

Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority

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Our Ref:.....**PPDA/M01/B02/000**.....

Your Ref:.....

8th January 2018

The Executive Director
National Agricultural Research Organisation
ENTEBBE

RE: SUPPLY OF OFFICE AND LABORATORY FURNITURE – ATO/ATAAS/GDS/17-18/027

Reference is made to a complaint dated 6th November 2017 on the above subject.

The complaint alleged that:

- i. A short bidding period which was unreasonable was given since the bidding document was issued on 30th October 2017 with a deadline for submission of 7th November 2017;
- ii. The Entity did not require a bid security yet the estimated cost was above USD 1Million; and
- iii. The bidding document contained brand names for the equipment and furniture to be procured.

In accordance with Section 8(1) (c) of the PPDA Act 2003, the Authority instituted an investigation and established that:

1. The bidding period of 5 working days from 30th October 2017 to 7th November 2017 was reasonable and in accordance with Regulation 46 of the PPDA (Rules and Methods for Procurement of Supplies, Works and Non-Consultancy Services) Regulations 2014 and Clause 276 of the Project Implementation Manual of 25th February 2017 for the Agricultural Technology and Agribusiness Advisory Services (ATAAS) Project.
2. The estimated cost of the procurement was USD300,000 and not USD 1Million as alleged.
3. The statement of requirements in the bidding document did not refer to brand names and made reference to countries of origin and colour which were not relevant to the performance of the supplies.

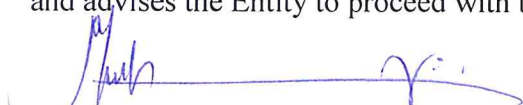
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4. There was no requirement for a bid security since the procurement was undertaken using the shopping procedures under the World Bank Guidelines of July 2014. The bid notice indicated that bids must be accompanied with a bid securing declaration and Part 2 of the bidding document issued to bidders indicated that '*all bids must be accompanied with a bid securing declaration*'.

During the investigation, the Authority observed that the 14 bids which the Entity received on 7th November 2017 have not been opened and the bid validity is 90 days until 5th February 2018. The Authority recommends that the evaluation is expedited.

In accordance with Section 9 of the PPDA Act, the Authority finds no merit in the allegations and advises the Entity to proceed with the procurement process.



Bradford Ochieng
Ag. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

c.c: The Country Manager, World Bank