



Republic of Mauritius

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

PROCUREMENT POLICY OFFICE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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FOREWORD

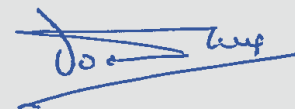
In compliance with the statutory requirement under section 7B of the Public Procurement Act 2006, for the Procurement Policy Office to report on its activities for the previous financial year, I submit herewith the Annual Report of the Office for the financial year ending 2014.

The Report highlights in the form of “Public Procurement Quick Facts” the value of procurement contracts awarded for the year 2014; the share of SMEs in those public contracts regarding procurement of goods, works, consultancy services and other services, and the status of grievance cases lodged with the Independent Review Panel.

It also reviews the public procurement institutional structure and trends in public procurement for the last four years.

In its strategic drive to bring efficiency in the procurement system, the Office has assisted public bodies to move to an innovative and more efficient way of procurement through Framework Agreements. Furthermore, the challenge for 2014 has been to reallocate its limited human resources to support the construction of the e-Procurement system while delivering on its other functional responsibilities.

Looking forward to the year 2015, the implementation of the e-Procurement system will enable public bodies to carry out their procurement electronically through a single digital platform that will allow suppliers to submit their bids on-line. It will bring a transformation in the work method of both public officials and suppliers by migrating them out from a paper based system to internet based G2B procurement platform combined with all the efficiency and productivity gains that it will bring to all stakeholders.



Mohit Dhoorundhur
Director,
Procurement Policy Office

THE VISION OF THE PROCUREMENT POLICY OFFICE IS TO ATTAIN-

“A world class procurement system for Mauritius”

IT HAS SET ITSELF AS 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”; and

REALISE THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM-

- Maximise economy and efficiency in public procurement and obtain best value for public expenditures.
- Contribute to the economic development of Mauritius through an efficient public procurement system and capacity building.
- Promote competition and foster participation in public procurement proceedings.
- Provide equal opportunity and equitable treatment to all suppliers and bidders.
- Promote integrity, fairness, accountability and public confidence in the public procurement process.
- Ensure transparency in the procedures, processes and decisions relating to public procurement.

VALUE OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS (Rs bn)

Procurement Category (contracts >Rs100,000)	2011	2012	2013	2014
Goods	2.26	4.82	5.34	4.64
Works	5.89	3.10	6.14	9.92
Consultancy Services	0.07	0.16	0.58	0.52
Other Services	0.38	1.63	1.54	1.61
Total Value of Contracts > Rs 100,000	8.60	9.71	13.6	16.69

TOTAL VALUE OF CONTRACTS AWARDED TO SMEs

Value of Contracts	2012	2013	2014
Rs 100,000 and above - all Contracts	9,707,090,742	14,665,887,866	16,685,304,454
Rs100,000 and above - SMEs only	473,527,233	1,633,842,172	1,356,975,450
Percentage of Contracts to SMEs	4.88	11.14	8.13

VALUE OF CONTRACTS AWARDED TO SMEs PER CATEGORY OF PROCUREMENT (>Rs100, 000)

Category of Procurement	2012	2013	2014
Goods	211,689,770	757,719,521	654,737,395
Works	187,323,378	650,123,939	432,717,067
Consultancy Services	4,160,000	26,952,210	17,242,447
Other Services	69,965,227	221,333,824	252,278,542

CASES FILED AT INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL

Year	No. of Cases	Merit	No Merit	With-drawn	Cases dismissed	Conflict of interest	Set aside	Cancelled by Public Body	Remarks
2011	35	9	10	9	1	0	0	1	5 (disposed)**
2012	40	8	14	6	5	0	2	0	5 (disposed)
2013	35	7	11	13	1	0	2	0	1 (disposed)
2014	44	14	4	3	8	8*	1	0	0

Source: Independent Review Panel (IRP)

* 6 pending at Supreme Court and 2 were waiting for appointment of additional member

** Disposed refers to cases which were discontinued by IRP due to expiry of bid validity

1.0 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

1.1 THE SCOPE OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Public procurement is the process of procuring goods, works, consultancy services and other services for Government to perform its primary legislative, executive and administrative functions and to deliver on its broader socio economic development objectives for national welfare. These range from providing national security, education, health and refuse collection services to building public infrastructure like roads, buildings, dams, power generation plants, port, and airport which also constitute an enabling environment for private sector development.

