

In the fiscal year 2023/24, the compliance rate for submitting procurement plans and reports among procuring and disposing entities (PDEs) was 81.5%. Of these, the average implementation rate for the procurement plans stood at 66%.

Based on this performance the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) held a meeting with procurement practitioners from High Spend Entities (HSEs) on 17th July 2024. This engagement also marked the opening of the procurement period for the financial that commenced on 1st July 2024. The purpose was to communicate the new procurement plan and the reporting standards for public procurement and contracting processes. These apply to all procurements whether funded by the Government of Uganda (GoU) or donors.

WHO ARE HIGH SPEND ENTITIES?

HSEs are government entities with the highest annual procurement budgets representing key priority areas for the Government each financial year. The top 20 procuring and disposing entities with the highest annual procurement budget are categorised as HSEs. The PPDA identifies HSEs every financial year and fosters a continuous, realtime monitoring framework with these entities throughout the year. Given their high-value procurements, accurate reporting from these entities is crucial.

THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING

- 1 REVISED PROCUREMENT PLAN TEMPLATE:** On 28th June 2024, PPDA issued a circular introducing a revised procurement plan template. This template captures multi-year procurements and those reserved for local providers or special interest groups. It is available on the PPDA's website at PPDA Formats. <https://www.ppda.go.ug/download-reports/legal/ppda-formats/>
- 2 COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATION:** The Executive Director emphasized the need for collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders to ensure timely, accurate, and regular reporting. The application of the revised plan and reporting template starts immediately, with submissions required by 31st July 2024. This will help PPDA monitor the implementation of changes to the PPDA Act, regulations, and guidelines for both GoU and donor-funded procurements.
- 3 REGULAR COMPLIANCE PROMPTS:** PPDA will prompt all entities monthly to comply with reporting requirements. Currently, there are three reporting channels for procurement and contracting transactions: the eGP system for the 36 entities on the system, GPP, and manual monthly submissions. While the eGP system is being reengineered to become the default procurement system, the other channels will remain open for submission.
- 4 ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES:** The meeting addressed several issues affecting effective procurement implementation, including political interference, low micro-procurement thresholds, low Solicitor General contract clearance thresholds, undefined contract clearance times, long waiting periods for the notice of the best-evaluated bidder, and subjectivity in applying some legal amendments. PPDA and other relevant stakeholders agreed to continuously track and address these issues.

Compliance in submitting procurement data is critical for informing decisions and actions in service delivery. PPDA will monitor compliance and engage various stakeholders to improve the standards of their contributions to the procurement and contracting process. This will involve follow-ups and a monthly Procurement Innovation Roundtable discussion

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