



## PPDA, URF Unveil 7-storey office complex.

By PPDA PR team

The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) in partnership with the Uganda Road Fund (URF) have unveiled a new office block that adds to the ever changing appearance of Kampala’s skyline.

Touted as a landmark project in joint public procurement for government entities, the PPDA - URF Towers will save the taxpayers’ hundreds of millions of shillings that the two agencies have hitherto been spending to hire office space.

### PPDA QUATERLY NEWSLETTER

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The ED PPDA Benson Turamye (L) confers with the PPDA Board Member, Dorothy Abola, shortly after the Board inspection of the progress of the construction PPDA-URF Office block in June 2021. It took the concerted effort in oversight and supervision by the board members and contract teams of the two entities to ensure the delivery of the magnificent PPDA-URF Towers.

The PPDA-URF Towers is a very unique project of government agencies twinning in public procurement. It demonstrates the advantages of pooling resources together to deliver a project that one small entity would find difficult to undertake and accomplish.

Located in the upscale city neighborhood of Nakasero, the 2-Tower complex is a 12-level building with a total of 15,179 square metres that include 3 basement levels for 153 parking spaces. It has 7 floors of office space, training rooms and a 305-seater conference hall. The building is composed of two separate wings connected by a central circulation core. It has shared facilities that include parking, cafeteria, and a gym, a Day Care Centre, general reception and lobby.

The idea of constructing the office block dates back to 2007 when the PPDA bought land located at Plot 39 Nakasero Road. The existing residential premises were renovated and converted into offices that were utilized by the Procurement Audit Directorate at the time. Later in 2013, the PPDA Board and the URF Board, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development,

entered into memorandum of understanding to develop a joint home.

However, actual construction did not commence until November 2017. It was originally scheduled to be completed in the 2019/2020 financial year. However, there were three extensions. The first extension was caused by the ground conditions during the excavation of the basement where a rock required specialized piling equipment while the subsequent extensions were caused by the COVID -19 lockdowns which among other things impacted the importation of materials and equipment.

The construction contract and the construction supervision contracts were undertaken by Seyani Brothers and Symbion Uganda respectively.

According to a report of the joint contract management team (CMT), “the property shall be managed as a condominium which requires preparation of condominium titles, establishment of the corporation and having a Building Management Agreement in place”.



## Promoting Gender Equality and Equity in Public Procurement.

### By PPDA PR team

As part of its mandate, the PPDA is required, among other things, to “build procurement and disposal capacity in Uganda”. This is aptly put in Section 6 of the PPDA Act, 2003 as amended.

To this end, the Authority through the directorate of Capacity Building and Advisory Services, undertakes trainings and advisory services for different stakeholders. These stakeholders include the procuring and disposing entities (or the government agencies), the private sector and the civil society.

In this undertaking, one category of stakeholders that has been specifically identified is women. Working with the Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limited (UWEAL) and the UN Women Agency, the authority carries out trainings aimed at empowering women to bid and win government contracts.

Identifying women as a key category for training in public procurement is a deliberate design by the Authority to augment government efforts in addressing the development challenges the country is facing.

While opening one of such trainings for women in Bushenyi District, Lydia Kwesiga, the PPDA Western Regional Manager Mbarara Office underscored the advancement of women in different professions, which she said should open opportunities for women to participate in public procurement.

**“Today women are engaged in different professions such as engineering, architecture, law, ICT auditing, investigation and procurement. This is a big milestone and I want to urge you to use your skills and do business with government”, she said.**

She also noted that procurement and disposal units headed by women have posted good performance and high levels of integrity according to audit and investigation reports carried out by the PPDA in Western Uganda.

Mercy Kyoshabire, a manager for capacity building, in the directorate of Capacity Building and Advisory Services, challenged the participants at the Bushenyi-Ishaka training to aim high and compete for all government contracts. She also advised the women that there are services where they have comparative advantage over men. She said that by beginning with services like catering and compound maintenance, women will garner the requisite experience to bid for bigger projects

One of the bottlenecks faced by women in public procurement is at the bidding stage, where women fail to prepare bids that are competitive. To address this problem, the Authority training module places emphasis on how to prepare responsive bids, among other things. The trainings also dwell on the recently launched Electronic Government Procurement system (e-GP).

