



BELIZE
Ministry of Finance

Report on activities on Government Procurement during the period August 2011-July 2012 by the Government of Belize

Activity during the period under review was directed at a consultancy program to support implementation of the Action Plan to strengthen the Public Financial Management in Belize. The project was delayed on the selection of the consultant and the activities began until April 2012. The Action Plan included a consultancy financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) aimed at achieving four major objectives in connection with modernizing the Government (of Belize) Procurement System:

1. First among the objectives was the **Development of a Procurement Procedures Handbook (PPH)**. On this activity consultations were carried out to hear concerns of government ministries, local government (municipalities), statutory bodies and public enterprises. This activity lasted for approximately one month in during April and May 2012. The first draft of the Handbook was delivered on July 2012. The draft was accepted and so we go for the next step beginning in July 2012.

Planned activities for 2012/2013

2. The second activity after the development of the Handbook will necessary be included in the projects to be accomplished during the 2012/2013 period. This is the development of **Standard Bidding Documents**. Although this may be considered as a minor detail, during the consultations it was found out that the formats or templates used differed between Ministries and other institutions. It is considered imperative that this bidding documents be standardized for ease of administration by both the public sector, suppliers and the general public.

This activity has just commenced and is expected to be finalized by November 2012.

3. The third activity is the Development and Implementation of a **Training Program for use of the Procurement Procedures Handbook (PPH)**. The program will require changes in our office procedures as it will require the creation of new posts of procurement officers. At the moment the persons carrying out these functions are called Finance Officers as they also help in the administration of the accounts sections of ministries. The training will be for general public officers and suppliers alike. This activity will be carried out perhaps in early 2013.
4. The fourth activity is the Development of a **Dedicated Government Information Procurement Portal**. This portal will be located in the website of the Ministry of Finance and a supplier has already began work on this task. At first the portal will be limited to provide information such as Procurement Legislation,

Standard Bidding Documents, Invitations to bid, Contract Awards, etc.. Perhaps later it can be expanded to process bids, process reverse auctions, etc.

While the new developments will have far reaching effects it is was also recognized that a new procurement law is needed. The Inter-American Bank (IDB) recently had meetings with government officials and the issue of financing the drafting of the new legislation was one issue discussed. The IDB informed us that they would look into the possibility of providing the needed funds.

In the regional area Belize, as a part of CARICOM, work on the Framework Regional Integration Policy on Government Procurement (FRIP) continues and the Task Force meeting will follow after this conference.