



Annual Report 2012



REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL TENDER BOARD

MAISON DE MAHE, PO BOX 463, VICTORIA, MAHE, SEYCHELES

NATIONAL TENDER BOARD

Annual Report 2012

Report on the activities of the National Tender Board

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NATIONAL TENDER BOARD

ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION (in alphabetical order)

AG	ATTORNEY GENERAL
DITC	DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION
DOE	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
FTC	FAIR TRADING COMMISSION
MCDYS	MINISTRY OF COM. DEVP, YOUTH & SPORTS
MEEHR	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES
MLUH	MINISTRY OF LAND USE AND HOUSING
MOF	MINISTRY OF FINANCE
MOH	MINISTRY OF HEALTH
NACS	NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL OF SEYCHELLES
NTB	NATIONAL TENDER BOARD
PO	PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
PUC	PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION
SAA	SEYCHELLES AGRICULTURAL AGENCY
SBC	SEYCHELLES BROADCASTING CORPORATION
SCAA	SEYCHELLES CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
SFA	SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY
SFRSA	SEYCHELLES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES AGENCY
SIM	SEYCHELLES INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
SLTA	SEYCHELLES LAND TRANSPORT AGENCY
SSF	SOCIAL SECURITY FUND
STC	SEYCHELLES TRADING COMPANY

NATIONAL TENDER BOARD

Foreword

This fourth Annual Report of the National Tender Board, which is being submitted to the Minister for presentation to the National Assembly, in accordance with Section 31 of the Public Procurement Act 2009, highlights the activities of the Board for the year 2012.

As before, the report reflects the Board's progress and achievements, as well as the constraints encountered, during this year. It also provides detailed results of statistical analyses of the tender proceedings for the year.

The Board continued to focus on ensuring that bidding methods used and conditions guiding the approval of tender awards at its threshold were in line with the fundamental principles of the Public Procurement Act, in particular with regard to competition, value-for-money, transparency, fairness, equity and accountability.

It should be further reiterated that in the absence of statutory requirement for a combined report consolidating the activities of all the approval authorities established under the Act, such as the Procurement Units and Committees, which between them handle the larger proportion of the public procurement, the situation of incomplete public procurement reporting continues to be an impending issue for appropriate action.

The need to address issues relating to failures to abide by the requirements of the Procurement Act for ensuring the proper conduct of tender proceedings is an area where there has not been any remarkable improvement during the year. To date, there is still a lack of clear definition of public organizations which are subject to or exempt from the requirement of the Act. After over four years of the existence of the Procurement Act, the Public Procurement Regulations are yet to be enacted. Annual procurement plans are still not being adequately prepared and / or published for public information and used for better and more transparent and effective procurement proceedings.

All these points mentioned above are discussed further in the report.

May I wish you Happy Reading!


Chairman of the Board

1. Introduction

This is the Annual Report of the National Tender Board for the year 2012, as required under the Public Procurement Act 2008 and the fourth annual report submitted.

The Public Procurement Act, enacted in December 2008, is the law that regulates public procurement of goods and services. It makes provision for three distinct and separate institutional structures to be involved in public procurement. The purpose is to ensure that there are appropriate checks and balances in government procurement. The responsibilities and functions of these institutions are:

- 1) Procuring Entities which identify the needs for goods and services, undertake technical analysis of offers, and recommend particular suppliers/contractors;
- 2) The National Tender Board and other approvals authority which reviews tender evaluations and approve recommendations for contract awards, once all the appropriate procurement process requirements have been met; and
- 3) The Procurement Oversight Unit which has the responsibility to supervise the public procurement process and legal framework;

Within this framework, **the National Tender Board exercises total independence in its decision-making capacity and therefore acts impartially in the discharge of its functions.**

The Board provides a '*gatekeeper*' function in the procurement process, ensuring that public bodies undertake procurement activities in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

2. Board Mission/Function of the Board

The Board's functions are specified under Section 15 (1) of the Public Procurement Act 2008. The role of the Board is to assist the Government to achieve 'value for money', fairness, accountability and transparency in procurement as prescribed in the Act. This is reflected in the Board's Mission Statement, outlined below:

Mission Statement

"To promote the values of integrity, fair competition and good governance in the public procurement system of the country.

This shall be undertaken in a totally transparent manner, promoting equal and fair opportunity for all in the tender processes as well as maximising the economic benefit to the Government".

During 2011, the Board discharged its Mission by:

- Ensuring that procurement was undertaken in accordance with the Public Procurement Act .
- Providing advice to the Procuring Entities, through the Procurement Oversight Unit, with regard to the processes to be used in procurement.

3. Structure of the Board

The Board is an autonomous body, created under Part III of the Public Procurement Act 2008. The Act stipulates that the Board should consist of seven members a Chairman and 6 members (two public employee members and four non-public members). The position of the Chair, like all the Board memberships, is a part-time role.

Composition of the Board

The National Tender Board is composed of the following representatives, as stipulated under the Act:

Flavien Morin - **Chairman**

{ Steve Lalande (Vice-Chairman)
(January 2009 - to March 2012)
Mrs Giovana Neves - Member
(April 2012 – todate) } - **Representative from Non-governmental Organisation (nominated by LUNGOS)**

Hans Aglae (Member) - **Public Officer** -

Yvonia Richardson (Member -
(April 2012 - todate) - **Public Officer**

{ Brijesh Jivan (Member -
(August 2010 - to March 2012)
Germaine Michaud - Vice Chairman
(April 2012 - to date) } - **Representative from Seychelles Chamber of Commerce**

Representatives from Professional Association
Frank Ally - (Bar Association of Seychelles)
Charles Elisabeth - (Engineers Association)

The power to appoint members of the Board is vested in the President under Section 14(1) of the Act (Part III). In pursuance of that, members are appointed for a specific term of three years. However, for the sake of continuity and institutional memory, half of the members will be re-appointed for a further term.

There is the right balance of involvement on the Board; the 7 members represent various sectors (who have the necessary experience and knowledge in either legal, administrative, financial, engineering, scientific or technical matters) as required by the Act.

