



E-Bulletin



P u b l i c P r o c u r e m e n t A u t h o r i t y

PPA 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND 6TH PUBLIC FORUM

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L-R: Minister of Finance – Hon. Seth Tekper , Chief Executive of the PPA, Hon. Samuel Sallas-Mensah, Chairman of the Governing Board of the PPA-Commodore Steve G. Obimpeh (rtd.)

Thursday, 30th October, 2014 will forever be engraved in the annals of history of the Public Procurement Authority (PPA). It was indeed a joyous assembly of Past and Present Board Members, Management, and Staff of PPA, Hon. Ministers of State, Members of Parliament, Members of the Diplomatic Corp, Heads of Institutions and Professional Bodies, Procurement Practitioners, Traditional Leaders and many Senior Citizens of Ghana as they joined hands in commemorating the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Authority at its 6th Public Forum held at the College of Physicians & Surgeons in Ridge, Accra.

With the theme-“*Extending the Frontiers of Ghana’s Public Procurement Management: A Look at the Next Decade*”, the grand forum was formally opened with a Welcome Address by the Chairman of the Governing Board of the PPA- Commodore Steve G. Obimpeh (rtd.) who in his address did not hesitate in paying glowing tributes to his predecessors (first Board Members of the PPA) for their initiatives and tireless effort in ensuring the establishment of the Authority. He also used the occasion to recount some of PPA’s successes during the decade of Public Procurement Reforms in Ghana.

(Continued on page 3)



Online Activities

List of entities that have submitted their 2015 Procurement Plans online As At December 31 , 2014

1. Accra Polytechnic
2. Akwapim North Municipal Assembly
3. Akwapim South Municipal Assembly
4. Christ The King Catholic Senior High School
5. Economic and Organized Crime Office
6. Energy Commission
7. Environmental Protection Agency
8. Export Development and Investment Fund
9. Ghana Broadcasting Corporation
10. Ghana Civil Aviation Authority
11. Ghana Grid Company Limited
12. Ghana Police Service
13. Ghana Standards Authority
14. Ghana Water Company Limited
15. Ho Polytechnic
16. Ketu District Hospital
17. Kwahu West Municipal Assembly
18. Mankessim Senior High Technical School
19. Ministry of energy and petroleum
20. Ministry of Foreign Affairs And Regional Integration
21. Ministry of Health
22. Ministry of Roads And Highways
23. National Service Secretariat
24. New Juaben Municipal
25. Precious Minerals Marketing Corporation
26. St. Augustine's College
27. St. Johns Senior High School
28. St. Joseph's College of Education
29. St. Monica College of Education
30. Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Assembly
31. University Of Science And Technology (KNUST)
32. University Practice Senior High School
33. Upper Denkyira East Municipal Assembly
34. Uthman Bin Afan Senior High School



The Chief Executive of the PPA, Hon. Samuel Sallamensah also in a comprehensive report on PPA's ten year stewardship to the nation, enumerated some of the major achievements and challenges of the Authority as far as the entrenchment of the principles of transparency and accountability is concerned. In his submission, he reiterated the importance of capacity building and the deployment of ICT tools in procurement planning and monitoring as key essentials for effective delivery of public procurement in Ghana

The highlight of the celebrations was the Keynote Address and re-launch of PPA's newly developed website by the Minister of Finance – Hon. Seth Tekper who seized the opportunity to congratulate PPA for their enormous service to the nation. According to him, the enactment of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) and the subsequent establishment of the PPA as a regulatory body is an indication of Ghana's commitment to a sound Public Financial Management System, and therefore stressed the need for all, especially procurement practitioners and heads of institutions to ensure effective procurement planning that can guarantee fiscal discipline that will in lure to growth in our economy.

As a sign of successful partnership with stakeholders over the years, the forum provided a platform for De-

velopment Partners, Civil Society Organisations, Professional Bodies, Procurement Entities, Other Public Procurement Regulatory Institutions in Africa and the Private Sector to deliver their goodwill messages to the Authority.

