

Ref. PPCC/RL/CEO/242/'21

June 28, 2021

Hon. Charles L. Gibson
MINISTER
Ministry of Labor
Republic of Liberia

Dear Hon. Gibson:

Subject: PPCC RESPONSE: REQUEST FOR NO-OBJECTION TO AWARD CONTRACT TO CONTEC GLOBAL AND CETIS FOR THE DIGITIZATION OF RESIDENT AND WORK PERMITS - SPECIAL PROJECT DIGITIZATION OF WORK AND RESIDENT PERMITS- FY 2020/2021

We present our compliments and acknowledge receipt of your letter, which sought the approval of the Commission to award contract to CETIS and Contec Global for the Digitization of the Work and Resident Permits in the amount of US\$12,630,100.00 (Resident Permits) and US\$17,208,266.00 (Work Permits) for CETIS and Contec Global - US\$20,909,515.88 and \$20,909,515.88 (work and residents permits) respectively, upon conclusion of a retendered restricted bidding process.

The Commission, upon review of MOL/LIS submission and accompanying documents, highlights the below:

1. That the process was retendered with invitation to six (6) companies (**Webex, Cetis, Rovia Gate, Trust Pilot, Universal Press and Contec Global**) with only two companies submitting proposals (Contec Global and CETIS);
2. That the MOL and LIS provided several documents to facilitate the Commission's review: Bid Document, Bidders' Submissions, Bid Opening Minutes, Evaluation Report, Procurement Committee Minutes, Letters of Invitation;
3. That the MOL/LIS submitted several documents in response to queries by the Commission: MOL's Annual Reports for 2018, 2019, 2020, Copies of 2018/2019, 2019/2020, July 1, 2020 – April 2021 Revenue Reports from LIS, Breakdown of Bidders' financial proposals and clarifications on software price.

The Commission, upon review of MOL/LIS submissions and subsequent accompanying documents, highlights the below observations:

- That the MOL/LIS did not indicate quantities in the bidding documents, thereby enabling bidders to quote their own quantities and projections;
- The Bidders' offers are not within the stipulated amount estimated on the approved Special Project Procurement Plan for the Digitization of Work and Resident Permits presented by MOL/LIS.

The Commission, upon review of all submitted supporting documents, subsequent clarifications, and explanations, states the below:

1. That based on a comprehensive review of MOL/LIS historical performance over the past three years as reflected in the MOL's submitted annual reports, and the LIS' Revenue reports, projected quantities did not exceed the sale of 4,000 work permits, and there are varying revenue flows for resident permits;





Republic of Liberia
Public Procurement & Concessions Commission
Executive Mansion Grounds, Capitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia



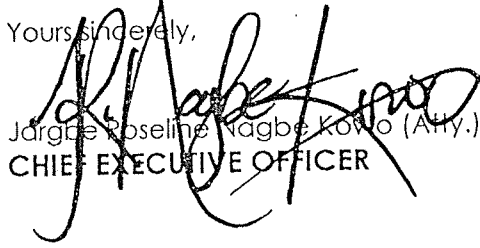
Website: www.ppcc.gov.lr | Email: info@ppcc.gov.lr | Phone Short Code: 4357

Thus, the stated projections in quantity of permits proffered by the two bidders should be reduced to reflect the true potential of the Ministry of Labor and the Liberia Immigration Services, taking into account the current COVID pandemic, varying revenues flows and historical quantities as presented in both submitted reports for (2018, 2019 and 2020-Ministry of Labour) and (2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 Revenue Reports - Liberia Immigration Services);

2. That the Commission renders "No Objection" for MOL/LIS to proceed with Contractual arrangements with CETIS (Work Permits) and Contec Global (Resident Permits) in consonance with the Approved Resident and Work Permits Special Project Pre-Financing Procurement Plan and in line with the estimated cost of \$8,000,000.00 (Eight Million United States dollars) as reflected on the Approved Procurement Plan submitted by MOL/LIS;
3. That based on the capital cost intensity of these projects, that MOL and LIS should jointly discuss means whereby these projects can be done in scopes, and institute performance reviews;
4. That the Ministry of Labour and Liberia Immigration Service should ensure quality conformance for the digitization of work and resident permits contract package;
5. Please note that all contracts which cumulative annual value above the threshold of US\$250,000.00 must be signed by the Minister responsible for Finance and attested to by the Minister responsible for Justice. Furthermore, a copy of the final contracts must be submitted to the Commission for validity and reporting as required by the PPCA.

The Public Procurement and Concessions Commission admonishes and deems it a priority that you remain primarily in compliance with the PPCA, 2010, as we jointly aspire to achieve transparency, accountability, fairness, equality and ultimately public confidence in our procurement and concessions processes.