4. Staffing & Board Operation

The staff of the Board Secretariat comprises of

- a. Chief Executive Officer,
- b. Procurement Analyst
- c. Accounts Technician
- d. Housekeeper

The CEO, an ex-officio member of the Board, is responsible to the Board for –

- the effective management of the day-to-day affairs of the Board so as to implement the strategic goals and objectives of the Board
- planning, organizing and coordinating the work of the Board, in preparation of **the weekly meetings or special Board meetings**, including preparation of briefs, analysis and evaluation of projects being presented before the Board for its review;
- the management of the budget of the National Tender Board;
- recommending appropriate internal procedures for the operations of the Board and ensure compliance with them;
- the supervision of public opening of bids and ensuring that the necessary legal and administrative procedures are adhered to;
- ensuring that the provisions of the Public Procurement Act as they relate to the National Tender Board are complied with in full;
- making necessary recommendations to the Procurement Oversight Unit on the formulation/amendment of regulations, circulars and directives necessary for the implementation of the Act.

5. Budget

Section 31(2) of the Public Procurement Act 2008, requires the Board to prepare a report on its activities. In view of the fact that the Board is budget dependent and processes all financial transactions through the treasury single account system, has no debtors and creditors and follows a cash basis accounting system as prescribed by the financial instructions, the management has, however found it impractical to prepare a complete set of financial statements and decided only to prepare a statement of expenditure. The Board received an allocation of SR2.4M from the 2012 budget, as approved by the National Assembly. The budget was executed in compliance with the Ministry of Finance and taking into account the activities earmarked for the year for the Board's good performance. The Board follows an accounting system in compliance to the Ministry of Finance Instructions. Funds were allocated on a monthly cash flow basis. All payment for the expenditure incurred were processed through the Treasury Department.

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Out of a budget of SR2.438(000), SR2.427(000) were spent. The certified accounts at *Appendix 4* together with the Auditor's Certificate illustrate the situation as of 31 December 2012.

6. Extent of Board Authority

Under the Public Procurement Act 2008, the Board has the authority to approve the award of tenders wherever the estimated value exceeds the thresholds of other approvals authority.

Projects falling under a lower threshold are dealt with by either the Procurement Committees or the respective Procuring Entities, as follows:

Type of procurement	Procuring Entities	Procurement Committees	National Tender Board
Goods & Services	up to SR100,000	SR100,000+ to SR500,000	Above SR500,000
Civil Works	up to SR150,000	SR150,000+ to SR750,000	Above R750,000
Consultancy	up to SR50,000	SR50,000+ to SR150,000	Above SR150,000

The Board reviews tenders for any public procurement after the evaluation by the respective Evaluation Committees and ensures that the tenders awarded are the **most responsive to the requirements of the bidding documents and provisions of the Act.**

The Board has power under the Act to -

- call for information or documents it may need from any public body
- examine such records or other documents and take copies of extracts from them
- summon witnesses
- commission any studies relevant to the determination of an award of a major contract
- request any professional or technical assistance from any appropriate person in Seychelles or elsewhere; and
- do such act and things incidental or conducive to the exercise of its powers.

7. Board's Responsibility & Commitments

The Board ensures that a full, fair and open competition has been conducted for any bid and that the decision for the award of contract is based on objective criteria clearly stated to tenderers in the original procurement documentation. Such process must be able to stand up to any audit, public scrutiny or any challenge with regard to any anti-competitive practice. In other

words, the Board should ensure that the decisions it takes are legally and ethically sound and compliant with the Public Procurement Act and Regulations.

The 2012 Annual Report summarises Public Sectors' procurement spent and contract awards approved by the National Tender Board during the period January to December 2012. Statistical data is presented covering areas of bid opening v/s contract awards (the number and estimated value of contracts awarded).

8. Bid Opening

During the period of January to December 2012, 636 **tenders** were publicly opened at the National Tender Board Secretariat and a total of **3718 bids** were received. A register of the bids received was kept, with details of date and time received, signature of the one delivering the bid and the recipient at the National Tender Board Secretariat.

Immediately after closure of the tender box, the tenders were opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives, representative(s) from the respective procuring entities and representatives from the National Tender Board. The panel ensured that no bid was accepted after the closing time had been announced. Bids brought in after closure were returned to the bidders unopened. Minutes were recorded and bidders were provided with a copy of the minutes showing the details and price of each bid received, as called out at the bid opening sessions. This process has brought greater level of openness, transparency, accountability and confidence in the bid opening process.

a) Community Projects

During the year the Secretariat assisted with the opening of small community tenders, although those projects did not necessarily fall under the threshold of the Board, but for the sake of transparency, the tenders were opened at the National Tender Board Secretariat, Maison de Mahe. The opening sessions for those small projects lasted from one hour to four hours.

A total of 2490 bids were received for 636 projects:

- **612 small projects (2272 bids)** for Department of Community Development
- **24 small projects (213 bids)** for cleaning of housing estates for Housing Finance Company.

Although the Board's Secretariat comprises a very few staff, it has however, been able to handle the increasing high volume of bids and bid related matters because of their open communication, prompt interaction and a good recording and retrieval system. The Board will continue to enhance the transparency while accelerating operations and facilitating communication between the Board and stakeholders, making information more accessible via Tender Board website on the internet.

The information on the small community projects advertised are also displayed at the Information Centre for information of interested bidders, who may have missed out on the advert in the national newspaper.

