



# THE PROCUREMENT DIGEST *NEWSLETTER*

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Authority is thrilled to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter, filled with stories of growth, stakeholder engagement, and recognition.

One of the highlights this quarter is the dedicated focus on staff training and skill-building. The Authority understands that investing in its team is paramount to achieving our mission.

In this edition, the Authority is excited to share with you the strides taken to enhance the knowledge and expertise of the workforce in the field of procurement. This ensures that the Authority is better equipped than ever to serve you, its valued stakeholders.

Corporate Social Responsibility is at the heart of our ethos, and this quarter, the Authority is proud to showcase its efforts to give back to the community in a shared pictorial of the book donation to Malawi University Business School (MUBAS), an initiative that resonates deeply with the Authority's commitment to education and the empowerment of future leaders.

Furthermore, the engagement with the Open Government Partnership reflects dedication to transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. It is an honor to be part of a global movement that promotes openness in governance. The Authority eagerly shares the progress made in its journey to more transparent public procurement.

In the spirit of recognition and celebration, the Authority is thrilled to announce that the Association of Business Journalists and the Media Council of Malawi have acknowledged its efforts in media engagement and proactive disclosure of information. This is no mean feat. It is a timely boost to continued efforts to be more transparent and accountable.

As the Authority continues to evolve and strive for excellence, it recognizes that its achievements and goals hinge on the dedication and commitment of its staff who serve the country with dedication and excellence.

Explore the stories in this edition that reflect an ongoing journey to enhance public procurement and service delivery in Malawi.

*Kate T. Kujaliwa*  
**Editor**



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# PPDA INDUCTS STAKEHOLDERS IN OGP

On August 18, 2023, the Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets (PPDA) facilitated an induction workshop organized by the Open Government Partnership (OGP) at the Bingu International Convention Center (BICC). The objective was to collaboratively develop an action plan aimed at bolstering public oversight through the implementation of Open Contracting Principles. This initiative seeks to create a transparent and accountable procurement system, ultimately eradicating corruption in Malawi.

## COMBATING CORRUPTION AND ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY

Bertha Lipipa Phiri, Co-chair of the Anti-Corruption Pillar, representing Civil Society Organizations, emphasized the importance of open contracting and regulating beneficial ownership as fundamental measures to prevent the misuse of public resources, illicit financial flows, money laundering, and corruption. She further highlighted that access to information and citizen participation contribute to social accountability monitoring, ensuring that corruption is prevented through strategic planning and resource allocation, effective expenditure management, comprehensive performance measurement, public integrity, and coordinated oversight. Phiri said, “it is time to move from rhetoric to action by making access to information a reality”.



Bertha Lipipa Phiri, Executive Director  
MEJN

“It is time to move from rhetoric to action. Let us make access to information a reality”

## LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Section 30 of the PPDA Act 2017 underscores the necessity of conducting all public proceedings in a manner that upholds transparency, accountability, non-discrimination, fairness, open competition, anonymity, economy, efficiency, and responsiveness to modern information and communication technology.



Stakeholders listen to a presentation by Bertha Phiri during the workshop

### PPDA'S COMMITMENT

PPDA's Director General, Edington Chilapondwa, affirmed the institution's dedication to fulfilling its duties. He highlighted their commitment to transparency through the issuance of annual publications and public notices to facilitate the development and provision of public guidelines. Chilapondwa stressed the importance of daily diligence and encouraged transparency through the e-GP system to expose corrupt practices.

### ACTION PLAN

During group discussions, public institutions developed an action plan to ensure that all public disposals operate openly. This plan involves the publication of leaflets in newspapers and on the Government of Malawi's websites, where all required information will be readily available.

Additionally, CSOs will monitor and establish amendments to strengthen the Open Contracting Principle, imposing sanctions on those who violate the law.



Dr. Edington Chilapondwa

# STAFF TRAINING IN GOVERNMENT BUSINESS



PPDA Staff pose for a group photo after the training at Chikho Hotel, in Mponela.

On 13 July 2023, PPDA took a great milestone in staff development by organizing a comprehensive orientation program for staff in general government business. The training facilitated by the Malawi School of Government (Mpemba Campus) aimed to equip the staff with essential tools and techniques to navigate the intricacies of government business, ultimately bolstering the efficiency and effectiveness of public procurement processes in the country.

The primary objective of the orientation program was to equip PPDA staff with a comprehensive understanding of government business processes, policies, and regulations.

