



**ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT AND ASSET DISPOSAL BOARD (PPADB)**

BRIDGET POPPY JOHN

**AT THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN BOTSWANA ACCOUNTANCY COLLEGE AND PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT & ASSET DISPOSAL BOARD.**

**BAC ACADEMIC WING, ROOM 3
GABORONE**

14TH JULY 2014

- Master of Ceremonies,
- Executive Director and staff of the Botswana Accountancy College
- Senior Government officials
- Colleagues from PPADB
- The Media,

1. Good morning.

2. It is my privilege to address you this morning on the occasion of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Botswana Accountancy College [BAC] and Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board [PPADB] and the launching of the Certificate Programme on Public Procurement.

3. Our two Institutions, PPADB and BAC, are entering into a strategic relationship to create a more formal approach to capacity building of procurement personnel throughout the public sector as a step towards the professionalisation of procurement within the country.

4. Master of Ceremonies, the Public Procurement & Asset Disposal Board recently launched its five year Strategic Plan covering the

period 2013/2014 to 2017/2018. The overall intent of the strategy is to see the organisation transforming into a regulatory authority by 2018, where the adjudication and award of tenders will be hived off to Procuring Entities (PEs) in order to enhance accountability and efficiency in the procurement system as well as separate implementation and oversight for improved governance.

During the five year period PPADB will intensify its support by strengthening capacity building of Ministerial Tender Committees (MTCs), District Administration Tender Committees (DATCs) and PEs in terms of procurement skills to enable them to execute the devolved mandate competently.

5. Ladies and Gentlemen, the journey to build the capacity of MTCs, DATCs, PEs as well as the contracting community started as early as 2007 when the Board collaborated with the European Union who assisted PPADB with a Technical Advisor to, among others, formulate a National Procurement Training Master Plan and develop a Procurement Operations Manual for Botswana that

officers tasked with procurement can use for reference. The Manual has recently been updated by PPADB to include aspects of disposal, among others, and can be found in the PPADB website.

Further, in 2010 the US Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Supply Chain Management System (SCMS) assisted PPADB financially, and engaged Crown Agents of the UK to develop twenty five training modules for key stakeholders in procurement. These are the training modules that PPADB is currently using in its capacity building workshops.

In addition to the development of the training modules, PPADB Specialists were trained to be trainers in public procurement. To date there are 16 PPADB Specialists fully accredited by the Botswana Qualification Authority as procurement trainers, and a further 15 that recently attended the Training of Trainers course and await accreditation. The specialists' role is to continuously

undertake targeted training for both public officers and the contracting community on a need basis.

6. Master of Ceremonies, over the past few years, PPADB has been running two to three day capacity building workshops for Procuring Entities [PEs] to enable them to conduct their procurement in accordance with the requirements of the PPAD Act and Regulations. As of June 2014, the Board had conducted 226 workshops during which 7583 individuals were taken through fundamentals of public procurement and asset disposal.

Whilst these workshops have proven useful, the initiative has not yielded the desired results due to various challenges including the absence of dedicated procurement officers across Government, although the situation is gradually improving.

The short duration of training has also not been sufficient to firmly ground trainees in public procurement. As a result, there has been a lot of back and forth between PPADB and Ministries in progressing procurement activities resulting in delayed services.

7. Master of Ceremonies, in a bid to address this dire need, PPADB identified a few local training institutions, including the Botswana Accountancy College (BAC), requesting them to consider introducing local content in their procurement training programs. I must say we were impressed by the responsiveness of BAC as they acceded to the request by the Board and expeditiously developed a Certificate Program in Public Sector Procurement and Tender Management which will fill the existing gap and impact positively on the quality of procurement and timely delivery of goods and services in the public sector.
8. Today as we sign this Memorandum of Understanding, BAC and PPADB commit to the up-skilling of public service employees in public procurement and asset disposal. When we succeed in this endeavor, the benefits will include the successful execution of the procurement function and contract management across Government.

This move will also facilitate devolution and allow PPADB space to provide oversight.

9. Master of Ceremonies, let me conclude by indicating that PPADB is pleased to enter into partnership with BAC as we see this as a step forward in professionalising public procurement.

I therefore call on all Ministries, Parastatals and other entities conducting public procurement to make use of this training opportunity and up skill their officers starting August 2014. Tuition is very reasonable at P6,500.00 per officer, and the mode of training is flexible to suit part-time trainees.

10. I thank you.