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Figures 1 to 4 below provide statistics of the bids opened, broken down by procuring entities, procurement types, bidding methods used and number of bidders:

b) Bid Opening Statistics

Tenders opened – broken down by Bidding Methods & Procurement Entities

Org	Tender	Bid	Goods	Services	Works	Consultancies	Lease
DCD	420	2272			612		
DCD&S	24	189			24		
DICT	1	1	1				
DOE	35	242	1	14	20		
DRDM	1	3			1		
HFC	24	213		24			
ICCS	1	3			1		
Judiciary	1	2	1				
LWMA	3	19		3			
MFA	2	6	1				
MLUH	29	186	1		26		2
MOE	15	76	5	2	8		
MOF	1	2		1			
MOH	1	6	1				
Nat. Bot. Garden Foundation	1	6			1		
Archives	2	14	1	1			
Police	2	5			2		
PUC	24	158	10	2	8	4	
SAA	1	8			3		
SCCA	2	12					
SFA	5	22	3		2		
SFRSA	3	13			3		
SHF	3	15					3
SIBA	1	4			1		
SLTA	26	202	1		25		
SPA	1	5			1		
SPTC	1	11			1		
SRC	1	3	1				
SSF	1	7			1		

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STB	4	13	4				
TOTAL	636	3718	31	47	740	4	5

