CPBN
CENTRAL PROCUREMENT BOARD OF NAMIBIA
Procuring with Integrity

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CPBN MARKS FIRST IMPLEMENTATION OF CSR COMMITMENT IN BIDDING PROCESS

The Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN) has reached a significant milestone in its sustainable procurement journey, with the first implementation of a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitment arising from the incorporation of CSR criteria into its bidding process.

The initiative forms part of CPBN's commitment to leveraging public procurement to deliver broader social and sustainable development benefits. It seeks to ensure that, where applicable, successful bidders contribute towards the socio-economic development of communities in areas where procurement contracts are implemented.

Under the CSR criteria, bidders are required at bidding stage to submit a CSR proposal equivalent to not less than 0.1% of the contract amount. The proposal must outline how the bidder intends to implement initiatives that contribute to community empowerment and poverty alleviation in the area where the procurement contract will be executed. The CSR proposal forms part of the bidding documentation and is evaluated in accordance with the applicable evaluation criteria.

The impact of the initiative was demonstrated yesterday (24 August 2026) in Bethanie, where West Trading JV Unik Construction Engineering Namibia handed over blankets, boys' and girls' school uniforms and sanitary pads valued at N$64,886.51 to support

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vulnerable members of the Bethanie community, including learners at Schmelenville Combined School.

The donation emanates from the contract for the Upgrading of the Sandverhaar–Buchholzbrunn Railway Line Phase 2: Construction and Rehabilitation of New and Existing Bridges, awarded by CPBN on behalf of the Ministry of Works and Transport under Procurement Reference No. W/ONB/CPBN-17/2024.

The contract, valued at N$64,886,514.63, carries a minimum CSR commitment of N$64,886.51, representing 0.1% of the contract value. Significantly, this is the first procurement project to implement the CSR commitment since CPBN introduced CSR criteria into its bidding process, setting an important precedent for future applicable procurement projects.

In addition to the CSR contribution, the implementation of the project has generated direct economic benefits for the local community, with 20 people from Bethanie employed on the project. This demonstrates the broader potential of public procurement to contribute not only to infrastructure development, but also to local employment, community empowerment and improved livelihoods.

Speaking at the handover ceremony on behalf of CPBN, Board Director Mr Simon Shivute said the initiative demonstrates how public procurement can extend beyond the acquisition of goods, works and services to create meaningful and lasting benefits for communities.

“Success is best when it is shared. Procurement is not only about acquiring goods, works and services; it is also about creating opportunities, strengthening communities and delivering lasting social value,” Mr Shivute said.

He noted that public procurement is a powerful instrument for sustainable development and can enable both public entities and suppliers to contribute meaningfully to the well-being of communities while fulfilling their contractual responsibilities.

“Through responsible procurement practices, public entities and suppliers can work together to ensure that economic activity generates meaningful benefits for the people

we serve. CPBN remains committed to promoting transparency, accountability, value for money and sustainable procurement practices that deliver both economic and social benefits," he added.

Mr Shivute further encouraged public entities to embrace similar initiatives within their procurement processes, where appropriate, to advance the broader socio-economic objectives of public procurement.

The donations were handed over on behalf of West Trading JV Unik Construction Engineering Namibia by Engineer Jin Ye.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the Bethanie Village Council, Cllr. Willim Boois expressed appreciation to CPBN and the contractor for investing in the local community. He particularly welcomed the employment of 20 Bethanie residents on the project, noting that the employment opportunities have enabled local households to derive direct economic benefits from the project.

He thanked CPBN and the contractor for taking a meaningful step towards empowering the Bethanie community and ensuring that the implementation of public procurement projects creates benefits for communities in the areas where projects are undertaken.

Following this first implementation, CSR criteria will continue to be incorporated into future applicable CPBN bidding processes, reinforcing CPBN's commitment to sustainable procurement. Through this approach, CPBN seeks to ensure that public procurement contributes not only to the delivery of goods, works and services, but also to community empowerment, poverty alleviation, local economic participation and sustainable development.

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