

Sustainable Buildings and the Circular Built Environment:

Mainstreaming Circularity in the construction sector leveraging the power of Public Procurement

Foreword

The Procurement Policy Office (PPO) has onboarded Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) and continues to thrive its effort to reach the set goals in this field. The highlight of 2024 is the selection of a consultant or consultancy firm for SPP for the construction sector and this newsletter unfolds the procurement process undertaken to implement SPP in the Republic of Mauritius.

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1.0 Background

The Government of Mauritius had announced in its two consequent budgets 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 that the Procurement Policy Office will introduce a Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Framework. The SPP Framework will ensure that Public Bodies consider the environmental and social impact of their procurement decisions. This framework was planned to be implemented as from January 2022 in a phased manner, starting with the procurement of (i) Vehicles; (ii) Cleaning materials; (iii) Cleaning services; (iv) Paper products; and (v) IT equipment. Thereafter, sustainable procurement for **civil works and consultancy services** were deemed to start from January 2023. The implementation dates have been revised due to delays that occurred beyond the control of this Office.

2.0 Selection of Consultant for SPP for the construction sector

Currently, PPO is engaged in updating the sustainability criteria in the Standard Bidding Documents for the five items mentioned above. Out of the list recommended for budgetary measures of SPP implementation, Construction Work remained to be executed. In this context, PPO has floated a bid for the *selection of consultant or consultancy firm for Sustainable Public Procurement for the construction sector* through the Open International Bidding procurement method. The bidding exercise started on 04 December 2023 through the electronic- Procurement System (e-PS) and the closing date for submission of bids was on 30 January 2024. One consultancy firm with considerable expertise in the construction sector has been retained after the evaluation process. The award for the contract is yet to be done.



3.0 Objectives of the assignment

The objective of recruiting a consultancy firm for SPP in the construction sector is to equip procurement officials and suppliers with appropriate tools and templates so that the applications of sustainable principles in the construction sector meet the expectations of the stakeholders. The consultant is expected to develop the right procurement strategy, a project delivery system, the procurement process required to tender the projects and translation of decisions into contractual obligations.

In addition to the integration of outputs, the consultancy firm will deal with performance, selection of bidder and evaluation, as well as review other aspects of the procurement system in terms of their relevance for sustainable construction. These include specifications and sustainability of common materials for the building industry.

4.0 Deliverables of the assignment

A detailed deliverable for the Consultancy firm include carrying out a situational analysis to assess the challenges and requirements for the introduction of sustainability in the public procurement for the construction sector. Moreover, a comprehensive policy framework for the application of sustainability principles in public procurement for the construction sector will be prepared and these will include the following:

- a. Sustainability policies, strategies and priorities;
- b. Market research planning;
- c. Identification of relevant sustainability standards and classifications;
- d. Procurement methods and impact of sustainable policies on the latter;
- e. Evaluation, rated criteria and weighting;
- f. Special conditions of contract to reflect sustainability priorities;
- g. Contract implementation and supervision;
- h. Compliance Monitoring for SPP; and
- i. Procurement Guidelines.

Furthermore, the Standard Bidding Documents for works as well as the Conditions for procurement of works based on the Public Procurement Act 2006 will be customised accordingly and two (2) workshops with stakeholders of the Construction Industry in collaboration with the Procurement Policy Office, will be conducted. Additionally, groups of five-day training workshops for fifty (50) public procurement officials in two batches will be organised and the focus will be on SPP Guidelines, Standard Bidding Document, Evaluation, Contract Management and SPP Compliance Monitoring system.



5.0 Time Frame

The project is expected to start by end of April 2024 and to be completed in six (6) months time.



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