figure 1.1

Bid opening by Procuring Entity/no. of tenders/bids & types

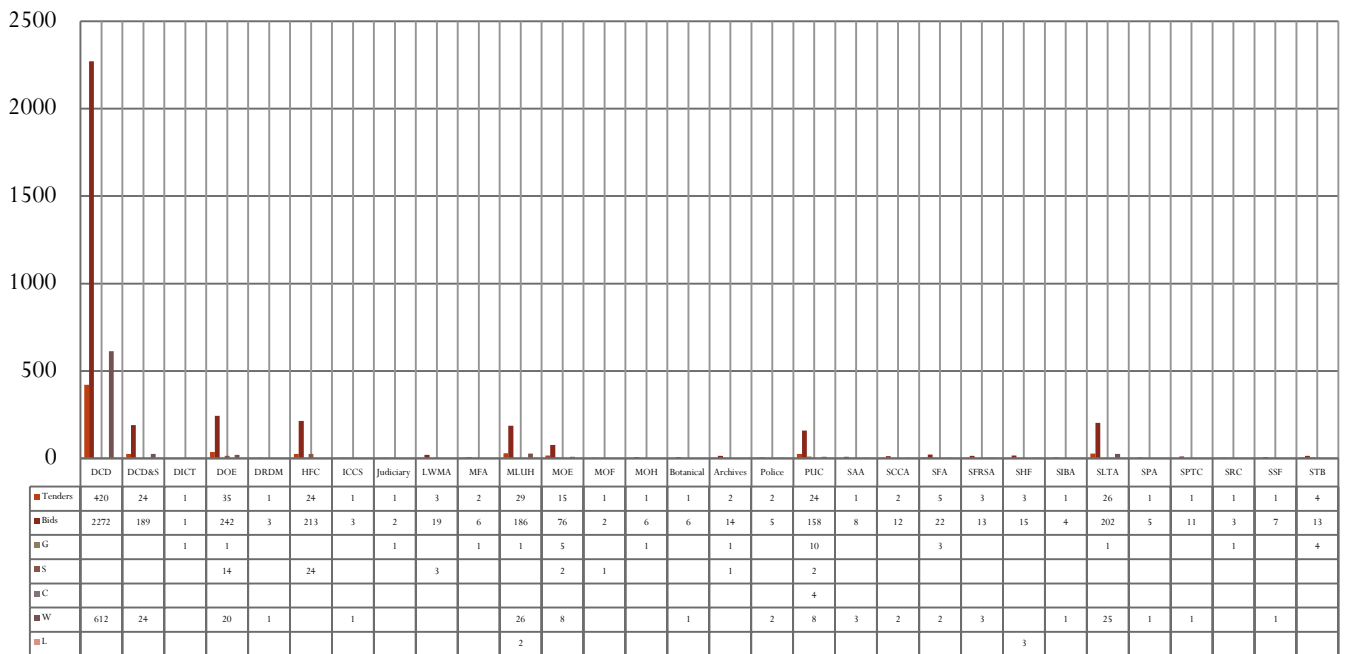


figure 1.2

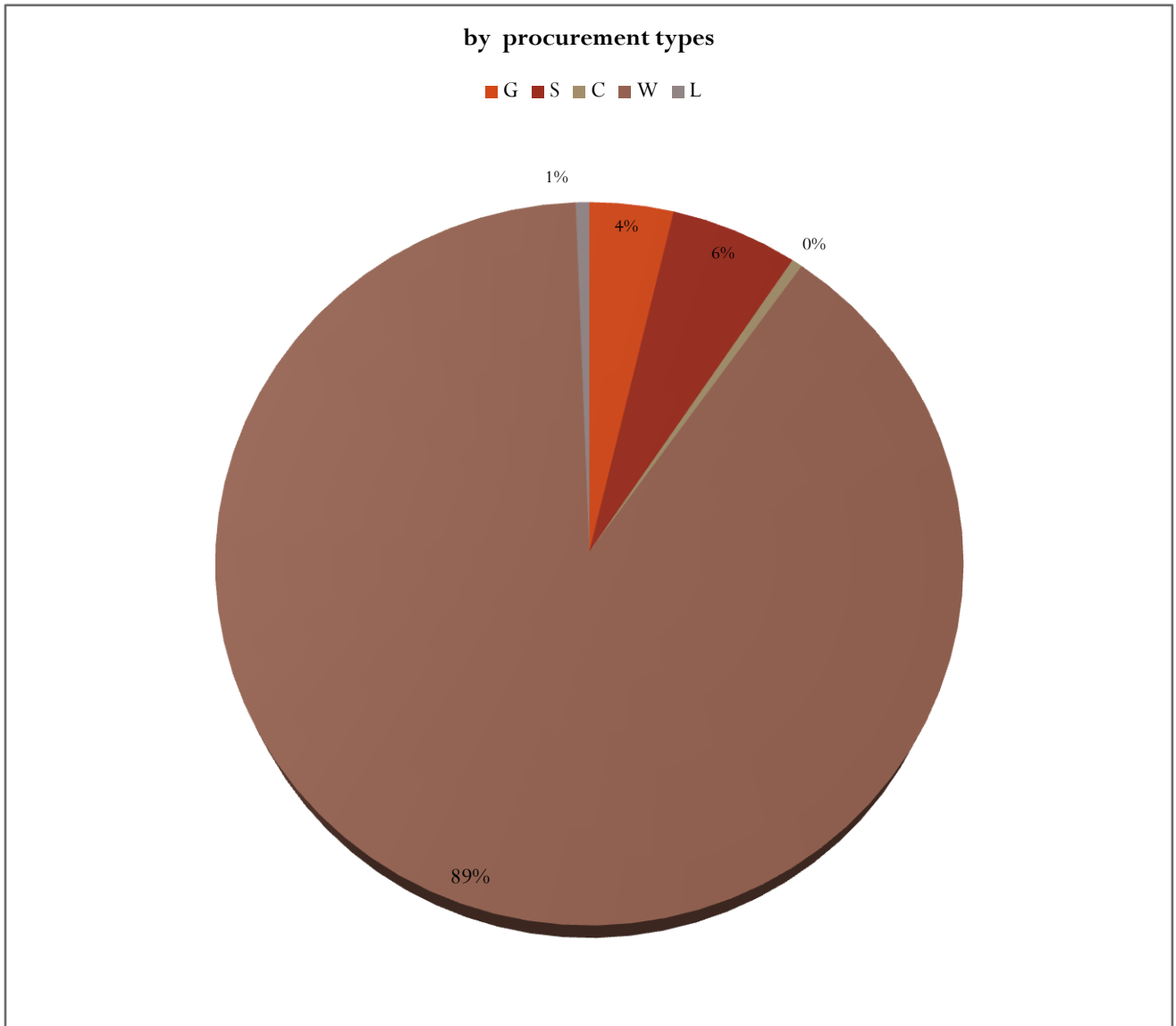


figure 2

by bidding methods

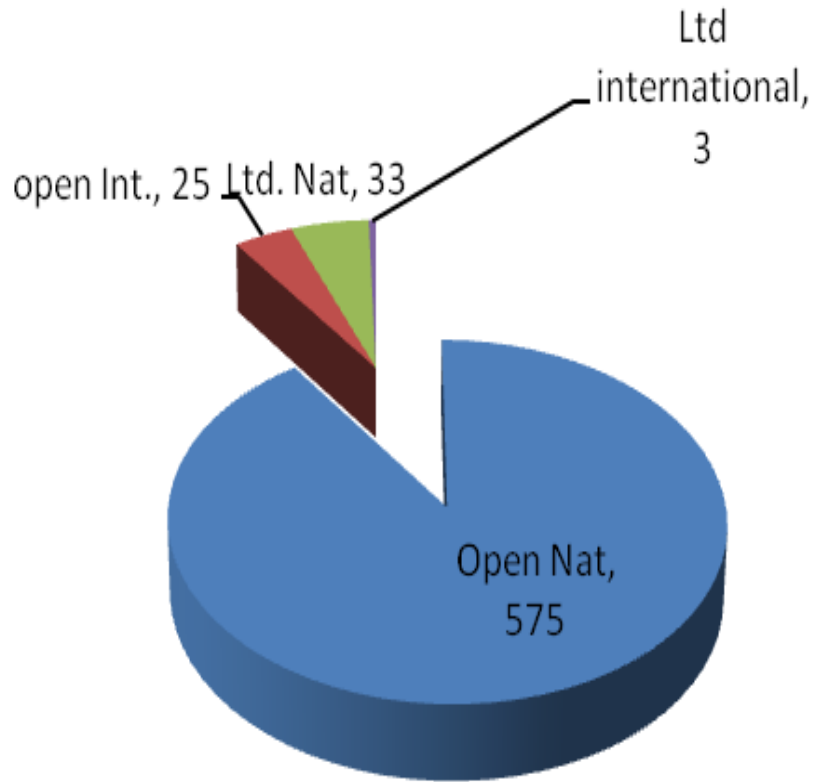


figure 3

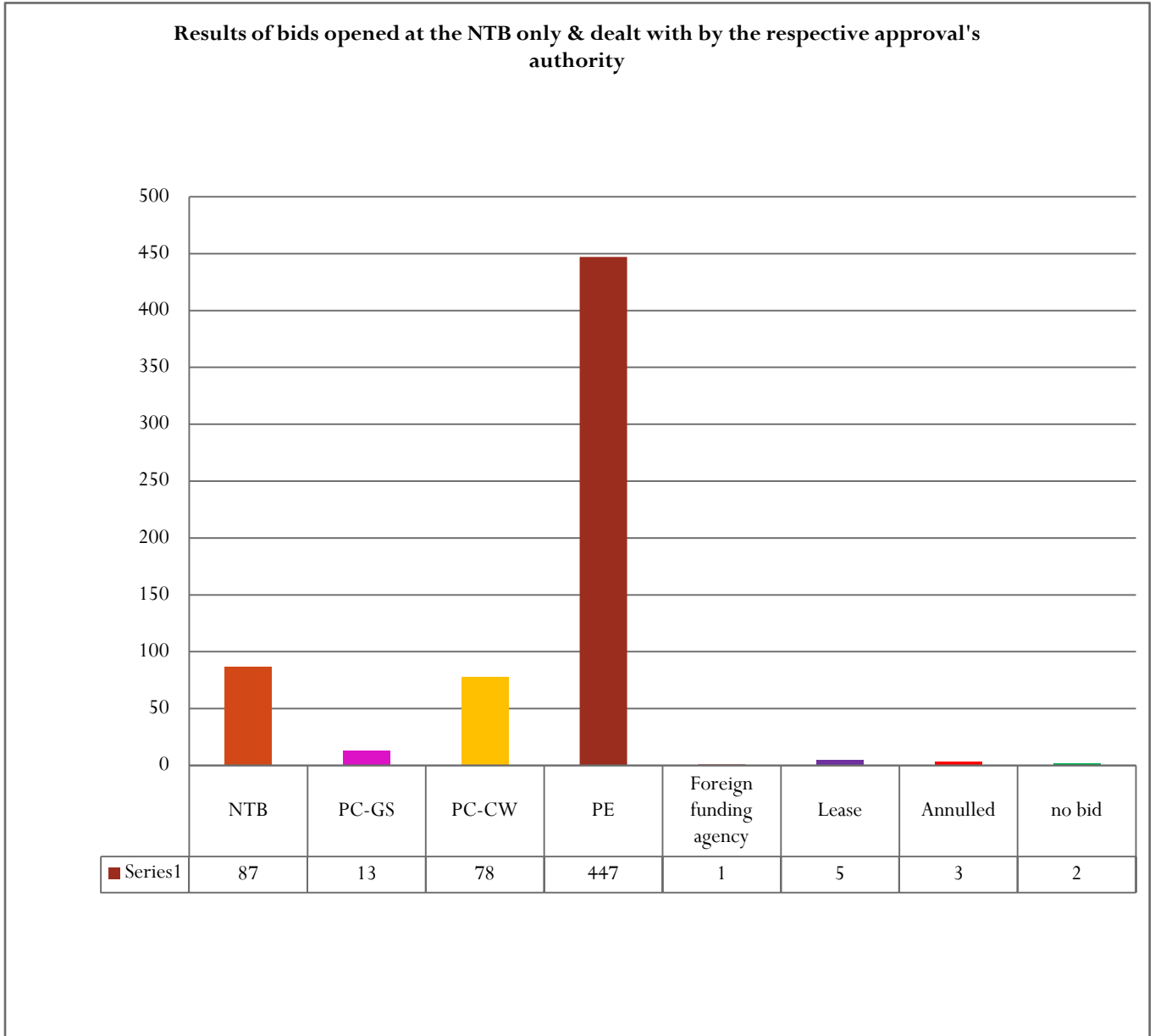


Figure 4

Acronym: NTB - National Tender Board PC-GS Procurement Committee for Goods & Services *
 PC-CW Procurement Committee for Civil Works PE – Procuring Entity

9. Board Meetings

In view of the importance that the Board places on avoiding delays in tendering procedures and to ensure maximum expediency, the Board held uninterrupted weekly meetings to review and discuss matters and procedures related to the government tenders and to ensure that sound decisions are reached. In all, 50 regular meetings were held and two special meetings to take up urgent matters.

The Board has continued the approach it first adopted since 2009 of inviting representatives from the respective organisations to attend the meetings to present their proposals and address any questions raised by Board members. The Board has seen improvement in the quality of proposals when following this participative approach.

The Board also discussed various related policy issues, guidelines & concerns, with a view to improving the procurement process e.g.

- Debarment of bidders
- fairness and equity required in the tender evaluation process and consistency in the analysis
- maximizing competition
- reiterating the need for planned procurement by the Procuring Entities;
- termination of /cancellation of procurement proceedings to be avoided
- clear evaluation processes

On the basis of the deliberations which took place, the Board adopted a number of resolutions that constituted as a whole, a set of established principles.

It has witnessed an increase in projects being presented to the Board, making its weekly meetings even more crucial. The growing interest in government projects amongst suppliers and contractors is attributed to their confidence in the Board's integrity to award the tenders to the most technically qualified bidders with the lowest price; the bidders value the impartiality and the opportunities available.

In view of the developments in our procurement system, as well as the increasing number of civil work projects that are being presented to the Board, there emerged a need to have someone with technical expertise in the construction area, so as to provide the Board with an independent view of the recommendations being submitted, to ensure that value for money is achieved through that procurement.

10. Projects before the Board

The projects presented were either approved, deferred or rejected. Of the **355** matters *presented* to the Board - **190 projects were approved**, **134** were deferred, **31** rejected. The awards of contract for the projects approved by the Board were from tenders opened at both at the National Tender Board Secretariat + others opened at the respective Procuring Entities. Some **155 Suppliers/Contractors** were beneficiaries of these contract awards, to include tenders broken down into Lots.