The program aimed to foster a culture of transparency, integrity, and professionalism in the execution of procurement and disposal activities. By enhancing the skills of the staff, PPDA aimed to streamline procurement practices, reduce risks of corruption, and enhance professionalism.

# MANAGEMENT MEMBERS DRILLED IN STRATEGIC PR & COMMUNICATION



As an organization dedicated to excellence in public service delivery and stakeholder engagement, PPDA trained its management members in Strategic Public Relations and Communication.

Recognizing the paramount importance of effective communication, the Strategic Public Relations and Communication training program was carefully designed to equip our management team with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively convey the message of the Authority, address concerns, and ensure that all stakeholders are well-informed about our activities and objectives. By investing in the professional development of our leadership, we aim to foster a culture of open and transparent communication within the organization, which will ultimately benefit our valued stakeholders.

The Training took place on 20 September 2023, at Sunbird Capital Hotel, in Lilongwe.

# VIGILANT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



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## WHAT MADE NEWS?

# PPDA wants local contractors prioritised

GEORGE SINGINI  
STAFF REPORTER

**P**ublic Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDA) has called on government institutions to prioritise Malawian companies in the awarding of contracts to empower locals.

PPDA director general Eddington Chilapondwa said in an interview yesterday Malawians have the potential to carry out projects but what is needed is to ensure that they are empowered and supervised.

He said: “We want to encourage all government entities to consider applying this preference. Give local Malawians an added advantage to engage in public procurement and benefit from the government budget.”

Chilapondwa said it was unfortunate that local contractors are accused of substandard works when government institutions awarding contracts are supposed to put in place



PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE SINGINI

### Chilapondwa: We want to encourage locals

mechanisms for ensuring high quality standards.

In a separate interview yesterday, Ministry of Transport and Public Works spokesperson Watson Maingo said there is commitment to award contracts to local companies, but the biggest challenge is capacity, especially to do with equipment.

“The good part of giving contracts to local companies is that you are assured that the money will remain in

Malawi. It also helps on issues of employment.

“However capacity of local contractors to handle big projects becomes a challenge,” he said.

Parliamentary Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises chairperson Bintony Kutsaira also supported the idea of promoting Malawian contractors, saying what is needed is to ensure that

mechanisms for checking quality of the works are enhanced.

“We encourage Malawians to be participating in these contracts. The most important thing is that Malawians should also benefit from the government resources,” he said.

The preferential treatment is provided for under Section 44 (10) of the PPDA Act and compels procuring and disposing entities to award 60 percent of all contracts under the National Competitive Bidding to indigenous black Malawians and the remaining 40 percent to others.

Awarding of contracts are also to follow a 20 percent preference for a local Malawian when a Malawian is competing with a foreigner. If the bid submission for Malawian contractors is 20 percent higher than the foreign contractor, the contract is supposed to be awarded to a local contractor. ■



## Association of Business Journalists in Malawi; Media Council of Malawi Commends PPDA for Improved Media Engagement.

The Media Council of Malawi and the Association of Business Journalists (ABJ) commended the PPDA for remarkable efforts in improving media engagement and access to information. The sentiments were shared during separately during ABJ's meeting and during the launch of the Media Handbook on Access to Information respectively.

The ABJ members expressed appreciation to the PPDA for being more open and accessible. One of the Members Jane Hauya said that, PPDA is now more open and swift in responding to requests for information. "There is a great improvement and PPDA should keep it up" she said.

On the other hand, Mr. Wisdom Chingwede from MCM said, PPDA has improved in proactive disclosure of information and journalists can glean so much just by visiting the PPDA website.

Reacting to the news, the Director General said it is encouraging to note the Authority's media engagement efforts are bearing fruit. "We celebrate the commitment of the ABJ to promoting responsible reporting and transparency in public procurement. Let's work together to build a stronger, more accountable society" he said.

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# DIGITALIZATION OF PROCUREMENT PROCESSES



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# PPDA Staff Acquire Skills in e-Procurement Implementation and Strategy by Tissie Msonkho

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Two members of staff; Regulatory and Review Manager, Gerlad Mabveka, and Senior Programmer, Emmanuel Mwinama, represented the PPDA during a short course on e-Procurement, organized by e-Enhancement Center from 14-18th August 2023, in Nairobi Kenya.

Apart from Malawi, the training also drew participants from other African countries including Sierra Leon, ESwatini and Liberia. The main objective of the training was to orient participants on e-procurement implementation and strategy.

At the end of the training, participants acquired the necessary skills and knowledge to apply in their respective projects. According to Mabveka the training provided an opportunity to learn some best practices that should be considered when implementing e-procurement system.

