

Launch

MAPS assessment of
MAURITIUS

*Findings and
Recommendations*

**Thank you for joining us.
The webinar will start shortly**





MAPS assessment of
MAURITIUS

*Findings and
Recommendations*





Submit your questions
via the Zoom chat

or on social media
using #mapsmauritius





Opening remarks

H. Rambhojun

OSK, Director, PPO





Opening remarks

Clement Ahossi

Procurement manager, African
Development Bank



Findings and recommendations of the MAPS Assessment

Amilcar Bilale

Regional Procurement Coordinator,
African Development Bank





Republic of
Mauritius



MAPS - Assessment of Public Procurement System of Mauritius

February 15, 2023

Assessment Process



Launching workshop
May 2021

Draft report
April

Planning and preparation

Data collection and virtual meetings with stakeholders

Drafting of the report

Quality assurance

Implementation of recommendations

Kick-off meeting
Dec 2020

Validation workshop
Nov 2021

Certification and Publication
Nov 2022

Implementation of recommendations

What went well



- Ownership and commitment from the Government of Mauritius represented by Procurement Policy Office (PPO) under the aegis of Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development(MOFEPD)
- Virtual meetings prior to in-person engagement in the country
- Participation and engagement of the public institutions
- Recommendations promptly put into action

Challenges



- Remote working during COVID-19
- Participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Private Sector
- Sampling process and data collection
- Hiring of local consultants



Republic of
Mauritius



Thank you!

Findings and recommendations of the MAPS Assessment

Nagaraju Duthaluri

Lead Procurement Specialist



MAPS - Assessment of Public Procurement System of Mauritius

World Bank

- World Bank has provided staff support in particular e-GP review and also peer reviewed the report
- The WB draft Country Partnership Framework supports the following Key recommendations:
 - (i) the review of the Public Procurement Act to align with e- Procurement System (e-PS) including set of regulations, guidance manual and Standard Procurement Documents;
 - (ii) to disclose bidding opportunities, contract awards including Beneficial Ownership in the public procurement portal following Open Contracting Data Standards (OCDS) to improve transparency and competition and
 - (iii) integrating the compliant review system into e-PS and improving effectiveness of the system to build trust and accountability.

Findings and recommendations of the MAPS Assessment

Devesh Chandra Mishra

Expert and Lead consultant





MAPS - Assessment of Public Procurement System of Mauritius Key Findings, Gaps, Recommendations, Next Steps

**Perspective of the Assessment Team
Webinar: February 15, 2023**



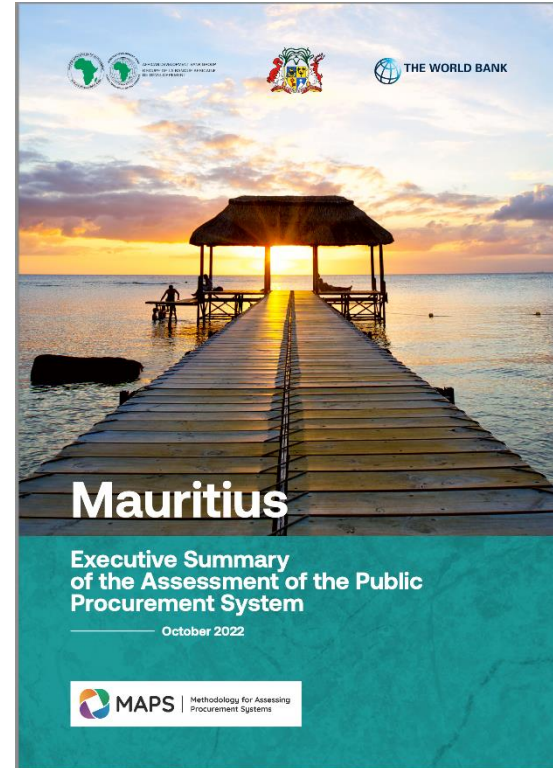
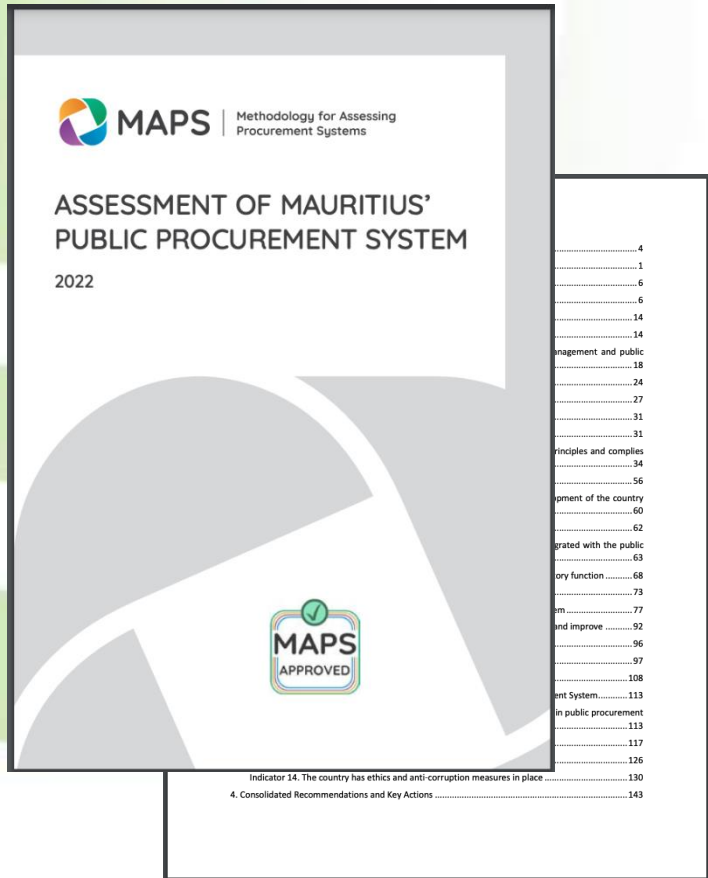
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