11. Value of Contracts Awarded

The total value of contract awards approved by the Board in 2012 amounted to **SR433,084,537.66**.

for works, goods/services and consultancy broken down as per statistics in figure below (*more details in Appendix*). This amount represents 21% of the total SR2.070 Billion of the actual expenditure budgeted allocation. The balance of 79% is in respect of procurement dealt with by the different independent Procurement Committees and internal Committees within the Procuring Entities.

Budget 2012:	SR 2,283,536,083.00
Actual Expenditure 2012:	SR 2,069,981,665.10

The top 10 suppliers/contractors accounted for SR247.3M of the total value of contract awards of **SR433M** or **57.24%** approved by the Board in 2012; this represents 27.5% in terms of the total number of 190 contracts awarded.

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Top 10 Suppliers/Contractors

54,181,136.32	Qing Jian		50,375,222.00	Vijay Const
42,244,922.81	Ascent Projects		38,134,030.57	Allied Builders
17,579,963.99	Furui		13,050,065.00	Andrew Mentis Pty Ltd (South Africa)
11,087,579.32	UCPS		7,460,700.00	PMC Auto
6,840,000.00	Abhaye Valabji		6,375,290.73	Ducray Lenoir Int. Ltd. Mauritius
	Total	247,313,540.01		

figure 5

(see details of the contract awards approved for these 10 Contractors, as per list which follows:)

Top 10 Suppliers/Contractors

Qing Jian International (Sey) Group Co. Ltd.

Construction of Fish Processing Factories at Providence Zone 6	Seychelles Fishing Authority	32,661,711.70	
Construction of New Fire and Rescue Substation on Praslin	Seychelles Fire & Rescue Services Agency	21,519,424.62	54,181,136.32

Ascent Projects

Renovation Work on Pointe Larue Secondary School	Department of Education	1,632,264.00	
Coastal Rehabilitation – Anse la Mouche (Contract Variation)	Environment Department	212,000.00	
Extension of Check-in Counter and Departure Lounge International Airport	Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority	1,818,607.56	
Anse la Mouche Coastal Rehabilitation Project – Contract Variation	Environment Department	625,360.00	
Provision of Utilities on the Perseverane Island – Commercial Zones (Civil 06)	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	29,363,059.60	
Construction of Soil Diagnostic Laboratory	Seychelles Agricultural Agency	3,581,612.00	
Renovation of Block B at Beau Vallon Secondary School	Ministry of Education	1,153,908.75	
Replacement of Asbestos on STC's Warehouses	Seychelles Trading Company	3,858,110.90	42,244,922.81

Allied Builders Sey Pty Ltd

Renovation of Le Chantier Mall	Social Security Fund	6,840,534.00	
Completion of 36 Units Housing Project at Ile Perseverance	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	16,898,693.23	
Extension of Cargo Terminal and Custom Building – International Airport	Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority	12,444,803.66	
Completion of Four Units at North East Point	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	1,949,999.68	38,134,030.57