The Authority also appreciates the significance of the female gender to attain the national development aspirations as enshrined in the National Development Plan and Vision 2040, plus other national, regional and international development instruments Uganda subscribes to. Further still, empowering women to participate in public procurement is anchored on the following:



**Sheila Nakiwala, Senior Officer Advisory Services takes the Bushenyi-Ishaka women entrepreneurs through the e-GP registration process and how to prepare responsive bids.**

- It is a human right as provided for in our national legal framework and other international instruments;
- Women constitute more than 50% of Uganda’s human resource and of many economies and evidence shows that economies do better when the women potential is harnessed;
- It is a moral imperative and is a matter of fairness and equity;
- Procurement of goods, services and works by the government of Uganda is a key policy tool governments use to advance social-economic goals; therefore, it would be imprudent to expect serious results when more than 50% of the population is ignored in such undertakings.

- The global development agenda pronounce in strong terms the gender equity principles and women are now a formidable force in all sectors. Goal No. 5 of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is very clear on gender issues. It stipulates that “Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it’s crucial for sustainable future; it’s proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development”.



**Lydia Kwesiga, the PPDA regional manager for the Mbarara regional office giving opening remarks at training session of women entrepreneurs in Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality organised by the PPDA in conjunction with UN women and UWEAL.**

# UNDERSTANDING OPEN CONTRACTING



**By  
Doreen Kyazze Mulema**

Open Contracting is about publishing timely information on public contracting in a bid to engage the citizens in the monitoring process of public projects for improved service delivery.

The open contracting process brings together government, private sector, civil society and the citizens to ensure transparency and effective service delivery.

Under open contracting, information about public procurement and disposal processes is expected to be open and accessible in order to enhance public knowledge about the undertakings by the different government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, (MDAs).

Government ensures that the public has access to information about all government projects and contracts. The information must be timely and easy to access by the citizens.

Open Contracting is also about following government expenditure across the entire Value chain of public contracts from their planning to the award and onto the implementation of the contracts. Open contracting data joins all this information together to increase transparency and enable a deeper analysis of contracting by different stakeholders.

In a bid to promote transparency, Uganda has adopted the open contracting mechanism that promotes disclosure of contracting information and public participation in the contract monitoring process. The Country adopted a multi stakeholder approach in its drive towards open contracting. In June 2012, a group of 25 organizations in Uganda signed a Memorandum of Understanding to form the Uganda Contract Monitoring Coalition. The coalition included the government represented by PPDA, members of the private sector and Civil Society Organisation (CSOs).

As part of its mandate, the PPDA requires procuring and disposing entities (PDEs) to publish procurement plans, procurement notices, best evaluated bidder notices and contract award notices. Due to the above requirements, the PPDA uses the Government Procurement Portal (GPP) to organize and maintain a system for the publication of data on public procurement and disposal opportunities, awards and any other information of public interest as may be determined by the Authority.

The GPP is accessible on <https://gpp.ppda.go.ug/#/public/bid-invitations>.

The GPP system monitors and reports on the performance of the public procurement and disposal systems in Uganda and advises on the desirable changes. This information is published in the Open Contracting Data Standards (OCDS) to aid contract monitoring in a bid to improve service delivery.

In line with Strategic Objective 2 of the PPDA strategic plan, the Authority is now enhancing stakeholder engagement and management and has partnered with the civil society to improve monitoring and reporting of government procurements, disposals and contract management processes. Considering that some CSOs are disposed towards matters of accountability, transparency and advocacy, among others, engaging them in monitoring of public procurement and disposal of public assets is contributing to improved accountability and transparency for better service delivery.

Open Contracting is thus improving competition, value for money and value for many, fairness, integrity and performance beyond compliance. This is aimed at achieving 'Procurement that delivers' for sustainable development.

**Ms Doreen Kyazze is a Manager, Performance Monitoring**

# STEP BY STEP e-GP PROVIDER REGISTRATION FOR THE e-PPDA CERTIFICATE

**Step 1:** Open your web browser i.e. Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge etc and access (eGP) via <https://www.egpuganda.go.ug>.