The items to be procured vary in their degrees of complexity and value whereas the number of suppliers in the market may range from sole, a few to a large number. In the circumstance, the challenge for public bodies is not only to acquire the subject matter of the procurement at the right time, in the right quantity and quality, and at the right price, but also, given the market structure, effect the procurement in a transparent manner whilst optimising the use of public funds. Furthermore, public bodies are required, as trustees of public funds, to make auditable the choice of the procurement method and process used in acquiring the goods, works, consultancy services and other services from the respective market providers.

On the supply side of the market, public procurement is the platform for the private economic operators to do business with government and they have a duty of care to act with probity in their drive to advance their business objectives. Government, on the other hand, also uses the public procurement nexus to leverage its policy objectives to stimulate inclusive economic growth, support SMEs with margins of preferences in securing public contracts, develop market opportunities and incentivise contractors to preferably hire more local labour in the execution of public works contracts.

1.2 THE PROCUREMENT CYCLE

Literature abounds on the various stages of the public procurement cycle, but there is a general consensus on three distinguishing stages. The first one comprises of a pre-bid solicitation stage where the public body determines its needs, defines the technical and functional requirements, chooses the appropriate procurement method and translates the specified needs into bid documentation. The second stage is the bid solicitation where the public body ramps up the procurement cycle in moving the bid documentation to the market in the manner specified in the chosen procurement method, receives bids, evaluates the offers and awards the contract. It is only in the third stage, the post award stage, that value is created when the public body is required to manage the project contract to ensure that the value promised in the selected bid is actually delivered by the supplier.

All the stages in the procurement cycle are equally important, but none can singly deliver the procurement outcome. Hence the predominant task of all public bodies to engage in procurement planning encompassing all the three stages to define their respective time lines, depth of product and market knowledge, resources and skills set required at each stage of the procurement cycle to efficiently deliver the awaited results.

The Procurement Policy Office, however, notes that many public bodies still do not give to the procurement planning task its overarching importance. In the circumstance, weaknesses creep in their procurement cycle causing procurement stages to irremediably go off track with costly socio economic consequences. Public procurement is a means to an end rather than an end in itself. An acceptable definition of the procurement of goods, works and services to deliver the desired outcome is primordial prior to embarking in any procurement activity.

2.0 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND ITS STAKEHOLDERS

The Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2006 lays down the institutional structure; defines the procurement methods and their applications; explains the bidding processes, the preparation of bids up to award of contracts along with debriefing of unsuccessful bidders, and the process to be followed for aggrieved bidders to seek remedy. These taken together, outline the contours of the public procurement governance framework for public bodies to conduct public procurement with suppliers.

The institutional structure provides for a Procurement Policy Office; a Central Procurement Board, and an Independent Review Panel, all with independent but complementary functional responsibilities.

2.1 PROCUREMENT POLICY OFFICE (PPO)

Section 4 of the PPA provides for the PPO to be set up in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to be responsible, amongst others, to:

- Formulate policies relating to procurement, including directives, procedures, instructions, technical notes and manuals;
- Issue standard forms of contracts, bidding documents, pre-qualification documents, requests for proposals and other similar documents for use by public bodies for their procurement needs;

- Collect information on procurement activities for monitoring compliance and for improving the public procurement process;
- Prepare and conduct training programmes for public officials, contractors and suppliers concerning procurement, and
- Communicate and cooperate with international institutions and other foreign entities on matters of procurement.

These functionalities are indispensable to assist public bodies and motivate suppliers to participate in public procurement, and to collectively operate with integrity within the boundaries of the public procurement system. In this respect, PPO is daily solicited by public bodies for assistance on procurement matters that range from minor to complex issues arising at any juncture in the procurement cycle, with some having already run out of cycle time and tipping into risk of procurement failures. These generally relate to applications of the provisions of the PPA, clarifications on evaluation criteria at time of bid evaluation, bid responsiveness and interpretation of contract clauses. This again substantiate the earlier comment on management paying low heed to prior procurement planning as a priority management task which could have, otherwise, averted high risk of flaws creeping into the procurement process and frustrating the whole procurement exercise.

