NAO's Perspective on Public Procurement



WHY IS PUBLIC PROCUREMENT A HIGH RISK AREA?

- Amounts involved
- Direct orders rather than following the PPR process
- Complexities related to the PPR process
- Numerous sectors and stakeholders involved
- Interaction and close contact between the public officers and private parties
 - Risk of corruption and fraud
- All above factors impinge on Good Governance



REPORTS UNDER REVIEW

- An evaluation of performance audits in the public sector: Common audit findings (2017 – 2020) (June 2022)
- REPORT BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS 2021 (Dec 2022)





AN EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE AUDITS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR: COMMON AUDIT FINDINGS (2017 – 2020) (JUNE 2022)

Inadequate and/or crude strategic planning	23
Inadequate marketing and /or marketing research	4
Services procured directly from the open market rather than through a public call for quotations or tenders	5
Weak negotiation stance	6
Absence of formal agreements to regulate a number of contractual services	5
Contract and/or Agreement in place does not appropriately safeguard Government's and/or stakeholders' interests	28
Unbalanced Partnership	2

AR 2021: MAJOR CONCERNS

SOURCING STAGE

- Lack of strategic planning
- Fragmented procurement to bypass regulations
- Quotations obtained directly from selected suppliers rather than through a public call for quotations
- Direct contracts without obtaining the necessary approvals
- Planned budget and amounts committed exceeded
- Numerous variations
- Contracts renewed which renewal is not covered by the original tender
- Valid performance guarantees not in place or not covering the required amount

AR 2021: MAJOR CONCERNS

PAYMENT STAGE

- Lack of adequate audit trail
- Non-compliance with VAT fiscal requirements
- Incomplete or untimely bill of quantities
- Payments of unverified works
- Unauthorised payments

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS





Mr. CHARLES DEGUARA, AUDITOR GENERAL NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

email: nao@gov.mt