based on the principles of good governance, transparency and accountability in public procurement. After going live on 28 September 2015, we have seen gradual growth of activities in terms of the number of Invitation of Bids processed, e-bids submitted, public bodies on boarded and suppliers registered.

9.3 From 1 July 2020, use of e-Procurement System became mandatory for 55 public bodies and as from 1 January 2021, it became mandatory for all public bodies falling under the purview of the Public Procurement Act (2006). This led to an increase in activity on the e-Procurement System

9.4 A dedicated e-Procurement team at PPO provides technical support, handholding and capacity building to users of the e-Procurement System.

Operation

9.5 From 30 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, 83 public bodies used the e-Procurement System.

9.6 The COVID-19 pandemic hampered on-boarding and training activities due to the lock down and restrictions on gathering. However, the activities of providing e-PS support continued unabated during the lock down with officers working remotely.

9.7 Most of PPO's effort in 2020-2021 has been in supporting the vulgarisation of e-Procurement System within public bodies that had on-boarded the system and handholding the public bodies that joined following the push for mandatory use. Thus, usage of the e-Procurement System has increased substantially compared to previous years.

e-Procurement System – Implementation Figures

Number of public bodies that have on boarded the e-PS

Public bodies that used e-PS from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021	Electronic Invitation for Bids Published from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021
83	6,132

Number of Suppliers Registered on e-PS

Number of new suppliers registered on e-PS from July 2020 to June 2021	Total number of suppliers registered on e-PS as at 30 June 2021
1,572	3,432

Assistance provided by Help Desk

9.8 The Policy Office has set up an e-PS Help-Desk and its main role is to provide assistance for end users (i.e., suppliers/bidders and Public Bodies) who are experiencing any technical issues or difficulty in operating e-Procurement System. All users are requested to send an email to eprocdesk@govmu.org whenever they encounter issues or need assistance.

9.9 e-Procurement Helpdesk representatives go through out all the emails received and these emails are treated depending on its priority. Issues that cannot be solved by the representatives, are categorized as Catastrophic/Major/Minor and then tickets are raised and submitted to our supplier (Nextenders) for resolution. Most of the issues are resolved within one day.

e-Procurement Capacity Building

9.10 Since the use of the e-PS became mandatory, regular training programmes have been conducted by the PPO with regards to its use for:

- Preparer of Bids electronically and Reviewer;
- Evaluators of bids; and
- Suppliers for the preparation and submission of their bids.

9.11 As such, for the financial year 2020/2021, 242 public officials and 664 suppliers were trained on the system.

10.0 FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

10.1 Framework Agreement (FA) is an agreement by one or more public bodies with one or more suppliers, which establishes the terms and conditions under which the suppliers will enter into individual contract(s) with a public body in the period the Agreement applies. This new method of procurement process is best used for procurement of goods, works and services that arise on a repetitive or urgent basis over a period of time. Furthermore, it brings numerous advantages such as reduced lead time, administrative efficiency and planned budget and inventory.

10.2 The procedures governing procurement under Framework agreement has been introduced in our legislation in 2013 and since then, numerous FAs have been implemented by various public bodies including NDU, CEB CWA, WMA, RRA, with expected benefits in most of the cases.

10.3 The National Development Unit, for example, is able to implement most of its roads, drains and/or amenities projects under different distinct framework agreements. A number of drain construction projects were able to be implemented on an emergency basis during cyclonic or flooding period due to the fact that there were a number of framework contractors available on an island-wide basis ready to intervene, as and when required, during such situations.

10.4 The PPO had, during the reported period of 2020-2021, assisted a number of public bodies in structuring and implementing FAs as follows:

1. Framework agreement for consultancy services for drains, roads and amenities projects
Contracting public body: NDU
Total Value of works projects under the framework agreement: MUR 1.2 BILLION
Duration: 2 years

