



Central Tenders Committee (CTC)



26 November 2012

Principles governing public procurement

This document outlines the principles which underpin procurement in the public sector. These principles are foundational for the policies, procedures, guidance and decisions of the Central Tenders Committee. The twelve principles governing public procurement are:

1. **Accountability:** effective mechanisms must be in place in order to enable Chief Officers and their equivalents in other public sector entities to discharge their personal responsibility on issues of procurement risk and expenditure.
2. **Competitive Supply:** procurement should be carried out by competition unless there are convincing reasons to the contrary.
3. **Consistency:** suppliers should, all other things being equal, be able to expect the same general procurement policy across the public sector.
4. **Effectiveness:** public sector entities should maximise the contribution to the commercial, regulatory and socio-economic goals of government in a balanced manner appropriate to the procurement requirement.
5. **Value for Money:** the procurement processes should be carried out to achieve the most advantageous combination of cost, quality and sustainability over the life cycle of the project.
6. **Fair-dealing:** suppliers should be treated fairly and without unfair discrimination, including protection of commercial confidentiality where required. Public sector entities should not impose unnecessary burdens or constraints on suppliers or potential suppliers.
7. **Integration:** procurement policy should pay due regard to its impact on the Cabinet's

other economic and social policies, rather than cut across them.

8. **Integrity:** there should be no corruption or collusion with suppliers or others.
9. **Informed decision-making:** public sector entities need to base decisions on accurate information and monitor requirements to ensure that they are being met.
10. **Legality:** public sector entities must conform to legal requirements.
11. **Responsiveness:** public sector entities should endeavour to meet the aspirations, expectations and needs of the community served by the procurement.
12. **Transparency:** public sector entities should ensure that there is openness and clarity on procurement policy and its delivery.