2.2 THE CENTRAL PROCUREMENT BOARD (CPB)

The CPB is established under Section 8 of the PPA with the responsibility to evaluate and approve award of major contracts by public bodies. Major contracts are those defined as contracts exceeding threshold values ranging from Rs 15m to Rs 100m and above, as applicable to the respective public bodies listed in the Schedule to the Act.

In the discharge of its functions, the CPB has the responsibility to ensure transparency, fairness and value for money in the award of major contracts.

2.3 INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL (IRP)

The IRP is set up under Section 44 of the PPA. It has the responsibility to determine applications for review of procurement proceedings filed by unsatisfied bidders. The composition of the IRP was reviewed in 2014 and its membership was increased from four to six. It is now composed of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and four members enabling it to function in two parallel divisions to expeditiously deal with grievances.

3.0 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TREND

3.1 IMPACT OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Mauritius has a mixed economic system with a 20/80 public/private sector share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. Whilst Government mainly plays a facilitation role for growth in private sector investments and employment, it also makes significant consumption and investment expenditure.

The value of public procurement contracts awarded during 2014 stood at Rs 18 billion representing 5% of GDP (at basic price).

¹ National Accounts of Mauritius 2013, Statistics Mauritius, Page 81

3.2 ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TREND

Public procurement is categorised as procurement of goods, works, consultancy services and other services. Table 1 details public procurement by category over the past four years.

Table 1: Value of Public Procurement Contracts Awarded during 2011 to 2014 (Rs bn)

Procurement Category	2011	2012	2013	2014
Goods	2.26	4.82	5.34	4.64
Works	5.89	3.10	6.14	9.92
Consultancy Services	0.07	0.16	0.58	0.52
Other Services	0.38	1.63	1.54	1.61
Total value of contracts awarded -above Rs 100,000	8.60	9.71	13.6	16.69

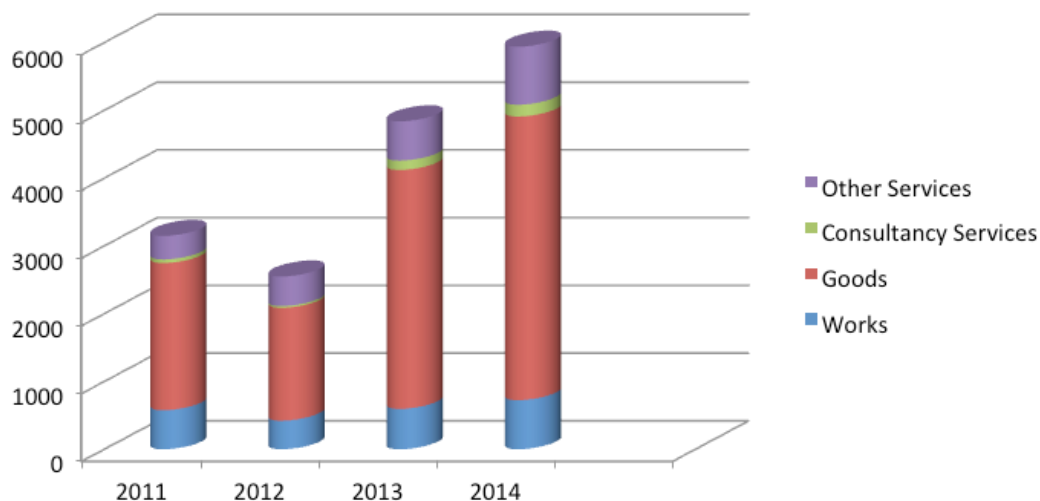
3.3 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Public procurement for a value of above Rs 100,000 has generated economic transactions resulting into awards of 5940 contracts for the year 2014, representing an average increase of 36% since 2012. The number of contracts awarded for the procurement of Goods, Works, Consultancy Services and Other Services is shown in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 1.

Table 2: Number of Contracts Awarded (above Rs 100,000) during 2011 to 2014

Category of Procurement	2011	2012	2013	2014
Goods	2,171	1,666	3,525	4,184
Works	577	422	596	725
Consultancy Services	54	26	139	175
Other Services	347	436	579	856
Total	3,149	2,550	4,839	5,940

Figure 1: Number of Contracts Awarded (above Rs 100,000)



4.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE e-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

4.1 e-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

e-Procurement System (e-PS) is the smart way of doing procurement. At a click of a mouse, it will enable public bodies to migrate their procurement procedures from paper to electronic and kill public and private bureaucracy from red tape with embedded productivity gains. Led by the Procurement Policy Office, a phase wise implementation has been planned. At the end of the implementation phases, all procurement processes will be carried out online from preparation of bids, bid submission to award and online bid opening as well as online challenge and appeal.