2. Framework agreement for amenities works
Contracting public body: NDU
Total Value of projects under framework agreement: MUR 350 MILLION
Duration: 2 years
3. Framework agreement for connectivity services for government intranet network services
Contracting public body: Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation
Total Value of services under framework agreement: undefined
Duration: 3 years
4. Framework agreement for Procurement of Lubricating Oils for CEB's Power Stations
Contracting public body: CEB
Total Value of procurement under framework agreement: unknown
Duration: 2 years
5. Framework agreement for Construction and Installation of Traffic and Road Safety Devices
Contracting public body: TMRSU
Total Value for works under the framework agreement: MUR 650 MILLION
Duration: 2 years
6. Framework agreement for design and construction of house connections in sewerred areas in Mauritius
Contracting public body: WMA
Total Value of works under framework agreement: MUR 50 MILLION
Duration: 1 year
7. Framework agreement for underground cables works
Contracting public body: CEB
Total Value of works under framework agreement: Unknown
Duration: 1 year
8. Framework agreement for Overhead lines works
Contracting public body: CEB
Total Value of works under framework agreement: Unknown
Duration: 1 year
9. Framework agreement for underground cables and overhead lines works for RODRIGUES
Contracting public body: CEB
Total Value of works under framework agreement: Unknown
Duration: 2 years

10. Framework agreement for maintenance, repairs and rehabilitation of government buildings
Contracting public body: Ministry of National Infrastructure
Total Value of works under the framework agreement: MUR 400MILLION
Duration: 2 years
11. Framework agreement for lubricating oils
Contracting public body: NTC
Total Value of works under framework agreement: Unknown
Duration: 2 years
12. Framework agreement for supply and delivery of toners
Contracting public body: Rodrigues Regional Assembly
Total Value of works under framework agreement: MUR7.7 MILLION
Duration: 1.5 year
13. Framework agreement for consultancy services for roads, bridges, drains and allied projects
Contracting public body: RDA
Total value of consultancy fees under the framework agreement: MUR 90 MILLION
Duration: 3 years
14. Framework agreement for global consultancy services for building projects
Contracting public body: Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development
Works Project value under framework agreement: MUR 25 MILLION
Duration: 2 years

11.0 ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION

11.1 The Procurement Policy Office has successfully renewed its ISO 9001:2015 certification in June 2021.

11.2 The scope of registration covers the:

- Formulation of policies, regulations and bidding documents in respect to public procurement
- Recommendation and advice on public procurement and debarment of suppliers
- Implementation of e-Procurement System.

11.3 The new certificate is valid until June 2024 subject to the annual review of the external auditor, the Mauritius Standard Bureau (MSB). This year, the PPO has been praised for:

- The competency of its staff
- Its proper planning to achieve quality objectives
- Its collection of data for measuring, analysing and evaluating effectiveness of the Quality Management System.

11.4 The Management wishes to congratulate all staff members for their dedication and commitment to maintain quality and achieve excellence at work.



12.0 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL OF PROCUREMENT

The Explanatory Notes annexed to the Budget Speech 2021/2022 stated the following budgetary measures with respect to Public Private Partnership (PPP):

- (i) the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Act will be reinforced to increase private sector participation in public projects;
- (ii) the PPP Act will be simplified to accelerate implementation of PPP projects with large commercial components; and
- (iii) a PPP Toolkit comprising PPP templates will be issued with the assistance of the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF).

12.2 Annex XI of the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) 2021/22 – 2025/26 entitled “Private Participation in Public Projects” mentioned a list of projects which may potentially be implemented as PPP/ Build Operate Transfer (BOT), including, the following:

S.N	Extract of List of Potential Project listed in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) 2021/22 – 2025/26
1	Education Hub at Cote D'Or - MIE Campus
2	Education Hub at Cote D'Or - OUM
3	Education Hub at Cote D'Or - UTM
4	Construction of Technical Education Centre at Ebene (ex- Sir Rampersad Neerunjun Training Centre)
5	Construction of a Hall of Residence at Reduit - University of Mauritius
6	Construction of New PSEA Building
7	Construction of a Modern Infectious Diseases Hospital
8	Modern warehouse for pharmaceutical products
9	Transport House
10	Stand-alone building housing the offices of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
11	Revamping of Professional Drivers Training Centre
12	Innovation Hub Building
13	Upgrading of La Nicoliere Water Treatment Plant
14	New Roche Bois Pumping Station and Baie du Tombeau Treatment Plant
15	Setting up and Operating a Used Tyres Processing Facility in Mauritius

12.1 Brief details and status of some of the projects as at 30 June 2021 are provided hereunder:

Education Hub at Cote D'Or

12.2 The Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology intends to build an Education Hub to meet the expansion in demand for Tertiary Studies. Land has been identified at Cote D'Or and will be provided by Landscape on a Lease basis. The Education Hub at Cote D'Or is a bundle of 4 projects for different educational institutions which have been bundled together for the purpose of recruiting only one Transaction Advisor.