Republic of
Mauritius



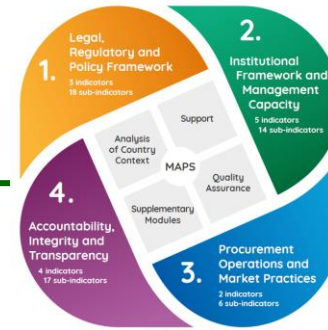
THE WORLD BANK



<https://www.mapsinitiative.org/assessments/>

Main findings

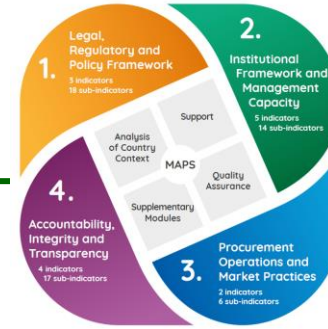
Pillar I – key strengths



- Legal and regulatory framework well established with clear underlying principles/aims, comprehensive, accessible
- Good range of procurement methods with conditions for use, defined stages, timescales, & open method as default
- Eligibility, qualification well described and evaluation on basis of published criteria
- Prompt response to COVID-19 pandemic

Main findings

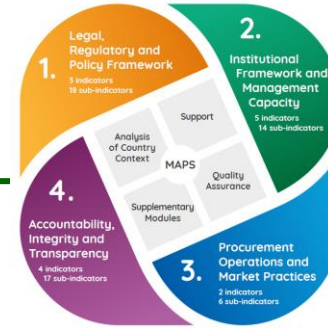
Pillar I – key gaps and/or areas for improvement



- Large number of interdependent documents creates complexity & potential for inconsistency
- User's Guide, Manuals, SBDs not all updated
- Insufficient alignment between PPA/PPR & e-PS
- No Sustainable Public Procurement policy/strategy
- A barrier to entry for foreign bidders

Main findings

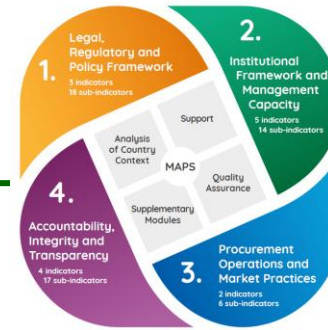
Pillar II – key strengths



- Strong institutional arrangements and expertise – PPO, CPB, IRP
- Good leadership and political commitment on establishment and use of e-PS
- Initiative on strengthening PFM system and project implementation
- Procurement and supply cadre of 340 officers