Operationalising e-Procurement will pitch another milestone in Government e-programme aimed at the delivery of government services migrating to internet. The transformational effects of the public procurement function going digital will, amongst others, have the following advantages:

- 1) e-Procurement will boost the use of ICT as an instrument of public sector reform and overall e-government initiative;
- 2) Reinforce efficiency, integrity and transparency as ingredients of public procurement governance;
- 3) Change in work method, reduction in management and administrative time;
- 4) Reduction in procurement lead time by a month, increased participation of bidders, including SMEs, with an improved quality of bidding documents and drastic reduction of non-compliant bids;
- 5) Deter corrupt practices, as supplier/ public official interface will be minimized and,
- 6) Generation of just in time management reports for informed policy decisions.

Government awarded the e-Procurement contract to the consortium Nextenders (India) Pvt. Ltd with Sify Technologies Ltd in November 2013 at a contract price of US \$ 2,991,109 for the supply, installation and commissioning of the e-Procurement System and its maintenance for five years.

4.2 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The project is planned for implementation in three phases.

Phase 1

Implement e-PS up to and including on-line opening of bids with a soft launch on pilot tenders identified in public body's procurement plan after intensive capacity building of procurement cadres, suppliers, and other stakeholders, and subsequent roll out to all public bodies.

Phase 2

Implement e-PS to tide up to the next phases of the procurement cycle, namely, system aided Bid Evaluation, Award of Contracts and Challenge and Appeal, with generation of a complete Management Information System (MIS).

Phase 3

Implement Framework Agreement, Reverse Auction and Contract Monitoring.

For the implementation of the project, PPO has set up a Steering Committee chaired by the Director of the Office, a Project Team for Legal and Security Compliance headed by a representative of the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation. There are other two teams, one for Project Implementation and one for Capacity Building and Change Management which are respectively headed by the two members of the PPO. The Project teams are working in close collaboration with an on-site supplier's team comprising two full time resource persons. The project implementation is also supported by a Project Manager from the Central Informatics Bureau, the IT Security Unit and the Central Information Systems Division.

4.3 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Phase 1 of the project that will enable online processing for e-tendering is reaching completion point, ready for a soft launch before rolling out to all other public bodies by end of the year 2015. The project components include: Suppliers' Registration, Annual Procurement Plan, Procurement Request, Bidding Document preparation, Invitation for bids up to online bid opening.

Implementation in phases will facilitate the two main stakeholders, that is, the public bodies and suppliers to shift to complete electronic procurement transactions. In essence, this aims at transforming their work methods and organisational culture to catalyse productivity with same resource base. The workflows response templates are so designed that once a user, public body or supplier, has been initiated to operate the e-dashboard to navigate through the defined tasks, the user will be operating in a structured process in compliance with the procedures in the Act.

The e-PS allows for the Committee of Needs, Departmental Bid Committees and Central Procurement Board and the Chief Executives to operate more efficiently in communicating seamlessly on a robust online infrastructure.

To generate the implementation capacity, the Office has already started work-outs of Procurement Cadres, Engineers and Suppliers in their practical training for the e-PS "go live". For scaling up this skill enhancement capability, the patronage of the private sector and partnership with the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs have been mustered. PPO has also

planned to hand hold the first five public bodies for their pilot tenders going live for soft launch on the e-PS alongside with training of potential suppliers for these procurements.

5.0 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FACILITATING SME GROWTH

5.1 SME PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) contribute significantly in terms of fostering economic growth, employment, income and in diversifying the economy. In order to further encourage the contribution of SMEs, the following measures were announced by Government in its budget speech for implementation in 2014:

(i) The Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping would unbundle contracts given on a District wise basis to ensure that a larger number of SMEs get access to public contracts.

(ii) The number of zones in rates contracts for maintenance and upgrading of roads, drains and civil works would be increased and the contracts would be reclassified into specific categories of works.