12.5 Advisory Services for the 4 projects. The 4 projects are as follows:

1. University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM) – Education Hub at Cote D'Or;
2. Construction of a new Campus for the Open University of Mauritius (OUM) at Cote D'Or;
3. Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) Campus at Cote D'Or Educational Hub; and
4. Education House for the Ministry of Education at Cote D'Or.

12.6 During the reported period, the BOT Projects Unit has provided assistance and guidance to the Ministry in the preparation of the RFQ for the recruitment of a Transaction Advisor for the projects.

Construction of a Hall of Residence at Reduit

12.7 The University of Mauritius has initiated the necessary procedures to construct a Hall of Residence under a BOT approach. This project calls for the provision of a 111- room facility, comprising of some 24 rooms for external examiners/ visitors and the remaining for the accommodation of predominantly international students.

12.8 During the reported period, the BOT Projects Unit assisted the University in Structuring the project. The Unit also sought assistance from the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) of the African Development Bank to prepare a PPP Toolkit containing model documents such as RFQ, RFP and PPP Agreements. These documents would be customised for the Hall of Residence Project.

Construction of New Building for Private Secondary Education Authority

12.9 In an endeavour to respond to new changes and challenges of a dynamic education sector and to meet the needs and expectations of all stakeholders, the Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA) plans to redesign its organizational structure as well as its human resource capacity. In this context, it envisages to construct a new building under a BOT approach. During the reported period, the BOT Projects Unit had provided guidance to the PSEA on the way forward for the project.

Construction of a stand-Alone building housing the Headquarters of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

12.10 The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare intends to construct a stand-alone building which will house the full Ministry including all the different Sections and Units. The ground floor of the building would contain a commercial area which will accommodate women entrepreneurs and incubators. The Ministry will be renting the space thereat at a discounted price to enable women entrepreneurs to set up their business and start-ups. During the reported period, the BOT Projects Unit assisted the Ministry on moving forward with the BOT procedures.

Modern Warehouse of International Standard for storage of medicines, medical consumables, medical and non-medical products/equipment

12.11 Government has announced in its Budget 2021/2022 that it will implement the project for the Design, Finance, Build, Operate and Maintain of a Modern Warehouse of International Standard for storage of medicines, medical consumables, medical and non-medical products/equipment at Cote D'Or, Mauritius. During the reported period, the BOT Projects Unit initiated the procedures for the preparation of the necessary documentations for the project.

Rehabilitation and Extension works of the existing La Nicoliere Water Treatment Plant

12.12 The Central Water Authority (CWA) intends to rehabilitate and extend the treatment capacity of La Nicoliere Water Treatment Plant from 60,000 m³ per day to 100,000 m³ per day. The treatment capacity of the plant is 66,000 m³/day and supplies potable water to the northern region of the island, part of Port Louis and other surrounding areas. The scope of the works is detailed as follows: The refurbishment of the chemical storage/ dosage facilities, sludge treatment, SCADA system, Regulation of chemical dosage, automatic monitoring of water quality, automatic backwashing of the sand filters and chlorine neutralisation facilities associated with the chlorination House.

12.13 During the FY 2020/2021, the BOT Projects Unit approached the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) for a grant for Transaction Advisory Services for the project.

New Roche Bois Pumping Station and Baie du Tombeau Treatment Plant

12.14 The Wastewater Management Authority intends to implement the New Roche Bois Pumping Station and Baie du Tombeau Treatment Plant project under a BOT model. The project consists of upgrading existing Roche Bois pumping station for which pre-treatment at the inlet of the pumping station is non-existent and results in blocking, premature wear of the pump and excess grit setting out in the rising main at low velocities. The project also includes the construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and long sea outfall, pumping

stations and reticulation networks at Le Hochet, Riche Terre, Terre Rouge, Bois Marchand and Bois Pignolet.