Furui Construction

Construction of 3-bedroom House & Retaining Wall at Majoie	Ministry of Land Use and Housing	999,081.50	
Construction of Football Field Housing Project (8x3) Bedroom Houses – La Digue	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	7,999,149.00	
Construction of New Fire Station at La Digue	Seychelles Fire & Rescue Services Agency	4,606,368.61	
Construction of 3-Bedroom House at Majoie — Contract Variations	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	273,898.00	
Construction of Access Road at Mare Anglaise	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	1,864,395.00	
Construction of Supermarket on Ile Perseverance	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	1,621,172.00	

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Road Construction at Mare Anglaise – Contract Variations	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	142,850.00	
Construction of 3-Bedroom House at Majoie – Contract Variation	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	73,120.88	17,579,963.99

Andrew Mentis Pty Ltd (South Africa)

Steel Gratings for Roadside Drains – Provision of Infrastructure Ile Perseverance	Ministry of Land Use & Housing	13,050,065.00	
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United Concrete Products Sey Ltd

33kv South Mahe Project (Phase I) – Contract Variations	Public Utilities Corporation	607,932.37	
Stormwater Channel Project at Au Cap	Environment Department	1,603,134.50	
Road Protection Work at North East Point	Seychelles Land Transport Agency	1,532,890.00	
Groyne and Beach Nourishment Project at La Passe La Digue	Environment Department	1,153,650.00	
Proposed Reclamation for PUC at Bel Ombre	Public Utilities Corporation	2,273,920.95	
33kV South Mahe Water Project	Public Utilities Corporation	3,916,051.50	11,087,579.32

PMC Auto

Procurement of Vehicle x 2	Seychelles Agricultural Agency	627,500.00	
Procurement of Vehicle x 8	President's Office	5,943,200.00	
Procurement of Vehicle	Seychelles Vessel Protection Detachment Unit	513,000.00	
Procurement of Vehicle x 2	Seychelles Vessel Protection Detachment Unit	377,000.00	7,460,700.00

Abhaye Valabhji

Procurement of Vehicle (30-Seater Bus)	National Sports Council	1,495,000.00	
Procurement of Vehicle	Department of Information Technology Communication	585,000.00	
Procurement of Vehicle	Ministry of Finance, Trade and Investment	575,000.00	
Procurement of Vehicle	Seychelles National Youth Council	575,000.00	
Procurement of Vehicle for the President Court of Appeal	Judiciary Department	1,300,000.00	
Procurement of Vehicle x 2	Seychelles Land Transport Agency	1,150,000.00	
Procurement of Vehicle x 3	Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation	585,000.00	
Procurement of Vehicle	Planning Authority	575,000.00	6,840,000.00

Ducray Lenoir Int. Ltd (Mauritius)

Procurement of Standby Diesel Electric Generator - 1 x 100KVA; 2 X 200KVA & 2 X 600KVA	Ministry of Health	4,657,838.23	
Procurement of Steam Sterilizers	Ministry of Health	1,717,452.50	6,375,290.73

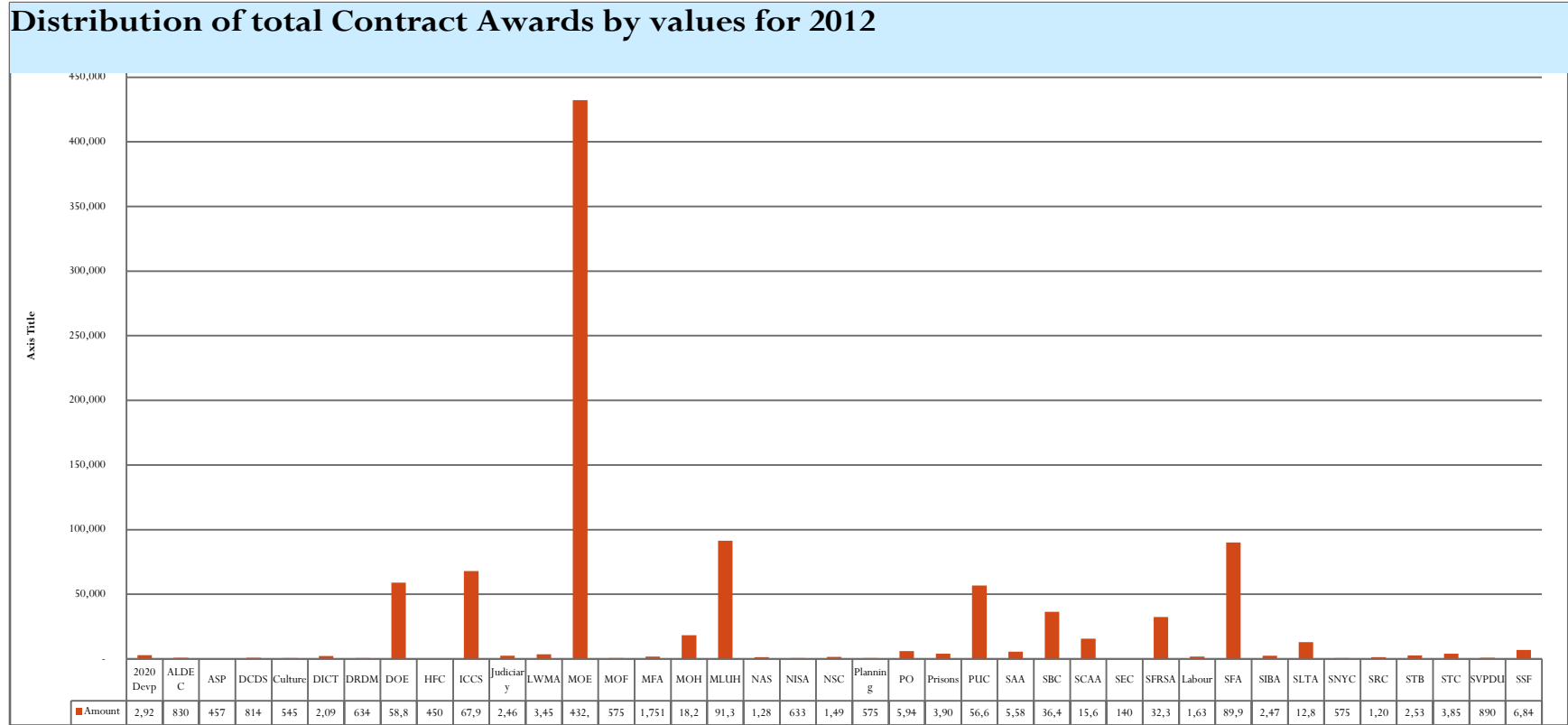


figure 5.1

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Distribution of total Contract Awards by values for 2012 as compared to 2009, 2010 & 2011 figures