Some members of staff of the Authority were also recognized for their long and dedicated service to the Authority.

Guests were treated to melodious Ghanaian and Contemporary choral tunes that charged the atmosphere.

Other events that marked the celebrations included the sponsorship of a TV Quiz Competition on Public Procurement among students of Purchasing & Supply in the Polytechnics, several media interviews and other publicity activities.

Happy New Year!

Rhoda Appiah

Principal Public Affairs Officer

PPA



PPA OUTDOORS ITS FRIDAY WEAR AT 6TH PUBLIC FORUM



PPA OUTDOORS ITS FRIDAY WEAR AT 6TH PUBLIC FORUM



EXTENDING THE FRONTIERS OF GHANA'S PUBLIC PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT: A LOOK AT THE NEXT DECADE



REPORT BY HON. SAMUEL SALLAS-MENSAH-CHIEF EXECUTIVE - PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY ON THURSDAY, 30TH OCTOBER, 2014 @ THE
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS, ACCRA ON THE OCCASION OF PPA'S
6TH PUBLIC FORUM & 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Preamble

I am delighted to be with you today, on the occasion of PPA's Annual Public Forum. Indeed, this day not only marks the 6th in the series of annual fora organized by the Authority, but also a remarkable day in history as we mark our 10th Anniversary celebrations. I therefore wish to congratulate all past and present Governing Board, Management, Staff and our

Associates who over the years have worked tirelessly to make Ghana's Public Procurement System what it is today.

From a humble beginning in 2004, when the Authority was granted its operational mandate, PPA has not relented in efforts to entrench the provisions of Act 663 into the activities of public sector institutions

across the country to guarantee value for money in all public procurement processes.

Ladies and gentlemen, our quest for excellence in public procurement management has often led to long hours of trekking and crossing very difficult terrain across the length and breadth of the country to deliver training, conduct monitoring exercises and interact with our varied stakeholders.

In spite of the obvious challenges associated with regulating public procurement nationwide, we have done our jobs with joy and pride knowing that we are in a good fight to move our nation forward on the path of prudent public financial management.

Thus, as we mark our 10th anniversary today, we invite you to share in our joys as we reflect on our achievements in the past decade and jointly explore future opportunities that will extend the frontiers in public procurement management in Ghana.

Gains of the public procurement reforms

Mr. Chairman, ladies & gentlemen, after a decade of public procurement reforms, issues of transparency in public procurement seem to have taken a center-stage in the nation's quest to instill discipline in Ghana's financial management system.

To date, Ghanaians can testify to the several amounts of tender notices that flood our newspapers on a daily basis and on PPA's website which promotes transparency and accountability in public procurement.

The provision of procurement methods and its associated thresholds and procurement structures as prescribed in Act 663 has also provided an avenue for effective financial risk management, transparency and anticorruption measures.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Appeals & Complaints mechanism chaired by a retired Appeals Court Judge, has offered an adequate platform for aggrieved tenderers and procurement entities to obtain administrative review and redress.

Despite the afore-mentioned achievements of the public procurement reforms, government admits that many more areas remain uncovered as far as the effective implementation of the procurement law is concerned. There is therefore the need to sus-

tain the momentum of the current reforms and inject renewed dynamism for greater effectiveness.

Public Procurement Model of Excellence (PPME) Tool

Ladies and gentlemen, given the tremendous importance monitoring and evaluation plays in effective policy formulation in public procurement, PPA in its first 2-3 years of establishment committed resources for the development of a customized web-based package dubbed: the Public Procurement Model of Excellence (PPME) tool which has till date become one of the flagships of Ghana's public procurement management. The tool which is designed to monitor performance of Entities as against the provisions of the Act 663, through the generation of qualitative and quantitative data has for the past years been used to conduct procurement assessments for over 1000 public entities with very revealing results that consistently shapes our policy formulation.

SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (SPP)

Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to announce to you that the \$2.7 million project on Sustainable Public Procurement aimed at entrenching the principles of sustainability criteria into Ghana's Public Procurement System through effective incorporation of Environmental, Social and Economic considerations into public procurement activities has taken off smoothly with the establishment of the Ghana Taskforce and various sensitization programmes. This project which is funded by the Swiss Confederation, has currently reached its 3rd phase which involves Nation-wide Training Roll-out for public procurement functionaries.

Electronic Government Procurement (E-GP) Project

With global trends rapidly gravitating towards the use of ICT the Public Procurement Authority (PPA) with the support of the World Bank has for the past two years commenced the implementation of the electronic government procurement (e-GP) project.

Our hope is that, the system will largely reduce the perception of corruption in public procurement and assist in the development of uniform standards, in public sector contracting.



Framework Agreements

In order to ensure that efficiency is brought into the procurement processes for Common-Use-items, the PPA has introduced the application of Framework Agreements in Ghana's procurement system which is currently being piloted among the second-cycle institutions. This involves the aggregation of items common to Entities and establishing Framework Agreements out of which contracts will be formed through "Call-offs". It is aimed at reaping the benefits of economies of scale. It is our fervent hope that government will obtain value for money through the application of this procedure.

Low/Minor Value Procurement

Following the outcome of our National Procurement Performance Assessments programme, PPA in the last couple of years has designed an abridged form of procurement procedure for the procurement of low value goods/services. This procedure is also being applied on pilot basis among Ghana Education Service 2nd cycle institutions. Successful implementation will then lead to a full roll-out across the country in the near future.

Capacity Development & Scheme of Service for Procurement Practitioners

Mr. Chairman, considering the fact that human resource plays a significant role in the implementation of the Procurement Law, PPA with the support of the Millennium Challenge Development Authority (MiDA) pioneered the development of Curricula and Modules and lecture notes for procurement officers in the public sector who do not hold any qualifications in procurement and are desirous of acquiring some credentials in procurement. It is our hope that Qualifications awarded for these courses will help place such officers on a Scheme of Service for Procurement Professionals and Practitioners to be established soon.

Ladies & gentlemen, as part of our Short Term Training Programme, PPA has requested Entities that have peculiar challenges with the application of Act 663 to inform the Authority, so that tailor made programmes can be designed for them to address these challenges. So far, over 20,000 procurement functionaries, and Service Providers have received training on the Act 663.

CHALLENGES

As is the case with every Public Institution, the Public Procurement Authority has its share of challenges. Our key challenges include:

Poor Procurement Planning Among Procurement Entities:- Section 21 of Act 663 enjoins Entities to prepare Procurement Plans which would serve as the schedule for all procurement activities.

For purposes of standardization and easy access to a template, the PPA has developed a web-based Procurement Planning Software which also serves as a guide to Entities in the preparation of their annual Procurement Plans. In spite of all these efforts to make the process simpler, some entities have proven recalcitrant to comply.

Mr. Chairman, it is against this backdrop that the PPA has decided to make the submission of procurement plans as a critical requirement for entities who seek to apply for approval for the use of single source and restricted tendering methods. It is our desire that entities will abide by this directive in order to make the implementation of the law a lot more effective.

Funding of PPA's activities:- Funding for PPA's activities have been dwindling with the passage of time. This is seriously affecting our activities especially our monitoring roles. In view of this, the Authority is currently exploring the possibility of generating funds internally to support our activities. We are however grateful to our development partners-DFID, GIZ, AfDB, MiDA, SECO and the UNDP who as a result of their firm commitment to seeing an effective public procurement system in Ghana have supported various aspects of our work.

WAY FORWARD

Going forward, PPA will keep on pushing for the integration of Public Procurement into the overall Public Financial Management framework. Currently the procurement function is sometimes perceived to be outside the framework and only considered when it is time to carry out financial management exercises. This situation cannot be allowed to continue. The first step is to get the Budget Directorate of the Ministry of Finance to impress on Entities to post their Procurement Plans on PPA's website before Commencement Warrants of projects and activities are issued.