**Step 2:** Click the [Register as Supplier] button to access a user account creation page and register your personal information with a valid email.

**Step 3:** You should receive a verification link to your registered email address in step 2. Open your email account to access the verification email.

**Step 4:** Select from the dropdown whether you are registering for a company / an individual. In case your company country of registration is Uganda, ensure that you have your URSB and URA TIN number and select the validate button against each entry to retrieve your company information.

**Step 5:** Upload the mandatory documents in the prescribed formats (preferably PDF and maximum of 5MBs of each document size) i.e., valid Trading License / Business Operating License.

**Step 6:** Enter all the required information for the Representative/Secretary as well as the Approver/Director. Where a company is owned by another company, provide the other company's details by clicking the Add More button under Organization Owners/Shareholders section.

**Step 7:** Enter the turnover details of your company for the past 2 / more years where applicable.

**Step 8:** Select a business category of your choice to reveal the list of sub-categories that you must select from. You can choose more than one category and multiple sub-categories.

**Step 9:** Enter company experience in terms of past projects where applicable. You can add multiple records of projects handled by your company in the past / present.

**Step 10:** Verify and confirm that the information previewed on the form is accurate before submitting the form. Accept the terms and conditions by selecting the checkbox next to the terms and conditions link. Click the Submit Form button to send your application to the next level.

**Step 11:** You are redirected to a payments page. In case you already made a payment, select the payment mode of "other" and attach your receipt and click the Submit button.

If you hadn't paid, choose a payment method of "other" and select the Generate PRN button, get a PRN (Payment Registration Number) and Payment advice slip, make a payment with a mechanism of your choice and select the Submit button.

**Step 12:** Upon approval by PPDA, a system generated certificate will be sent to your registered email. A copy of your certificate can also be accessed under your company profile. The certificate can be viewed / saved / printed.

**Please contact us for any additional support you may require:**

Call: **0414707483** Email: [servicedesk@egp.go.ug](mailto:servicedesk@egp.go.ug)

# PUBLIC NOTICE



## ONLINE VALIDATION OF CERTIFICATES GENERATED FROM THE e-GP PORTAL

The Government of Uganda launched the Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system last financial year 2020/2021 and it is now being piloted in 12 procuring and disposing entities (PDEs). In the same vein, the register of all government providers that was on the PPDA website, <https://www.ppdaproviders.ug> is under migration to the new e-GP website, <https://egpuganda.go.ug/register>.

On the new system, providers who register on the e-GP do not have to come to the PPDA to pick a certificate. The system automatically generates a certificate which is sent to their e-mail for printing.

Further still, the providers do not need to come to the PPDA to have the e-GP-generated certificates certified. The e-GP-generated certificate can be validated by anyone on the e-GP website.

On the eGP website (home page), you click on the Validation of Registration Certificate link which takes you to a page where you type in (or paste) the supplier registration number. The system will display the status of the certificate.

The Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Local Governments, (the PDEs) should thus not dismiss potential providers whose e-GP-generated certificates are not certified by the PPDA. The PDEs should, instead, use the supplier registration number to validate the certificate on the e-GP website.

All accounting officers have been officially informed (in a circular) and they are requested to ensure that all government officials handling public procurement take note of these developments. The Members of the Private Sector, (especially government providers), are particularly informed

## MANAGEMENT



Faith Mbabazi, a Senior Research Officer conducting a training session in Lira district for women entrepreneurs in Lango sub region. The PPDA works with Uganda women entrepreneurs limited (UWEAL) to equip women with skills in public procurement.



On Wednesday 18/08/2021, members of the Board of Directors and Management of the PPDA met President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at State House Entebbe. They briefed the President on a range of issues and how PPDA is applying its mandate to ensure that Public Procurement delivers on national development goals. The President expressed appreciation for the significance of Public Procurement in social economic transformation of the country. He urged the team to support to investors, and to ensure that major national infrastructure projects are implemented without undue delays.





