

CENTRAL PROCUREMENT BOARD OF NAMIBIA

EDITORS FORUM STATEMENT

DISCUSSIONS AND REACTIONS TO THE EDITORS' QUERIES ON CPBN'S
ACTIVITIES SESSION

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BY

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NAMIBIA

Members of the Board
Management of CPBN
Members of the Media

1. Good Afternoon, ladies and gentlemen and thank you for having honoured our invitation to attend this important information sharing event at such a short notice at the Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN) which we deem imperative as we strengthen our relationship with the media.
2. We welcome the editors and or their representatives, trusting that our interactions during today's session with the mass media will open a channel of constructive criticism and cement a long-lasting relationship.
3. Since we feed on each other, we should not be above criticism. Criticism should not be misconstrued as interference and rather be seen as proof that we do not seek to undermine the independence, the freedom of expression, professional unbiasedness and objective reporting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. We recognize the crucial role that the media plays in facilitating a platform on which we can educate and inform all our stakeholders. We identified the need to strengthen the partnerships between CPBN and the media, in keeping the public informed on the operations and the milestones reached by CPBN in realizing its mandate.
5. Over the past few months, our office has received several queries from different media houses wishing to obtain detailed information about our activities and we further observed newspaper articles doing the rounds on us.
6. Against the aforementioned background, we decided to have this interactive session with the editors, with a view to engage and deliberate on urgent matters.

Added to this, we shall respond to all queries and provide clarity on uncertainties about the CPBN through a media briefing session which we plan to host during the course of next week whereby we will share detailed information for immediate release and public awareness.

7. The purpose of this session today is primarily for us to come to an amicable agreement on the frequency and the type of information to be disseminated to the media.
8. We do not regard this as a once-off exercise, but one that will become 'standard' practice to ensure that relevant and reliable information is circulated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I close off this session, let me give you an overview of the Central Procurement Board of Namibia as well.

9. The Public Procurement Act, No.15 of 2015 created and established three separate entities, i.e. The Central Procurement Board of Namibia, the Procurement Policy Unit and the Review Panel, each with its own mandate and responsibilities.
10. CPBN in terms of Section 8 is a juristic person and its mandate is to conduct the bidding process on behalf of Public Entities for procurement that exceeds the thresholds prescribed in Categories 1,2 and 3 as defined in the Regulations; enter into contracts for these procurements and direct and supervise accounting officers in managing the implementation of procurement contracts awarded by the Board. The Board therefore, does not grant exemptions to any Public Entity as it is not mandated to do so, nor is it the custodian of the Act, but an implementer.
11. The Procurement Policy Unit (PPU) is mandated, amongst others, to advise the Minister of Finance on any procurement or disposals which includes the monitoring and evaluation in terms of compliance with the Act, the reviewing of the procurement system, the assessing of the impact of the procurement system on the socio-economic policy

objectives of the Government, the promotion of the fundamental principles of procurement governing the administration of procurement and the reviewing, monitoring and assessing methods of disposal of assets. The functions of the PPU are listed under Section 7 of the Act and include the proposal of various thresholds; preparation of guidelines regarding procurement matters; advising public entities on all procurement policies, principles and practices; set mandatory training standards; and issuance of standardized bidding documents for mandatory use by every public entity, to mention a few.

12. The Review Panel is mandated to adjudicate on application for review of procurement matters from bidders and public entities.
13. Each public entity has been mandated to procure up to the value a specified threshold, using the internal structures (i.e. Procurement Committee – similar to the Procurement Board, Procurement Management Units and Bid Evaluation Committees). The threshold, according to Annexure 2 of the Act are:

Category of Public Goods	Goods	Works	Consultancy Services	Non-Consultancy Services
Category 1	<25 mil	<35 mil	<20 mil	<15 mil
	>25 mil	>35 mil	>20 mil	>15 mil
Category 2	<20 mil	<30 mil	<15 mil	<10 mil
	>20 mil	>30 mil	>15 mil	>10 mil
Category 3	<15 mil	<20 mil	<10 mil	<5 mil
	>15 mil	>20 mil	>10 mil	>5 mil

14. If the procurement value is above a particular threshold, the public entity must submit an Individual Procurement Plan (IPP) to the Board for the approval of the procurement method. A key feature in the PPA, is the certification of the availability of funds by the Accounting Officer, before the commencement of procurement process.
15. In closure, what we have started today is only the beginning of many more similar sessions to come.

I thank you