Main findings

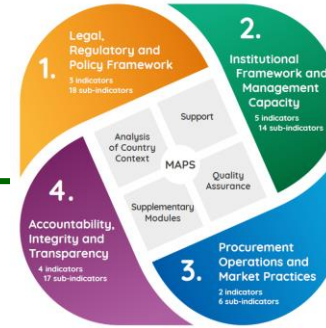
Pillar II – key gaps and/or areas for improvement



- Disjointed institutional arrangements for major contracts with insufficient involvement by public bodies consequent lack of local competences and diffused accountability
- e-PS is not end-to-end & appeals function inactive, lacks integration with other systems, no data analytics and not operating with Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS)
- Professionalisation of procurement is not well evolved
- Organisation, funding and staffing of PPO are inadequate

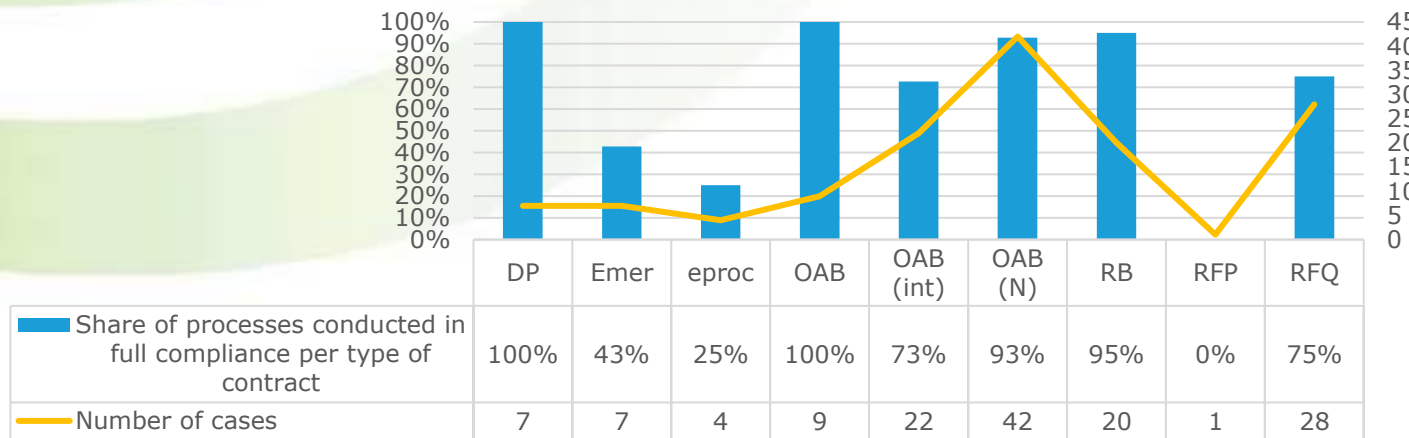
Main findings

Pillar III – key strengths



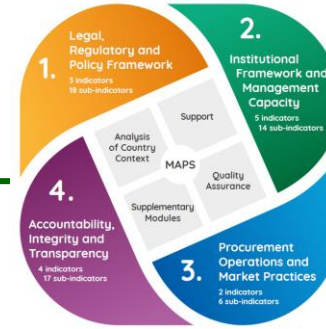
- Timely processing of payments
- High level of compliance on publication requirements

Share of processes conducted in full compliance with publication requirements



Main findings

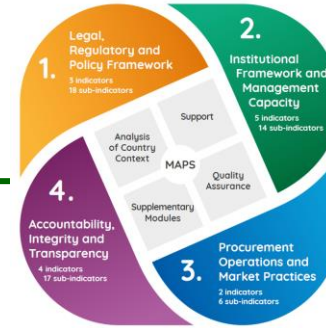
Pillar III – key gaps and/or areas for improvement



Samples/observed

- Lack of needs analysis and/or market research
- Procurement planning issues
- Delays in selection and award process
- Time overruns in contract implementation
- Limited use of
 - Sustainable public procurement
 - Multi-stage procedures for complex procurement
- Lack of engagement with civil society