The Chairman, PPDA board of directors, Julius K. Ishungisa, addressing stakeholders from the Agriculture sector. As part of its mandate, the PPDA continually undertakes stakeholder engagements. The Authority holds regular meetings with “High Spend Entities” whose procurement budgets take the largest proportion of the total national budget. During these sector meetings, strategies that will improve the procurement performance in these PDEs are discussed in a bid to improve service delivery.



The government is rolling out the electronic government procurement system also known as the e-GP. The e-GP is to create efficiency and transparency in the public procurement system. Our officers are always on standby to help providers through the e-GP registration process

# PPDA sees off Kyoma, welcomes new Members



Having served on the PPDA Board of Directors since 2016, Xavier Kyoma Akampurira bowed out after joining Parliament in May this year as an elected member representing Ibanda North Constituency. In a colourful function held at the PPDA-URF towers on Thursday, 10 November 2021, to officially see him off, speakers showered praises on Kyoma for his distinguished service to the authority for the five years he was a board member.

The Chairperson of the PPDA Board of Directors Julius K Ishungisa described Kyoma as having been a committed member of the Authority and urged him to use his new position as an MP to champion the interests of the PPDA.

In his remarks, Ishungisa noted that, “Xavier has been a committed member of the Board. Thank you very much for your contribution to PPDA. You are our ambassador where you are we have high hopes in you. We have no doubt you will do a good job”. The PPDA executive Director Benson Turamye

congratulated Kyoma on his election as a member of parliament for Ibanda North and thanked him for his distinguished service to the Authority. On his part Kyoma thanked the members with whom he worked over the years which he said has strengthened the board.

**“When I joined the board I found a competent board. And I have left a competent board,”** he said.

He also underscored the cordial working relations existing in the Authority and urged both the board and management to maintain the cordial relations and to remain principled.

**“If you want to be happy where you are, make friends. And that does not mean being compromised. Stick to principles. Let the board be the board. Let management be management”**, he counselled.

Kyoma, who was in the company of his wife Phionah, also pledged to continue working towards clearing the

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**“Xavier has been a committed member of the Board. Thank you very much for your contribution to PPDA”.**

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misunderstandings surrounding the role of the PPDA in the Public procurement and disposal processes.

***“I will remain PPDA forever. I will always be your ambassador”***, he said adding that he will use all platforms to clear the misconceptions which he said exist even among government bureaucrats and ministers that the PPDA procures for ministries departments and agencies, MDAs

The occasion was also used to welcome two new member to the board including David Kiyingi Nyimbwa and David Sserebe Bbunya. David Kiyingi is a member of the PPDA Board representing the Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. He is the Commissioner, Procurement Policy and Management Department at Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

David Sserebe Bbunya was also appointed by the Minister of Finance, Planning and economic development, in line with the provisions of the law, to replace Xavier Kyooma.

David Sserebe is an Accountant by training. He has worked in both the public and private sectors. His experience covers finance and accounting, audit and risk management

He previously worked at Bank of Uganda as Senior Banking Officer and later a Purchasing Officer. He also worked with Sembule Group as a Director of Finance and at Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), as Assistant commissioner, Audit Risk and Compliance and later a Commissioner for Finance.

The function was attended by the other members of the board including Ms. Rita Namakiika, Arch. Dorothy Abola and Eng. George Bwanga and Dr. Levi Kabagambe.



# Procurement Authority of Zimbabwe seeks Uganda's Counsel on Emergency Procurement

By PPDA PR team



The Executive Director, of the PPDA Benson Turamye, was recently in Zimbabwe at the invitation of the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) as a keynote speaker on “Frameworks for Emergency Contracting” and “Enhancing Procurement Professionalism”.

The PRAZ invited Turamye to attend and participate in the Annual Conference as one the Regional Panelists at the conference that took place from 21-22nd October, 2021 in the resort town of Victoria Falls. The Conference ran under the theme, “Balancing emergencies with efficiency and integrity.”

Turamye made presentations that provided a Ugandan perspective with respect to emergency procurement in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He shared Uganda's experience where the PPDA “developed a guideline on Emergency procurement to address specific circumstances relating to emergency situations such as the Covid -19 pandemic”.