	2012	2011	2010	2009		2012	2011	2010	2009
AG	0	0	1,812,000	0	Planning Authority	575,000.00	0	0	0
ALDEC	829,983.00	0	0	0	PO	5,943,200.00	3,250,395.00	3,890,000	1,232,000
Coetivy	0	0	0	943,261	POLICE		839,657.96	0	0
DICT	2,093,182.60	4,270,247.00	2,541,487	3,262,208	PRISONS	3,900,000.00	0	0	0
D O Culture	545,000.00	1,836,336.31	0	0	PUC	56,682,412.0 2	264,570,348.0 1	40,171,759	23,791,11 4
DOCD	813,931.00	1,451,787.00	6,135,653	1,033,168	SAA	5,582,273.33	1,087,750.00	0	9,024,811
DOE	5,887,704.50	2,741,927.75	12,577,288	38,299,142	SBC	3,640,455.47	2,077,701.84	6,143,516	0
Dept. of Labour	1,632,754.48	0	0	0	SCAA	15,672,808.7 2	24,649,573.48	953,720	0
DRDM	663,386.25	0	0	0	SEC	140,000	906,736.80	0	0
DYS (Y & Sports)	1,495,000.00	6,287,353.00	0	0	SEPEC		0	0	21,145,31 1
FTC	0	0	700,000	0	SNYC	575,000.00	0	0	0
HFC	450,000.00	0	0	0	SIBA	2,471,983.86	0	0	0
ICCS	6,793,696.74	0	0	0	SFA	89,917,877.0 7	13,663,786.08	19,843,462	502,067
Internal Affairs	0	540,000.00	0	0	SFRSA	32,303,576.1 5	7,109,820.51	0	0
Judiciary	2,460,000.00	2,361,370.00	762,500	0	SIB	0	447,680.00	0	0
LWMA	3,455,850.00	2,731,128.00	0	4,355,698	SIM	0	0	1,817,104	0
MFA	1,751,442.00	0	0	0	SLTA	12,814,441.6 3	31,678,536.59	7,959,872	1,904,755
MLUH	91,376,795.02	45,465,761.87	201,208,757	106,855,98 7	SRC	1,205,938.82	1,218,000.00	0	0
MOE	43,226,719.10	24,475,300.45	11,435,027	12,738,113	SSF	7,297,378.50	0	10,588,549	1,872,459
MOF	575,000.00	0	2,957,507	0	STA		1,280,890.00	0	0
MOH	18,212,404.41	19,347,154.82	55,179,912	0	STB	2,539,000.00	0	0	0
NACS	0	0	514,680	0	STC	3,858,110.90	2,311,371.94	2,617,304	
NISA	632,844.07	548,550.78	0	0	Sey. Vessel Prot.	890,000.00	0	0	0
2020 Devlpmt	2,925,300.00	0	0	0					
Nat. Assbly	1,283,088.00	0	0	0					
				c/f	TOTAL	433,084,537. 66	467,149,065.1 9	389,810,09 6	200,592,2 41