Main findings Pillar III – key gaps and/or areas for improvement



- Feedback from the private sector
 - 29/100 invited participants

Procurement rules
not simple or flexible

Time frames for delivery
COVID-19 related disruptions
& impact on SMEs

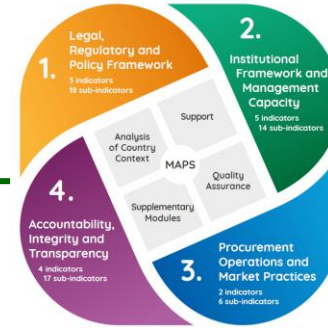
e-PS
Insufficient
transparency,
communication &
technical issues

Tailored
Technical specifications

Unfair allocation
of risk in contracts

Main findings

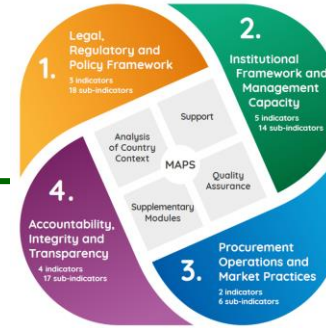
Pillar IV – key strengths



- Effective and co-ordinated control and audit systems
- Strong ethics and anti-corruption measures
- Independent review body dealing promptly with appeals, range of remedies, publication of decisions

Main findings

Pillar IV – key gaps and/or areas for improvement



- Lack of engagement of and with civil society to strengthen integrity
- National Audit Office independence
- Declaration of assets not applicable to all officials involved in procurement process
- Costs of independent review may be disincentive & lack of legal enforceability of orders may weaken system

Main recommendations/actions



- **Legal/regulatory:** Comprehensive review of PPA/PPR to modernise, align with e-PS, enhance clarity and simplify, remove barrier to entry
- **Institutional:** Major contracts - increase accountability and competence of public bodies & update role of CPB as an “enabler”
- **Sustainable public procurement:** implement SPP framework

Main recommendations/actions



- **e-Procurement:** complete roll-out for end-to-end useage, incorporate OCDS for enhanced transparency
- **CSO engagement:** empower and encourage homegrown and independent CSOs to participate in monitoring and contract implementation

Main recommendations/actions



- **Professionalisation:** establish regulatory body, enhance practical case-study based training, facilitate professional internships
- **Asset declaration:** for all public officials involved in entire procurement process
- **Accountability and decision making:** create enabling environment for exercise of discretionary powers.

Main recommendations/actions



- **Procurement and contract delivery:** improve procurement planning, needs analysis/market research, avoid restrictive requirements, discontinue points based evaluation, introduce mechanism for contract performance monitoring

Putting recommendations and actions into practice



- MAPS assessment report is a tool to assist the GoM in the subsequent steps of the reform agenda.
- Based on MAPS recommendations, GoM has prioritized reform efforts- short, medium and long term
- Before conclusion of the MAPS assessment, PPO already started to implement some initial reforms
- More information is covered by PPO on activities to date and planned next steps in their presentation
- AfDB financed the ongoing Assessment using the pilot version of the MAPS for e-Procurement Supplementary Module- task started in end of 2022.



MAPS - Assessment of Public Procurement System of Mauritius

Questions & Answers





The way forward

Bhagwansing Dabeesing

Member, PPO





Republic of Mauritius

Presentation of the initiatives of Mauritius based on the results of MAPS II Assessment

THE WAY FORWARD

by

Mr B. Dabeesing
Member Procurement Policy Office

FEBRUARY 2023



Procurement
Policy Office

Opening Note:

The MAPS assessment team has made “suggestions for improvement”. These Suggestions for improvement have been proposed to help in guiding the Government of Mauritius in the strategic planning process for future public reform to clarify the vision, goals and time frame to improve the public procurement system.

Suggestions for improvement are included as “Recommendations”

Background to the assessment

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- ▶ Government is now focusing on building public sector capacity and addressing efficiency bottlenecks to achieve competition, transparency, and value for money through efficient public procurement processes.
- ▶ There has been significant reform brought to the public procurement system over the past 15 years and one of the commendable reform is the introduction of the electronic procurement system (e-PS) and furthermore making the use of such system as mandatory. This e-PS has been introduced in 2013 and became effective from 2015, hence showing need for review and reform to further improve on the system and realign it with the existing legal framework.
- ▶ In view of the above, MAPS has made recommendations for improvement scaled over the short, medium and long term.

