



St. Kitts and Nevis

Accountant General's Department, Ministry of Finance

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis is fully committed to the strengthening of the legal framework governing the procurement function in the Public Sector in order to promote greater transparency and good governance. In June 2012, a new Procurement and Contracts Administration Bill was tabled in Parliament for its first reading. The Bill is currently being circulated to various stakeholders to solicit their input before it is debated and passed into law. A Task Force on Public Procurement was established to review the Draft Procurement and Contract Administration Bill and Draft Regulations. The Draft Regulations have been forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for the input of the legal draft team.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring the creation of a system by which financial resources are planned, directed and controlled to enable minimized waste and increased overall efficiency. To this end, a Central Purchasing Unit (CPU) was established in 2001 in the Ministry of Finance. The primary objective of the CPU is to ensure that the Government benefits from volume discounts and economies of scale in the procurement of goods. The CPU is responsible for procuring all furniture, office supplies and equipment, and cleaning supplies for central government, and some state corporations. By purchasing in bulk the CPU is able to offer goods at substantially reduced prices. Procurement from the CPU is facilitated through the procurement module of the Government's Integrated Financial Management System referred to as ITMS (Integrated Treasury Management System), thereby allowing for the processing and monitoring of all transactions online and in real time.

The long-term aim is to establish similar entities in the Ministry of Public Works to manage the procurement of works. The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis adheres to international best practice and the procurement regulations and Guidelines of the World Bank (WB) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for the procurement of works, goods and services funded by those institutions.

The procurement of pharmaceuticals is governed by the OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Agency headquartered in St. Lucia. The adoption of the Procurement and Contracts Administration Bill will mandate the establishment of a Procurement Board to replace the existing Central Tenders Board.