

Introduction

Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) is an independent statutory regulatory body established by the Public Procurement Act (PPA) No. 12 of 2008 of the laws of Zambia and is responsible for policy, regulation, standard setting, compliance and performance monitoring, professional development and information management and dissemination in the field of public procurement.

The Authority will be rolling out the electronic Government Procurement System (e-GP) meant to enhance transparency and accountability in public procurement in various procuring entities (PEs) and the exercise is being done in a phased approach. The Authority will pilot the system in some PEs before rolling out to all ministries and provinces.

What is Electronic Government Procurement System (e-GP)?

Electronic – Government Procurement (e-GP) is the use of information and Communications Technology (especially the internet) by governments in conducting their procurement transactions with suppliers for the acquisition of goods, works and consultancy services required by the public sector.

What does e-GP entail?

e-Procurement involves electronic data transfers to support operational, tactical and strategic procurements. e-Procurement has been around for much longer than the term itself which first came into use after the establishment of the internet in the 1990s. From the 1960s until the mid 1990s, E-procurement primarily took the form of electronic data interchange (EDI). Modern e-procurement is supported by internet technologies and is becoming more prevalent.



Benefits of the e-GP System

The Electronic Government Procurement System provides some of the following benefits to PEs, bidders, suppliers, ZPPA and Civil Society Organisations:

1. Easy creation and management of Tenders by PEs;
2. Greater transparency through the automated publication of Tenders and Contract awards;
3. On-line submission of Tenders through the internet and standalone applications; and
4. Simplify the publication of information to Bidders, Suppliers and the general public.

e-GP Developmental impact

e-GP facilitates higher quality outcomes for public procurement through improved accessibility and transparency.

Enhanced Transparency and Compliance

The application of online technologies can ensure compliance with the existing procurement policy and legislation. An e-GP System can automate the required procurement procedures thus allowing

neither purchasing agencies nor bidders to deviate from the public procurement process. In this way, e-GP helps governments to reduce opportunities for corruptive practices.

Economic Development

The level of transparency, compliance, performance and quality of public procurement due to the application of the e-GP will achieve a dimension which does not only provide for the development of a public procurement system that meets internationally recognized standards but also establishes the basis for a sound market economy with significant gains in productivity and competitiveness.

e-GP advantages are becoming more evident as the wider understanding of its many uses become apparent. The main reason companies have embraced e-procurement is to increase productivity, provide visibility into day-to-day transactions and make it easier for users to get the supplies that they need promptly.

Some of the advantages of e-procurement are as follows:

a. Reducing costs

Costs are reduced by leveraging volume, having structured supplier relationships and by using system improvements to reduce external spending while improving quality and supplier performance. e-procurement eliminates paperwork, rework and minimise errors.

b. Visibility of spending

Centralized tracking of transactions enables full reporting on requisitions, items purchased, orders processed and payments made. e-Procurement advantages extend to ensuring compliance to existing and established contracts.

c. Productivity

Internal customers can obtain the items they want from a catalogue of approved items through an on-line requisition and ordering system. Procurement staff will be able to structure the processing of orders for low value transactions as well as strategic sourcing and improving supplier relationships.

d. Controls

Standardised approval processes and formal workflows ensure that the correct level of authorisation is applied to each transaction and that spending is directed to draw off planned procurements as budgeted. Compliance to policy is improved as users can quickly locate products and services from preferred suppliers and will be unable to create maverick purchases.

e. Using technology

E-GP advantages can only be fully realised when the systems and processes to manage it are in place. Software tools are needed to create the standard procurement documentation as follows:

- a) Electronic Requests for Information (e-RFI);
- b) Requests for Proposal (e-RFP); and
- c) Requests for Quotations (e-RFQ).

These are proven methods of solicitations for offers for the supply of goods, works and services.

At full implementation, the E-GP System will promote transparency, fairness, openness and accountability in public procurements as most of the bidding transactions will be done in the open thus removing corrupt tendencies.

Contact Details

The Director General

Zambia Public Procurement Authority.

P.O. Box 31009

Stand No. J-11790

Off Alick Nkhata Road, Longacres

LUSAKA

Tel: +260 211 250 632/42/87

Fax: +260 211 250 633

Email: info@zppa.org.zm

www.zppa.org.zm.



**ELECTRONIC
GOVERNMENT
PROCUREMENT
SYSTEM**