(iii) Standard Bidding Documents would be simplified from 15 pages to only one page for goods and services and to two pages for small works contracts.

(iv) The Procurement Policy Office would hold a series of courses targeted at SMEs to help them understand and take part in Government procurement.

All these measures were at various stages of implementation during 2014.

Table 3 provides an evolution of SMEs' share in the total value of contracts awarded to them for the years 2012 to 2014.

Table 3: Total Value of Contracts Awarded to SMEs (> Rs 100,000)

Value of Contracts	2012	2013	2014
Rs 100,000 and above for all Contracts	9,707,090,742	14,665,887,866	16,685,304,454
Rs100,000 and above for SMEs only	473,527,233	1,633,842,172	1,356,975,450
Percentage of Contracts to SMEs	4.88	11.14	8.13

The total value of procurement contracts of Rs 100,000 and above awarded to SMEs increased from Rs 473 million in 2012 to Rs1,633 million in 2013, but experienced a decrease to Rs 1,356 million in 2014. As a proportion of total value of contracts awarded, this represents an increase in SMEs' share from 4.88 % in 2012 to 11.14% in 2013, and a decrease to 8.13% in 2014.

Table 4: Value of Contracts Awarded to SMEs per Category of Procurement (>Rs100, 000) for period 2012 to 2014

Category of Procurement	2012	2013	2014
Goods	211,689,770	757,719,521	654,737,395
Works	187,323,378	650,123,939	432,717,067
Consultancy Services	4,160,000	26,952,210	17,242,447
Other Services	69,965,227	221,333,824	252,278,542

Table 4 shows, except for Other Services, a decrease in the value of contracts awarded in 2014 in all the different categories of procurement for SMEs as compared to 2013. However, as compared to 2012, the value of contracts awarded to SMEs in 2014 still posted substantial increase for all categories of procurement.

6.0 FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

During the year 2014, the Office has assisted a number of public bodies to arrange for procurement by using Framework Agreements (FAs). These agreements are at different stages of implementation as summarised below:

Maintenance and Minor Works for 2014-2016 for Road Development Authority (RDA)

In February 2014, the RDA launched an open international invitation for bids to select contractors for the provision of Maintenance and Minor Works for roads. On completion of the exercise, RDA entered into FA with Gamma Construction Co. Ltd for three zones (North, South & Central), General Construction Co. Ltd for one zone (North/East), Transinvest Ltd for two zones (South & Central), and Colas (Maurice) Ltee across the country to provide services for the period 2014 to 2016.

Multidisciplinary Consulting Services for Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport (MPILT)

MPILT was assisted in the preparation of an FA Bidding Document to select Consulting firms to provide multidisciplinary consulting assignment for building works projects undertaken by other ministries. MPILT was designated as Lead Organization and a pre-final Bidding Document was issued in August 2014. As this procurement method was to be used for the first time, a market engagement with potential Consultants was planned for 2014 for market testing and acceptance.

Maintenance, Repairs and Rehabilitation of Government Buildings 2014-2016

In August 2014, an FA Bidding Document for Maintenance, Repairs and Rehabilitation of Government buildings through the MPILT was finalised and the bid was launched in November 2014 with January 2015 being its closing date.

Central Electricity Board (CEB) Overhead Lines & Underground Cable Works

The Office assisted CEB to finalise two FAs: one for the construction, repairs and maintenance of Overhead Lines, and a second for Underground Cables Works, each for a period of two years.

Construction and Upgrading of Roads and associated Civil Works for year 2015-2017 for National Development Unit (NDU)

The NDU is used to appointing Zonal contractors for carrying out the above-mentioned works. The Office having assessed that FA would generate better value for carrying out such works in the four Zones, under the responsibility of NDU as well as Local Authorities for a period of two years, the NDU was designated Lead Organisation for this project. The related FA Bidding Documents were prepared and issued to the NDU in August 2014 for review and acceptance.

Skygovnet Project

The Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation was assisted to design an FA with potential network suppliers in Mauritius for a period of three years for the provision of high speed sustainable wide-area network (WAN) services to Ministries and Departments.