figure 5.2

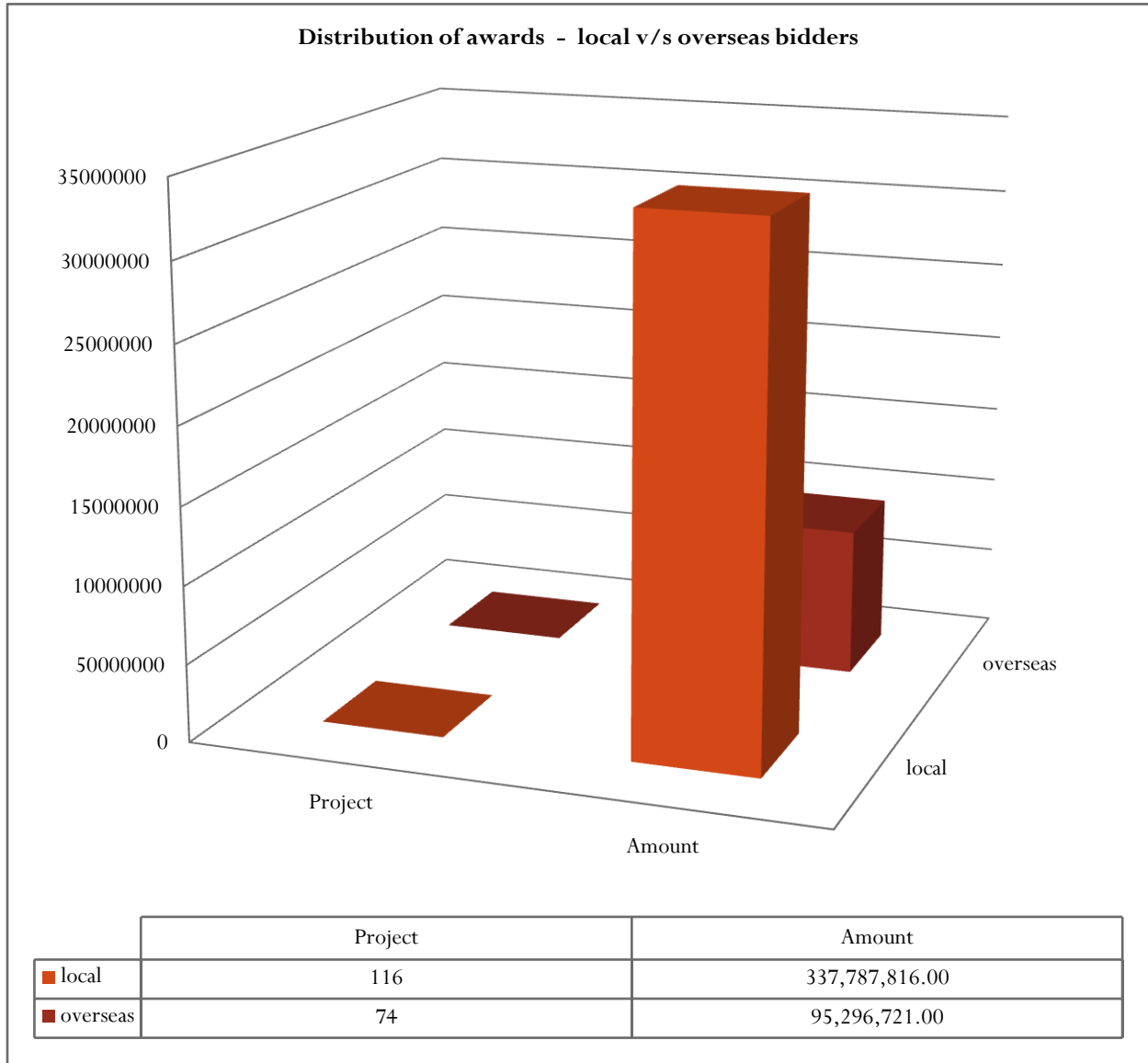


Figure 6

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12. Projects tendered out in Lots

Award of contracts for a total number of 10 tenders, broken down in a total of 112 Lots were approved by the Board to 55 bidders. Results of Projects tendered out by Lots are as follows:

Projects	Proc. Entity			Bidders	Distribution of lots by bidders
		Lots	Amount	awarded	
Outsourcing of Tree Clearance on Overhead Lines	PUC	10	780,575.00	6	2 X 3
					4 x 1
Cleaning & Ground Maintenance	MOE	28	13,470,324.00	18	10 x 2
					8 x 1
Security Services in Educational Institution	MOE	44	14,711,188.35	13	1 x 5
					6 X 4
					4 X 3
					1 X 2
					1 X 1
Tree Clearance in vicinity of 33kV	PUC	8	28,962,087.35	4	4 X 2
<i>Projects tendered out in Lots (cont'd)</i>					
Supply of Chemicals for use in drinking water	PUC	3	1,547,833.52	1	1 X 2
					1 x 1
Conversion of Classroom into TVET Rooms - Lot 3 – Belonie Sec. School	MOE	7	849,889.00	4	3 X 2
					1 x 1
Installation of Doors & Windows Shutters @ Cascade School	MOE	2	1,666,105.00	2	2 X 1
Procurement of Stationery	MOE	6	2,328,241.00	4	2 X 2
					2 X 1
Beach Cleaning Services on La Digue	LWMA	2	404,430.00	2	2 X 1
Procurement of Textbooks and Equipment for Primary and Secondary Schools - Lot 1	MOE	2	2,728,515.00	1	1 X 2
TOTAL		112	38,487,100.87	55	

figure 7

Value of these projects by Lots amounted to a total sum of **SR38,487,100.87**, representing 8.89% of the total amount of contract awards approved.

13. Visits from International Bodies

(a) During the year, the Board received the visits of representatives from the following international bodies to monitor and assess the procurement system in Seychelles, as had been the case in the two previous years:

- World Bank
- IMF
- African Development Bank
- EU
- COMESA

(b) **COMESA Study Tour by COMESA Team**

A team from COMESA was in Seychelles for a benchmarking study-tour on the Seychelles Public Procurement system and procedures to include the Bid Protest Mechanism. During their visit, they called on the National Tender Board as well as other relevant bodies dealing public procurement.

14. Challenges and Concerns

The Board continues to focus on the following key procurement issues:

- emphasizing and reiterating the importance of effective project planning to facilitate the timely consideration of proposals.
- promoting greater understanding of risks in procurements and encouraging ongoing risk assessments throughout the life of projects;
- promoting the importance of appropriate evaluation criteria and rigorous assessment of tenderers' capacity to deliver value for money;
- encouraging agencies to appreciate the importance of risk and contract management to achieving value for money; and

15. Conclusion

Analysis of performance

The Board is satisfied that it has delivered against its purpose and functional responsibilities under the Act. The Board is steadfastly committed to protecting public funds to prevent the influence of personal interests, while achieving economic efficiency, ensuring fair treatment and equal opportunity amongst all suppliers and contractors, and above all, to achieve total transparency in all aspects of government procurement procedures.

As we know, a poor procurement system results in higher costs to government and the public; as well as delaying project implementation which further increases costs, leads to poor project performance and delays the delivery of benefits to the beneficiaries. A poor procurement system, not only increases scope for corruption, it also generate more complaints and raise concerns about the integrity of the procurement process, and discourage good businesses from participating in bidding and so deprive the government from receiving better prices for goods, works and services of better quality.

The Seychelles Public Procurement system is moving towards a market-driven system based on internationally accepted and best practices and based on the following basic principles: Maximising economy and efficiency; Promoting competition with equitable treatment of all suppliers and contractors; Transparency in procedures; Accountability and minimising opportunities for corruption and collusive activities. In other words, “a transparent, competitive, efficient and accountable procurement system” to better manage public finances and more importantly, to obtain value money for Government spending.

16. Acknowledgement

The Board would like to thank all past Board members for their commitment and their invaluable contribution toward achieving the Board’s objectives, in order to ensure that Procuring Entities maintain a high standard of procurement practices in the public sector.

Besides, the Board would like to also thank the staff of the National Tender Board Secretariat for their professionalism, support and commitment displayed in the fulfillment of their duties.

Sincere thanks also to the Procurement Oversight Unit, the Review Panel and all partners in the development of the Seychelles Public Procurement process, for their collaboration and support throughout the year, without which the achievement of the Board meeting its objectives would have not been possible.

The Board looks forward to continuing its contribution to the public procurement practices delivering value to the Government.

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