

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT & CONCESSIONS COMMISSION
Update on PPCC Activities
January to August 8, 2006

The Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) was established by the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), which came into force with the inauguration of the Elected Government on January 16, 2006. Below is an update on PPCC activities:

Item	Date	Description of Activities Undertaken/Completed
1.	Feb.10-11-06	Held Sensitization Workshop on the Act for the private sector, Civil Society Org., Professional Assoc.
2.	Feb. 28-06	Nomination of the Chairman & Commissioners
3.	Feb. to Apr. 18, 2006	Prepared various Documents: a. W/B Bgt. support for PPCC under GEMAP b. Composite Bgt. to BOB c. EC Bgt. support for PPCC d. Project Proposal and Bgt. to Africa Dev. Bank (ADB) e. Three years draft Strategic Action Plan for PPCC f. Draft Procurement Plan & Schedule of Deliverables
4.	Apr. 19-06	Held Sensitization & Awareness Working meeting for Commissioners
5.	May 10-06	Confirmation of Commissioners
6.	Jun 7-06	Commissioners vetted and appointed the Exec. Dir. who issued press release on procurement by-passes by procuring entities under the guise of emergencies.
7.	May-Jun-06	Addressed requests for Sole-Source by many Entities
8.	“ “ “	Issued official solicitations for NTGL contract & concession agreements entered into from Oct., 03 to Jan. 16, 06.
9.	“ “ “	Embarked on constituting the Contracts & Concessions Review Committee (CCRC) and started to review Mittal Steel Contract with Firestone next.
10.	“ “ “	Prepared TORs, issued advertisement, evaluated and selected 3 procurement specialists now being recruited for 18 months assignment with the PPCC to aid in preparing policies, regulations, manuals, etc.

		and assist with capacity building by procurement training of procurement and administrative staffs of all procuring entities.
11.	Jun 27-06	Held Sensitization Workshop on the Act for public officials.
12.	Jun 28 & 29	Held Sensitization Working sections with the Honorable House of Representatives & Senate
13.	Jul. 1-6, 06	Employed 5 Directors of Divisions & critical staffs
14.	Jul. 2,	The W/B Grant Agmt. LICUS # TF056754 signed by MOF for GOL
15.	Jul. 14 ...	Commenced compliance monitoring of procuring entities to determine their level of compliance with the Act and their capacity building needs.
16.	Jul. 21, 06	Constituted a Committee inviting relevant entities to commence work on the Margin of Preference for Liberian Businesses.
17.	Jul. 22, 06	Completed the creation of the PPCC Website (www.ppcc.gov.lr)
18.	Aug. 7, 06	Submitted Letters of Concerns to the Honorable House of Representatives and Senate against the pending enactment of the National Bidding Committee Proposed Act which is in direct conflict of Sec. 141(1)(a)(c & e) page 85 of the Public Procurement & Concessions Act.
19.	“ “ “	Submitted 1 st Withdrawal Application to the World Bank along with all of the requirements for releasing the 1 st tranche of funds.
19.		

Conclusion

The first round of our compliance monitoring exercises showed that procuring entities:

1. Are fully aware of the existence and provisions of the Public Procurement & Concessions Act.
2. Have to a large extent established the procurement committees and procurement units within their entities.

3. Have begun to allow broader participation of bidders through competition and ensure transparency by advertising procurement needs in the newspapers.

Short-comings

All of the procuring entities have demonstrated the urgent need for training in:

1. How and when to place a procurement advertisement in the newspapers or solicit direct quotations and the procurement methods to use.
2. How to prepare and what kinds of bidding documents to prepare for each kind of procurement.
3. How to prepare the procurement work plans, reports and maintain documents/records.

Next Steps

Three procurement specialists have been selected and are being recruited from the sub-region (Nigeria, Ghana & Liberia) for eighteen (18) months each to assist the capable staff of the PPCC in the preparation of all of the manuals, regulations, procedures, policies and training needed to ensure the successful implementation of this program.