7.0 RISK MITIGATION ON TRANSFER FROM “gov.mu” TO “govmu.org”

The Office was informed on the 12th November 2014 that on the 16th November 2014 the government (gov.mu) portal would cease to be accessible and would be migrated from “gov.mu” to “govmu.org”. Given the large number of live bid documents posted on the portal and for such information to be continuously available to bidders with minimum disruption, the Office was able within a day to take all necessary measures, together with Government Online Centre (GOC), to migrate to the new domain (publicprocurement.govmu.org). By 14th November 2014, the Office had already issued press communiqués informing the public and suppliers of the new address of the Public Procurement Portal. Some of the critical risk mitigation measures taken were to:

- Publish notices in the newspapers to notify all stakeholders of the changes in the PPO Procurement URL address.
- Activate PPO helpdesk to attend to all queries and requests for assistance.
- Supply on request of public bodies and suppliers soft copies of circulars, directives, standard bidding documents, templates, Act and Regulations.
- Extend all the closing dates of bids posted on PPO portal coinciding with this migration period.
- Upload all Standard Bidding Documents back on the portal within three hours following the Government Procurement portal being successfully migrated.

The Office wishes to place on record the relentless effort of the Manager of GOC, his staff and those of PPO for the procurement portal to migrate and revert to full functioning with minimum disruption. Queries were received but there were no complaints from suppliers.

8.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING

8.1 OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLIANCE MONITORING FUNCTION

The key objectives of any public procurement system are to achieve economy, efficiency and value for money, while ensuring that the principles of fairness, transparency and integrity are being applied. While these objectives and principles are embedded in the provisions of the Act it is also essential to ensure that they are being complied with by public bodies.

Section 7 (d) of the Public Procurement Act provides that the Office shall collect from the Board, the IRP and public bodies all information on procurement activities and monitor their compliance with the Act. The Office collects information on annual procurement activities exceeding Rs. 100,000. These returns are analysed to assess the degree of compliance and to initiate actions for further improvements. In addition to the annual returns on procurement activities, compliance is also monitored through the analysis of the decisions of the IRP, suppliers' complaints and information obtained from the Reports of the Director of Audit and those made by the Internal Control Unit. Whenever required, on site compliance audits are also conducted at Ministries/Department, Local Authorities and Parastatal Bodies.

While the Regulation requires public bodies to keep information of all procurement proceedings, a number of public bodies have had to be reminded for just in time reporting.

8.2 COMPLIANCE MONITORING EXERCISE

In 2014, the PPO Compliance Monitoring Unit carried out four on site compliance as indicated below:

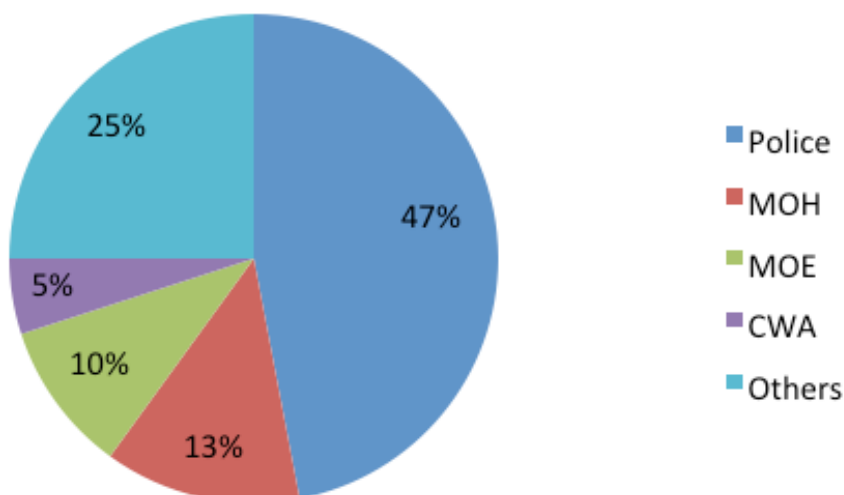
Table 5: Public Bodies where Compliance Monitoring Exercises were carried out

SN	Name of Public Body	Month of Compliance Audit
1	Ministry of Public Infrastructure, NDU, Land Transport & Shipping	January 2014
2	Ministry of Public Infrastructure; NDU, Land Transport & Shipping	February 2014
3	Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands	September 2014
4	Police Department	November 2014

8.3 COMPLAINTS BY SUPPLIERS AGAINST PUBLIC BODIES

For the year under review, 38 complaints against public bodies were received from bidders. The concerned public bodies were required to submit their views and comments on the representations. Up to 47 % of the complaints were in respect of the procurement proceedings of the Police Department. They were in connection with submission of samples, inappropriate specifications, and application of liquidated damages and frequent cancellations of tenders. To address these shortcomings, the Office has initiated actions to hand hold the Police Department in the conduct of its procurement exercise.