Yours sincerely,

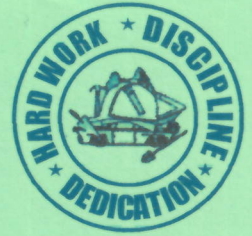

Jargde Roseline Nagbe Kowlo (Atty.)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CC: Hon. Robert W. Budy
COMMISSIONER GENERAL
Liberia Immigration Services (LIS)
Republic of Liberia



Republic of Liberia
MINISTRY OF LABOUR

P.O. Box 10-9040
1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia



Office of the Minister

RL/MOL/CHG/M/2021/2

June 7th 2021

Atty. Jargbo Roseline Nagba Kowo
Chief Executive Officer
Public Procurement & Concessions Commission
Republic of Liberia

Dear Hon. Kowo,

Subject: **REQUEST FOR NO OBJECTION TO AWARD CONTRACT TO CONTEC
GLOBAL AND CETIS FOR THE DIGITIZATION OF RESIDENT AND
WORK PERMITS**

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 19, 2021 which sought for additional clarity on the ongoing process referenced above. In response to that request, the following information is herewith provided.

1. Annual Reports from LIS and MOL
2. Responses to Queries 2 and 3 from Contec Global
3. Categories, Unit Cost and Quantities From Cetis and Contec Global

Hope this response will satisfy all your concerns, with our assurance that those not captured therein will be provided in the contract document so as to enable us move this process forward without further delays.

Kind regards.

Hon. Charles H. Gibson

MINISTER

Chairman, Joint MOL & LIS
Procurement Committee

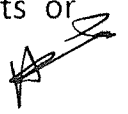
Encl:

Received:
Dennis Taylor
June 8, 2021
Time: 13:14 pm.

REASONS LEADING TO THE SELECTION OF CONTEC GLOBAL TO DO THE RESIDENT PERMIT AND CELTIS TO DO THE WORK PERMIT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE EVALUATION/PANEL COMMITTEE.

While it is true that both **Celtis** and **Contec Global** submitted bid documents for **Lots 1 and 2**, meaning the Work and Resident Permits, however, as per the Panel's evaluation of the documents submitted, we selected Contec Global to do the Resident Permit, for factual reasons, to wit:

1. As you may know, the Liberia Immigration Service has the statutory responsibility to guard borders and boundaries against the illegal entry of aliens into the Country; admits and exists aliens into and out of the Country at all border posts and entry points, after a thorough screening of all travel and other immigration related documents.
2. The Liberia Immigration Service has Detachment Headquarters in all of the 14 Counties. It has **45 (forty-five)** officially recognized ports of entry, including **RIA, Freeport of Monrovia, James Spriggs Payne Airfield, Bo Waterside, Loquatuo, B'hai. Pedibo, Dulay, Butuo, Ganta, Yeala, Soloba, Borders in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Cape Mount, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties, respectively**, etc., while anticipating more ports of entry to be officially declared very soon by Government. These border posts and other strategic entry points are monitored by the Detachment Headquarters.
3. As per the Project, all major border posts and strategic entry points have to be automated, where all in-bound and out-bound passengers and that of their travel and immigration related documents have to be thoroughly screened through scanners, so as to ascertain the genuineness and falsity of such documents, be it Passports, Card Identity, Resident Permits or otherwise.



4. Though, the Work and Resident Permits are similar and may have the same information, the Ministry of Labor and the Liberia Immigration Service have two separate and distinct **Modus Operandi**; in that, the Liberia Immigration Service has a wide range of operations; it monitors the movements of people, including aliens at all border posts, combats human trafficking,. The Liberia Immigration is present at all entry points and border posts throughout the length and breadth of the Country. The Liberia Immigration Service also monitors employment status of every alien in the Country. For example, if **John Brown** works for **Company A** and desires to work for **Company B**, then and in that case, he must obtain an approval from the Commissioner-General of the Liberia Immigration Service; otherwise, it grossly violates the Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia. The Ministry of Labor controls and monitors the workforce, as well as employment status.

5. With all of these systems to be put in place during the implementation of the project, especially in the rural areas, where the bulk of the work of the Liberia Immigration Service is done; there will be a control center at each Detachment Headquarters in the leeward Counties, as anticipated.

6. From the evaluation of both bid documents, Contec Global proposed the setting-up of a well furnished control center in each of the fifteen (15) Counties, with the provision of **generators, solar panel, air-conditioners, file cabinets, computer sets, staqti0neries, etc.**, so as to monitor the border posts and entry points in each of the Counties.

Contec Global having stated in its bid document that it will provide the facilities, as mentioned herein, for the successfully implementation of the project, considering the nature of work of the Liberia Immigration Service, coupled with previous works done in Nigeria and other African Countries by Contec Global,



with emphasis on Resident Permit, we have selected **Cortec Global** to do the Resident Permit, while **Celtis** is selected to do the Work Permit, because from all indications, Celtis' bid document emphasizes on Drivers' Licenses, Work Permit, Identification card, etc., as being previous work done for others.