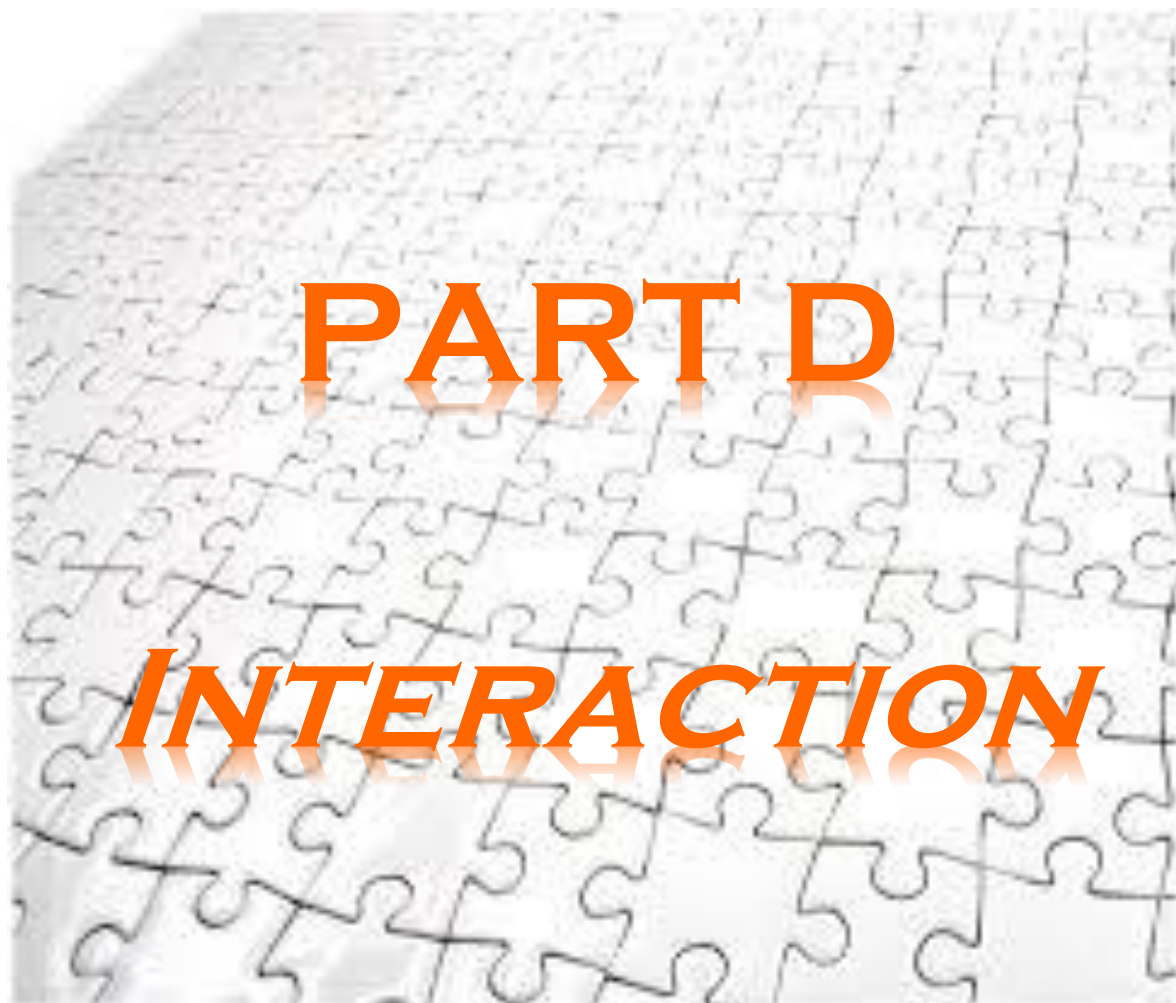
12.15 During the reported period, further to arrangement made by the BOT Projects Unit, the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) agreed to provide a grant to the Government of Mauritius for transaction advisory (TA) services for the project. The DBSA undertook the procurement exercise for the TA with the involvement of the WMA and the BOT Projects Unit and selected a Joint Venture comprising of Mariswe (Pty) Ltd, CI Group Environmental (Pty) Ltd, Cresco Global Ltd and Ledwaba Mazwai.