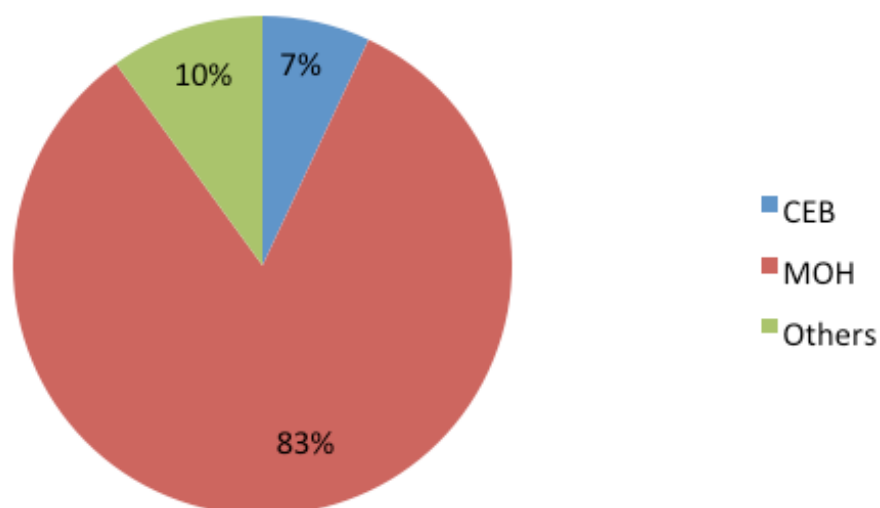
Figure 2: Percentage of complaints against public bodies



8.4 COMPLAINTS BY PUBLIC BODIES AGAINST SUPPLIERS

Besides representations from suppliers, some 29 complaints were also made by public bodies against suppliers. The complaints made by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life constitute 80 % of these representations. Figure 3 indicate the share of complaints made by the public bodies.

Figure 3: Percentage of complaints by public bodies



8.5 SUSPENSION, DEBARMENT AND DISQUALIFICATION

The Office may suspend and debar a potential bidder from participating in procurement on grounds of false information, collusion, interference, misconduct, conviction or other procurement offences relating to dishonesty or fraud in their professional activities or disqualify them for repeated poor performance or infringement of procurement proceedings.

It is the responsibility of the public body to propose to the Office the suspension/ debarment or disqualification of a defaulting bidder. During the year 2014, the Office has received 12 cases for disqualification and they were all under investigation.

In the year 2014, one bidder was disqualified for a period of 6 months.

9.0 KNOWLEDGE SHARING: VISIT OF A DELEGATION FROM SEYCHELLES

A Delegation of five officials from Seychelles Government visited Mauritius on an educational tour from 4th to 8th September 2014 to learn from the public procurement practices in Mauritius.

The delegation was composed of:

- (1) Mrs Elsie Morel– Senior Inspectorate Officer (Head of Delegation)
- (2) Ms Petra Javotte – Senior Procurement Analyst
- (3) Ms Sylvie Monthy- Procurement Analyst
- (4) Mr. Patrick Course - Acting. Director Central Procurement Unit
- (5) Ms. Ezra Woodcock – Procurement Analyst

The Delegation visited the Procurement Policy Office, the Central Procurement Board, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Local Government.

It is to be noted that there is a similarity between the Mauritian and the Seychelles public procurement institutional frameworks. That of Seychelles comprises three main organs as well namely:

1. A 'Procurement Oversight Unit' which has similar functions as the Procurement Policy Office of Mauritius;
2. A 'National Tender Board' with similar attributes as those of the 'Central Procurement Board' and;
3. A 'Review Panel' which has similar functions as the Independent Review Panel of Mauritius. The delegation has expressed its satisfaction in meeting the objective of its study tour and looks forward to enhanced collaboration between the two Procurement Authorities.

**The Director
Procurement Policy Office**

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