Priority areas for improvement of the Public Procurement System

- Priority areas for improvement of the Mauritian Public Procurement System have been classified with reference to the “ four pillars” of the MAPS methodology. These measures prescribed are aligned with the reform initiatives of the Government of Mauritius and aim at implementing improvements that have already started in some areas.
- **Pour memoire, the four Pillars are:**
 - Pillar I: Legal, Regulatory and Policy Framework;
 - Pillar II: Institutional Framework and Management Capacity;
 - Pillar III: Public Procurement operations and Market Practices; and
 - Pillar IV: Accountability, Integrity and transparency of Public Procurement System.

Pillar 1: Legal, Regulatory and Policy Framework

Recommendations implemented as at date

- i. Contract for legal expert has been awarded in November 2022 in order to come up with an appropriate TOR for the appointment of a consultant or a consultancy firm to work on the review of the procurement legal framework as recommended under Pillar I;
- ii. The same consultant or consultancy firm will come up with proposals for the implementation plan for sustainable public procurement. Provision will be made in the PPA to address this issue.
- iii. User friendly guide for procedure for appeal has been announced in the budget speech 2022-23, and the proposal from IRP is awaited.

Pillar 2: Institutional Framework and Management Capacity

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Recommendations implemented as at date

- i. The PPO in collaboration with the University of Technology will as from March 2023 launch a course leading to a Post Graduate Certificate in Project Management and Contract Administration for officers involved in managing capital projects.
- ii. In order to build up the capacity of senior officers in project management and contract administration, the PPO in collaboration with the University of Technology will organise three workshops run over a span of three days each in the month of March 2023.

Pillar 3: Public Procurement Operations and Market Practices

Recommendations implemented as at date

With a view to improve competition in public procurement, PPO has already initiated action to investigate the reasons why there are low participation rates of bidders. Once this exercise is completed, potential barriers will be identified and removed.

Pillar 4: Accountability, Integrity and Transparency of Public Procurement System

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Recommendations still awaiting for implementation

- i. PPO is presently working on the professionalisation of the Procurement and Supply cadre by proposing training courses at the University level. Courses are due to start in the academic year starting in March 2023;
- ii. Concerning the setting up of the regulatory body to support the professionalisation of procurement and supply management officials and build a cadre of qualified, competent and motivated procurement work force, same will be taken up by the legal expert when the procurement legal framework will be revisited;
- iii. The contract monitoring app on the e-PS will be tested and made accessible for use by public bodies;
- iv. It is also expected that the e-PS expert will come up with proposals to enable the installation of Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) and Govtech Apps on the e-PS system as soon as possible;

Contd....

Pillar 4: Accountability, Integrity and Transparency of Public Procurement System

Recommendations still awaiting for implementation (continued...)

- v. PPO will have to come up with a guidance note on project procurement strategy for development for public bodies, covering proactive identification of optimal procurement strategies and choosing an appropriate procurement method based on the market situation;
- vi. PPO to initiate action to empower, encourage and build capacity of home-grown credible and independent Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to participate in monitoring procurement process and contract implementation;
- vii. PPO and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) to collaborate to detect cases of fraud and corruption and expedite integration of collusion screening tool / software within the e-PS; and
- viii. Creation of enabling environment to encourage “exercise of discretionary powers” based on ICAC guidance.

Miscellaneous Recommendations still awaiting for implementation

1. Rules on participation;
2. Norms on safekeeping of records, documents and electronic data;
3. Provision for sustainable public procurement (SPP);
4. Definitions, responsibilities and formal powers of procuring entities;
5. Key sectors and sector strategies;
6. Enabling environment for public consultation and monitoring;
7. Direct engagement of civil society; and
8. Stakeholders support to strengthen integrity in procurement.

A blue-tinted tunnel with a bright light source at the end, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The light source is a bright, glowing orb at the far end of the tunnel, casting a long, bright beam of light that illuminates the tunnel's interior. The walls of the tunnel are dark blue, and the floor is also dark blue, with some light reflecting off the surface. The overall atmosphere is serene and futuristic.

**Thank you
for your attention**



Q&A and closing remarks

Nicolás Penagos

Head, MAPS Secretariat




Read the full MAPS Assessment of Mauritius:

<https://bit.ly/MAPS-mauritius>

For more information on MAPS:

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