



BARBADOS
Ministry of Finance

Reporting Activities and Reporting Reforms of Countries

- i) Short description – principal characteristics of Barbados procurement solutions.**
- ii) Achievements in the last year.**
- iii) Plans for 2012-2013.**

In 2008, the Barbados Cabinet Committee on Governance considered the Paper Note (08) 404/MFEE (F) 41 and agreed that the Government of Barbados enter into an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank to finance the Modernization of Barbados National Procurement System. The specific objective of the modernization effort is aimed at improving the effectiveness of public procurement, saving money through competitive prices and reducing process time, while ensuring the transparency and integrity of the system. The strategic areas of the programme are reflected in the following four components:

- (i) strengthening the public procurement legal framework which will support the preparation of a public procurement policy, regulations, standard documentation and, eventually, new procurement legislation, based on lessons learned from the project's implementation;
- (ii) improving procurement operations and marketplace, including the establishment of the Procurement Policy Unit, a normative, regulatory body, and institutional strengthening of key players in the public procurement arena especially the Central Purchasing Department, the Office of the Solicitor General, the Office of the Auditor General and the Tenders and Special Tenders Committees;
- (iii) strengthening procurement institutional capacity by implementing a career stream in public procurement and establishing a training program for entities involved in public procurement; and
- (iv) modernizing and updating procurement technological infrastructure, focusing on the establishment of an e-tendering system to disseminate procurement opportunities and the results of tenders and procurement processes.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST YEAR

COMPONENT 1 – STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Crown Agents was engaged to provide consulting services for the drafting of Procurement Regulations, Policies and Bidding documents to the Government of Barbados. As part of their consultancy, they were to provide a number of deliverables including (i) a Public Procurement Bill, (ii) Public Procurement Rules, (iii) a Public Procurement Manual, standard forms and templates for standard bidding documents. To date, a progress report, a draft final report, and first drafts of the Public Procurement Manual and standard bidding documents have been submitted; discussions have been held with the relevant stakeholders to agree to the final amendments to the documents.

The Draft Procurement Bill has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Governance, and as instructed by them, has been submitted, along with the technical note, to the Chief Parliamentary Council (CPC) for review.

COMPONENT 2 – IMPROVING PROCUREMENT OPERATIONS AND MARKETPLACE

The principal tasks were (i) develop a comprehensive plan to modernize the supply chain and inventory managements systems operated by Central Purchasing Department, (ii) develop guidelines and standard operating procedures for the purchasing function of the CPD; (iii) develop benchmarks for the implementation and monitoring of the plan; (iv) provide training in logistics and supply chain management, among others.

One of the milestones to be achieved under this component was the strengthening of the Central Purchasing Department by supporting rationalization and improvements in its operations, especially with regard to expanded application of supply chain management and the provision of other modern techniques in public procurement, in addition to improvements in IT and general physical accommodation of the CPD.

To date, Cabinet has agreed that the Central Purchasing Department be re-designated the 'Government Procurement Department'. The new department will adopt modern technologies for procurement and up to date practices as it shifts away from the warehousing function currently used. It will also adopt the latest information technologies available, as it seeks to professionalize the management and monitoring of public procurement as required worldwide.

In July 2012, the Ministry of Public Works began renovation of the warehouse at the Central Purchasing Department and work has been continuing at a steady pace.

COMPONENT 3 – STRENGTHENING PROCUREMENT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The goal of this component is to initiate and implement a career stream in public procurement and to develop the relevant organizational structures, job descriptions and procedure manuals for the new Government Procurement Department. This component has three (3) sub-components.

- (i) to establish a sustainable, ongoing development programme in public procurement and provide training;
- (ii) to define and develop a change management strategy; and
- (iii) to conduct a survey and assessment of the network infrastructure and provide a network design for copper and fibre cabling and implementation of the same.

To date, the consultancy to develop a career stream in procurement has been awarded to International Governance Solutions (IGS), and the Steering Committee has reviewed and discussed its proposals for staffing matters including the complement required, job descriptions and salary scales. The recommendations have been submitted to the Ministry of Civil Service for their consideration and approval for creation of the necessary posts.

In addition, expressions of interest for a consultancy to develop a change management strategy were published, and proposals for consultancy services received and evaluated. A local firm, Catalyst Consultants, has been awarded the contract. The change management approach is proposed in 3 phases over a 3-month period. Training workshops have already started (August 2012), and the "Who moved my cheese" multimedia programme is being utilized to provide a new way of looking at change, highlight the importance of individual responsibility for change, build understanding of how change impacts on individuals and the organization, among others.

Expressions of interest for the development of a network infrastructure at CPD were also published, proposals received from seven (7) firms, and evaluated based on a specific set of criteria. Current status of contract is pending.

COMPONENT 4 – MODERNIZING AND UPDATING PROCUREMENT TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The goal of this component is to purchase and implement an e-tendering and e-procurement system and have it customized to meet the needs of the Government of Barbados' procurement function.

Expressions of interest were received from six (6) vendors and evaluated based on a specific set of criteria. Current status is pending.

PLANS FOR 2012-2013

By the end of the year, it is envisaged that the following activities be implemented/completed:

- (i) Strengthening the Public Procurement Legal Framework:
 - the contract for the development of a strategy for the implementation of framework contracts should be completed, as well as
 - training for personnel in application of new instruments, manuals and bidding documents.

- (ii) Improvement of procurement operations and marketplace:
 - a contract for the development of a plan to modernize CPD supply chain management should have been awarded, and
 - renovations to the office and warehouse should be completed.

- (iii) Strengthening of procurement institutional capacity:
 - the contract for the development of a career stream in procurement and related operational procedures should have been awarded,
 - the contract for the development and implementation of a training programme should have been awarded, and
 - the contract for the development of a change management strategy should be completed.

- (iv) Modernization and Updating of technological infrastructure:
 - the software for the ePIS should have been purchased and the contract for the implementation of the ePIS should be ongoing, and
 - a network infrastructure should be developed.

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