Furthermore, at the beginning of this year the Authority embarked on a series of Study Tours to some se-



lected Public Procurement Regulatory Institutions in East and Southern Africa where various issues regarding effective public procurement management were discussed. It is our hope that some of the best practices we observed in the area of capacity building, internal generation of income and stakeholder engagements among others will be incorporated in our operations in the years to come.

Again in accordance with the strategic plan of the Authority, a number of programmes and activities have been set out. These include:

- ⇒ formulating and sensitizing all stakeholders about the guidelines and policies for Public Procurement in the country;
- ⇒ mainstreaming issues of Public Procurement into Public Sector

Financial Management in close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Controller and Accountant General Department, the Internal Audit Agency and the Ghana Audit Service which will also address timely payment of contracts;

intensify Supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Procurement across the various Entities using the PPME Tool to ensure compliance;

Pursue the Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) and the electronic government procurement Agenda;

Institutionalize capacity building programmes in Public Entities to make them more efficient in Public Procurement; and

Ensure that the Authority acquire its permanent office accommodation.

Highlights of Amendments to Act 663

As a good majority of you are already aware proposals of the amendment of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) has begun and is currently being gazette for onward transmission to Parliament for consideration.

Key areas proposed for amendment, include the reconstitution of the membership of ETCs (and Tender Review Boards as applicable) to comprise only internal staff of Entities, in order to encourage and deepen ownership of purchasing decisions. In this regard, substantial increases are also proposed to the approval threshold limits of Entities in order to minimize the delays associated with processing small threshold values. If approved by Parliament, Heads of Entities will have approval limits of up to GH¢100,000.00 for Goods & Services and GH¢150,000.00 for Works. ETCs will also have approval limits of up to GH¢1,000,000.00 for Goods & Services and GH¢2,000,000.00 for Works. These amendments are being made in order to streamline and reduce the high costs to government of administering these structures.

CONCLUSION

To this end, I wish to take this opportunity to commend past and present PPA Governing Board, Management and Staff, the Government, our Development Partners and our varied stakeholder groups whose tremendous support and input has enabled us to come this far.

We wish to assure you, that the Public Procurement Authority will remain focused on its mandate of ensuring that Public Procurement in Ghana is carried out in an effective manner to achieve value for money for every Ghana Pesewa spent.

Though the challenges are daunting, the Team at PPA is committed to making the achievement of this goal a reality.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Hon. Samuel Sallas Mensah

CEO

PPA



PPA HONOURS LONG SERVING STAFF



Mrs. Emelia Nortey, Director—MIS receiving her award from Hon. Bartin Oduro.



Mrs. Yvonne Quansah (Vanderpuye) Head, HRA, receiving her award.