Setting up and Operating a Used Tyres Processing Facility in Mauritius

12.16 The Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD), under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management & Climate Change, initiated procedures for the Setting up and Operating a Used Tyres Processing Facility in Mauritius under a Build, Own and Operate formula.

12.17 It is estimated that about 5000 tonnes of used tyres are generated on an annual basis in Mauritius out of which some 10% are disposed at the Mare Chicose landfill. The bulk of the used tyres are currently stored at generators' premises or illegally dumped in the environment, constituting an eyesore in addition to being a health hazard since they are good breeding sites for mosquitoes which are vectors of diseases like Malaria, Chikungunya, Zika and Dengue. Disposal of used tyres at the landfill is not considered as an appropriate solution with respect to sustainable waste management. The project thus intends to collect the used tyres and process them for different usage.

12.18 Feasibility study had been completed for the project and a Request for Proposal for a promoter was issued during the reported period.



- Advice to Stakeholders
- Compliance Monitoring
- Exclusion, Suspension, Disqualification and Debarment

13.0 ADVICE TO STAKEHOLDERS

13.1 The PPO provides advice to stakeholders using different means including phone, e-mail, letter and meetings with stakeholders.

13.2 288 written advices were provided to Ministries/Departments and Parastatal bodies during financial year July 2020 to June 2021.

14.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING IN PUBLIC BODIES

Improving efficiency in procurement and contract management in Public Bodies

14.1 The targeted KPI was 12 public bodies but due to the restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, few on site compliance exercises could be performed.

The following public bodies were audited during the year 2020/2021.

<i>Public Body</i>	<i>Period</i>
1. National Development Unit	August 2020
2. Solid Waste Management	September 2020
3. Irrigation Authority	October 2020
4. Fire Services	October 2020
5. Police Dept.	October 2020
6. Mauritius Housing Company Ltd	November 2020
7. Moka District Council	January 2021
8. Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security	February 2021

15.0 EXCLUSION, SUSPENSION, DISQUALIFICATION & DEBARMENT

15.1 With the objective to safeguard interest of public bodies and to ensure that bidders/suppliers do not act frivolously, the PPA provides under section 53, grounds under which the Director of the Policy Office may suspend, debar or disqualify a bidder/supplier. The Period for debarment/disqualification as stipulated in the Act shall not exceed 5 years.

15.2 Section 53 is complemented by the Public Procurement (Suspension and Debarment) Regulations 2008 and Public Procurement (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 depending on the course of action decided by the Director. The Director is required to ensure that the process of debarment or disqualification is completed within 50 days of the Notice issued to the bidder/supplier.

17.3 For the financial year 2020-2021, the following cases were dealt with:

Name of Supplier	Public Body Making the request	Ineligibility period	Reason for sanction
Neo Clean Ltd	Ministry of Social Security, NS and RI (Social Security Division)	One year with effect from 23 June 2021 to 22 June 2022	Misconduct relating to the execution of a procurement contract.
Phil Alain Didier Company Limited (PAD CO Ltd)	Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development (NDU) and the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology	five years with effect from 15 September 2020 to 14 September 2025	(a) Supplying false information in the process of submitting a bid or pre-qualification exercise; (b) Misconduct relating to the execution of procurement contracts; and (c) Any other misconduct relating to the responsibilities of the bidder.

15.4 The above list is also available on the PPO website. Once the procedure for debarment or qualification is finalised, a circular is issued and e-mailed to all public bodies. A notice is also published in the Government Gazette in line with Section 35 of the PPA, to ensure that no contract is awarded to these bidders/suppliers during their debarment/disqualification period. Additionally, section 35(1A) of the PPA allows a public body to exclude a bidder/supplier from participating in a bidding exercise, on ground of deficient performance for a period of six months.

Procurement Policy Office



RF 162
MS ISO 9001:2015

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