

**RESOLUTIONS
OF
THE 4th EAST AFRICAN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FORUM**

KIGALI 14th to 16th November 2011

The 4th East African Public Procurement Forum (EAPPF) was held at Lemigo hotel in Kigali from 14th to 16th 2011. The Forum was organized by the Government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Public Procurement Authority. The 3 day meeting was attended by representatives of Burundi Public Procurement Authority-BPRA; Uganda's Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority-PPDA; Tanzania's Public Procurement Regulatory Authority-PPRA, Kenya's Public Procurement Oversight Authority-PPOA and Rwanda Public Procurement Authority-RPPA. Present also were representatives of Public Institutions and business people as well as EAC partners including the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The Forum was held under the theme: **“Improving the Efficiency of Public Procurement in the East African Community for Economic Growth”**.

Basing on the theme around which the Forum's discussions evolved, Participants at the 4th EAPPF exchanged ideas on measures that should be taken and barriers to overcome if procurement systems in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda (five EAC Members States) are to be efficient. The Forum was also an occasion for participating countries to learn from one another as best practices and experiences were shared.

After three days of intensive activities Participants in the Forum:

- Appreciated the Forum's general organization;
- Hailed the warm hospitality which they were accorded by Rwanda;
- Thanked Rwanda for hosting the Forum and anyone who contributed to make it possible;
- Portray the Forum as successful because it was lively and participatory;
- Appreciated participation as all Public Procurement Oversight Bodies from five EAC Member States were represented;
- Thanked Speakers and those who contributed ideas.

Participants attending the 4th EAPPF:

Having discussed how efficient public procurement systems contribute to economic growth;

Having exchanged views on existing challenges/issues causing inefficiencies in procurement process;

Having exchanged views on best practices in our respective countries,

Now therefore adopt the following resolutions:

- 1.** The EAPPF must be held regularly and therefore shall be annual in order to avoid organization inconsistency and ensure sustainability and continuity in the Forum's activities. The Forum should be held around June of each year;
- 2.** Given the need for follow-up on the implementation of resolutions from EAPPFs, an institutional framework should be established in two stages: an Interim Secretariat rotating among the Oversight Authorities and a permanent desk within the EAC Secretariat. A detail proposal thereon will be submitted to supervising Ministries for approval. Once approved, the Interim Secretariat will start with Rwanda;
- 3.** Promote professionalism by establishing procurement professionals Associations commissioned to enforce rules of ethics in procurement;
- 4.** Regulatory Bodies should adopt measures to mitigate inconsistency and malpractices pertaining to Technical Specifications and contract management in order to enhance procurement-supply relationship;

- 5.** Embrace e-procurement and put in place procurement journals to efficiently meet outreach purposes towards transparency and equal opportunity by solving the issue of poor communication between Procuring Entities and Suppliers.
- 6.** Promote access of SMEs to public procurement opportunities;
- 7.** Public Entities should look into ways of integrating procurement plan with budget processes to address lack of procurement plans which result in urgent procurement procedures, delayed payments, delivery of substandard goods, services or works;
- 8.** The Private Sector (suppliers) and the Public Sector (procurement entities) need to work together as partners and establish long term relationship for mutual benefit and achieving value for money;
- 9.** Enforce current public procurement laws in EAC Member States to eradicate corrupt and fraudulent procurement practices causing losses to Governments;
- 10.** The Civil Society should be involved in monitoring compliance with procurement rules and contract outcomes;
- 11.** There should be a strong partnership of Public Sector, the Private Sector and the Civil Society aiming to fight against procurement related corruption;
- 12.** Promote PPP in order to achieve comprehensive efficiency in procurement;
- 13.** Local companies should form joint ventures for them to increase delivery capacity if they are to compete with foreign companies operating in the region;

14. Public Procurement Oversight organizations should contribute in training the Private Sector mainly SMEs on Public Procurement Rules;

15. Appeal mechanisms should be developed to impartially handle complaints in order to increase the confidence of suppliers in public procurement procedures and enhance competition;

16. Public Procurement Oversight Bodies in the region need to make a step further in the regional integration process by harmonizing procurement regulations;

17. There must be a political will if public procurement systems in the region are to be efficient. Leaders at higher levels of governance in the region need to come on board in fully enforcing Public Procurement laws;

18. Each and every Public Procurement Oversight Body party to these resolutions shall execute the same according to a practical implementation measures the report of which should be assessed in the next EAPPF;

19. Next EAPPF will be hosted by Burundi preferably in June