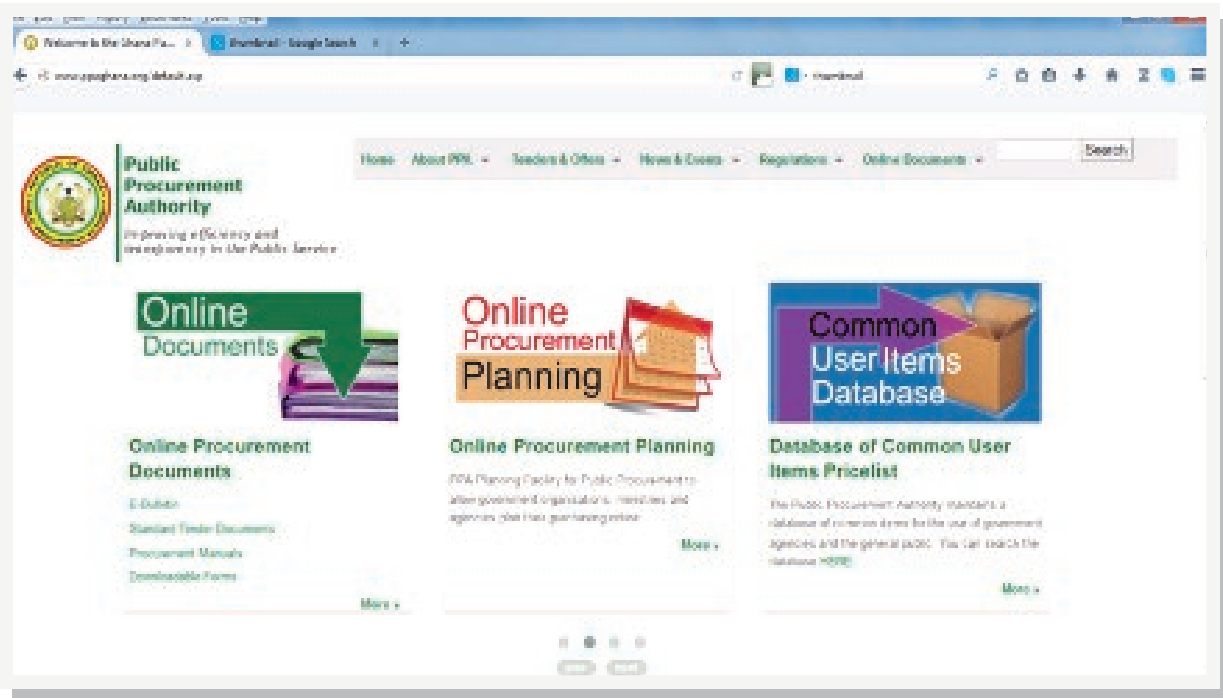


Mrs. Hilda Agyemang, , Senior Admin Officer, receiving her award.



Hajia Minawa Adams , Senior Procurement Officer, receiving her award from Mr. Basil Ahiable

RE-LAUNCH OF PPA WEBSITE



The Public Procurement Authority (PPA) held its 6th Public Forum as part of programmes marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Authority. One of the major highlights at the forum was the launch of the newly designed PPA website. Launching the website, the guest speaker for the occasion, Hon. Seth Tekper, the Minister of Finance expressed that “sharing of information constitute a critical component of transparency and accountability in good governance and especially in today’s global village where Information Technology is the main driving force in business, it is critical that as a country, we take advantage of Electronic Procurement which brings sellers and buyers together via the internet. This is why I see the re-designed website of the PPA being launched today as a giant step for disseminating procurement information to all players in Ghana and the rest of the world to increase the level of healthy competition which guarantees value for money”.

One of the major objectives was to give it a more attractive look, coupled with new technology driven functions. This was achieved also by re-designing the database supporting the website. The new website has additional information and tools to aid both procurement

practitioners and providers in their activities. Information has also been re-categorized and grouped with the aim of reducing movement whiles providing rich contents with each selection. A new attraction of the website is a flashing menu of items with big thumbnails linking commonly used features such as the Online Procurement Planning, Online Documents, PPA Publications, Resolved Appeals and Complaints Cases and others.

In addition to regular information on Tenders and Contracts, some new features on the website include

Procurement Practitioners Toolbox

Discussion Forum

Feedback and Surveys

We encourage all to visit www.ppaghana.org, explore the site and let us have your feedback to make the website even better as PPA embarks on its objective of transparency through information dissemination.

Thomas K. Bondzi
Principal IT Officer
PPA



PPA'S 6TH PUBLIC FORUM IN PICTURES





Cross section of Participants



At the Registration Desk



PPA Governing Board Chairman—Commodore Steve G. Obimpeh (Rtd.)



Chief Executive of the PPA, Hon. Samuel Sallas-Mensah giving his address to the forum



Minister of Finance—Mr. Seth Tekper giving his key-note address



Minister of Finance – Hon. Seth Tekper , Chief Executive of the PPA, Hon. Samuel Sallas-Mensah, Chairman of the Governing Board of the PPA-Commodore Steve G. Obimpeh (rtd.)

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Tendering and contract Information for periods indicated

[Tendering Opportunities for Jan - Feb 2015](#)

[Contracts Awarded for Jan - Dec 2015](#)

[Restricted Tender Awards Jan - Dec 2015](#)

[Expression of Interest Requests Jan - Feb 2015](#)

The links above will take you directly to the PPA Website Reports for the months of period indicated.



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