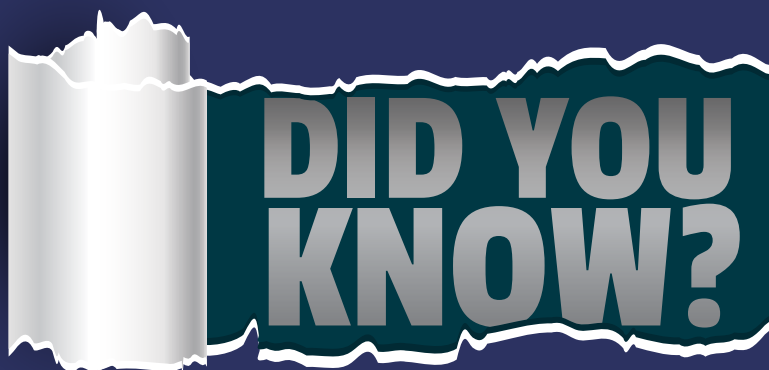
In his presentation, he also noted that in Uganda, Section 26 of the PPDA Act 2003, empowers the Accounting Officer (AO) to sign a contract before procurement is approved by the Contracts Committee during an Emergency situation, where the contracts committee cannot meet to approve the procurement.

While discussing other options for the emergency procurement situations Turamye shared methods adopted by the PPDA in Uganda that guide accounting officers. These he added, include;

- \* Use of automated procurement system such as the EGP of Uganda that would address most of the challenges that have been faced during COVID-19 and related lock downs.
- \* Delegate procurements to other agencies with established providers and systems during emergency situations
- \* Undertake supplier development and maintain good suppliers' relationships for sustainable service delivery.
- \* Proper record keeping and documentation of all decisions on procurements undertaken in emergency situations.

Turamye's invitation to Zimbabwe comes in the wake of the endearment that Uganda's laws, policies and practices have garnered at regional and continental level in recent years.

# FACTS, FIGURES AND TITBITS



## 2 July 2021

The date the PPDA ceased handling Administrative Reviews by bidders except those already filed. Bidders aggrieved with the decisions of the Accounting Officers are advised to submit appeals directly to the PPDA Appeals Tribunal.

This followed the Amendment of the PPDA Act 2003, by Parliament and the subsequent assent by His Excellency the President, on 2nd June 2021

## 26

The section in the PPDA Act 2003 that empowers the Accounting Officer (AO) to sign a contract before a procurement is approved by the Contracts Committee during an Emergency situation.

## 7

The number of days by which an Accounting Officer must inform the contracts committee about signing of a contract during an emergency situation without consulting anyone.

## 10

The number of days by which an Accounting Officer must inform the PPDA about signing of a contract during an emergency situation without consulting anyone.

## 12.

The number of entities enrolled on e-GP on the pilot project as of October 2021.

- \* Jinja District Local Government
- \* Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA);
- \* Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development;
- \* Ministry of Water & Environment (MoWE);
- \* Mpigi District Local Government
- \* National Information Technology Authority (NITA-U);
- \* National Social Security Fund (NSSF);
- \* Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA);
- \* Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance;
- \* Uganda Institute of Information and Communication Technology (UCIT)
- \* Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA)
- \* Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)

# COFFEE BREAK

*Sagaciously speaking*



- A calm sea does not make a skilled sailor.
- "Leadership, like swimming, cannot be learned by reading about it." - Henry Mintzberg
- When you are up in life, your friends get to know who you are. But when you are down in life, you get to know who your friends are.
- Never mind what you left behind  
Keep in mind  
What you are yet to find

## **This is no laughing matter**

- In Africa, we don't care if you are above 60 or 600 years, if you don't clear your throat at least twice before giving advice, forget it, you are not an adult.
- Two heads are better than one. But the two heads should not be on one person and they should not be empty.
- One time my boss asked me who is the stupid one, between me and him. I told him everyone knows he doesn't hire stupid people.
- It is better to sit in a bar thinking about God than to sit in church thinking about beer
- If your dog starts barking at you, then know that someone is feeding it better than you.
- When you see the rich eating peacefully from the same bowl with the poor, then you know that the food belongs to the poor.

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