“More importantly, we learned how some countries are preparing the e-procurement implementation and how others like Kenya are already implementing their e-procurement system in phases” he remarked. Concurring with Mabveka, Mwinama said the the strategies and best practices discussed during the training are worth emulating in light of PPDA’s e-GP implementation.

The course structure for the two-day training revolved around long-established procurement procedures including e-Procurement development, e-Procurement models and negotiation, procurement management and organization improvement through e-Procurement.

The knowledge and skills acquired during this training will help PPDA to align e-procurement strategies with overall organizational goals and streamline procurement processes to enhance efficiency and reduce costs.

The Authority will also enhance its strategies for fostering strong relationships with suppliers through e-procurement platforms.



Participants for the e-Procurement Training. Seated (3rd from left is Mwinama and 2nd from right (standing is Mabveka)

# PPDA Migrates to an Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) System by Tissie Msonkho

The Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDA), in collaboration with the Public Private Partnership Commission (PPPC) have embarked on implementing an electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) System that automates the Government of Malawi's public procurement process from the traditional, manual and paper-based system. The e-GP Project is implemented under the "Digital Malawi Program Phase 1: Digital Foundations Project," with financial support from the World Bank.

According to PPDA's Director General, Edington Chilapondwa, Malawi's e-GP System goes by the name "Malawian National Electronic System" (MANePS) which forms part of the Government's public reforms agenda for improved public service delivery. The objective for implementing this project is to achieve broad government economic governance objectives of enhancing efficiency, transparency and accountability in public procurement.

Chilapondwa also emphasized that MANePS provides the long awaited, reliable and lasting solution that address the challenges which have been rocking the manual procurement process like inefficiencies leading to delays in the procurement cycle and increased human interaction that subjects the procurement process to fraud and corruption among other vices.



Chilapondwa: "The e-GP Procurement System solve the inefficiencies in the manual procurement process".

From the traditional, paper-based and lengthy process, Malawi's public procurement is being transformed into an efficient, effective and transparent online system which will speed up the whole procurement cycle" he remarked.

The internet-based e-GP System is being developed by Ethiopian-based Perago Information System, in joint venture agreement with Mitra Systems Limited based in Malawi who were engaged in July 2023. The system provides an online information portal for the publication of business opportunities, contract awards and other procurement related information.

The features of the system include supplier/vendor registration, procurement planning, purchase requisition, tendering, purchasing and contract management. The platform is also integrated with third party systems for the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA), Malawi National Construction Industry Council (NCIC), the Business Registration System (MBRS), Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS) and Commercial Banks.

Perago Information System's Project Manager, Nega Mengistu says they are currently working on the Supplier Registration Module which will be ready by end of October, 2023. This means that all suppliers/vendors will be able to register on the online platform soon afterwards.

E-Procurement Manager for the e-GP Project, Gloria Thupi, said despite some unforeseeable challenges like delays in engaging the System Developer for the e-GP solution, the e-GP Project is making good progress and PPDA is making every effort to ensure that all project deliverables are achieved by June 2024.

"It has been a long process and not easy. We are grateful to the World Bank, the Public, Private Partnership Commission and the e-Government for their unwavering support throughout the preparatory activities. We also extend the same gratitude to all our stakeholders for their cooperation and their commitment to ensure that this project is successful" she said.

The implementation of the e-GP system will be piloted in 30 institutions some of which have high level procurement thresholds such as the Central Medical Stores Trust, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Roads Fund Administration, Roads Authority, Blantyre City Council, Mzuzu Central Hospital, Mchinji District Council and Malawi University of Science and Technology.



**Corporate  
Social  
Responsibility**

**PPDA**  
Public Procurement &  
Disposal of Assets Authority



# PPDA DONATES MK7 MILLION WORTH OF BOOKS TO MALAWI UNIVERSITY OF BUSINESS AND APPLIED SCIENCES (MUBAS)-PICTORIAL



Dr. Edington Chilapondwa shakes the hand of Professor Nancy Chitera, Vice Chancellor at MUBAS in the presence of Director Mirriam Nsomba (R)



A group photo: PPDA staff, MUBAS Faculty members and Students after the official book donation handover ceremony.

# OUR MISSION

**To provide a regulatory, monitoring and oversight service on public procurement and asset disposal matters in a professional, efficient and effective manner with a view to realize value for money.**

[www.ppda.mw](http://www.ppda.mw)

# OUR VISION

**A public procurement and asset disposal system that is transparent fair, efficient, corrupt-free and instills public confidence.**

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