



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA Ministry  
of Finance**

***LAUCH STATEMENT***

*On the*

**THE SIGNING OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND LAUNCH OF  
PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES**

***Ipumbu Shiimi, MP***

***Minister of Finance***

*Check against delivery*

***04 March 2021***

*Director of ceremonies, Ms Emilia Salomo*  
*Dr Eroid Naomab, Vice Chancellor, NUST*  
*Prof Kenneth Matengu, Vice Chancellor, UNAM*  
*Ms. Ericah Shafudah, Executive Director, Ministry of Finance*  
*Ms. Maria Nangolo, Executive Director, NIPAM*  
*Prof. Harold Campbell, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, NUST*  
*Mr. Francois Brand, Head of Procurement Policy Unit, Ministry of Finance*  
*All the Consortium Steering Committee Members,*  
*Staff Members from all the four institutions,*  
*Members of the Media,*  
*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Good morning.

1. It is a great honour for me to officiate at this distinct occasion, marking the launch of the Procurement Management Program on the academic and training calendars of NUST, UNAM and NIPAM; and the signing of the Cooperation Agreement thereof.
2. I wish to most sincerely thank the governing Councils and management of the three institutions for responding favourably, and timeously, to the request by the Ministry of Finance for a designate curriculum and an accredited training program on public procurement management.
3. The objective of the Cooperation Agreement we are entering into today is to respond to the capacity development and training needs in the public procurement function. Among the most recent transformational reforms which the Government has undertaken in recent years is the implementation of the Public Procurement Act (Act No.15 of 2015), which repealed the predecessor Tender Board Act (Act No. 16 of 1996) and the procurement arrangements associated with it.
4. The new law has ushered in a new paradigm shift in the conduct of the public procurement.

5. The policy objectives enshrined in the Public Procurement Act are to, among others,:-
  - inject greater transparency and accountability in the public procurement processes,
  - curb corruption and promote integrity in the conduct of public procurement,
  - promote value for money, by striking a fine balance between quality and cost,
  - promote local economic development and empowerment through local preferences and sourcing for locally produced goods and services , more so, the sourcing of goods and services produced by SMEs, youth and women entrepreneurs.
6. To achieve these lofty objectives, the implementation and institutional arrangements demanded by the law are those of checks and balances through extensive set of implementing bodies, ranging from the Procurement Policy Unit at the Ministry of Finance, the Central Procurement Board, the Procurement Management Units and Procurement Committees at all public entities. This is not least to mention the extensive set of standards, documentation and evaluation criteria which underpin the required bidding and adjudication processes.
7. Admittedly, teething challenges have been experienced in the process of implementing the new dispensation. Chief among these challenges is the technical skills and institutional capacity among the implementing Offices/Ministries and Agencies. A critical mass of skills is needed across the public sector to efficiently execute this function, realizing internal operational efficiency and achieving optimal turnaround in the adjudication of bids.
8. The development of qualifying training in public procurement is an importance step in the process of professionalization and creation of a development path for procurement practitioners and procurement cadres in Namibia.
9. The launch of this program here and now means that each and every public entity is presented with the opportunity to hone the skills of its human capital as regards analyses, evaluation and impact assessment of public procurement.

10. The cooperation Agreement is being entered into at the time when the Government is seized with the reform initiatives to decongest constraints in the conduct of public procurement, simplify business processes and improve on the turnaround times for the adjudication of bids.

11. The cooperation agreement entails;-

- the development and execution of an accredited procurement study program at the three public institutions of higher learning, and
- the Government, through the Ministry of Finance undertakes to support the off-take of this program through initial funding to the tune of N\$550,000.00 to enable the conceptualization, curriculum and course content development.

12. Notably, the program content comprises,

- short courses, ranging from 5 days to six months,
- a one-year NQF Level 4 Certificate,
- an Advanced Diploma in Procurement Supply,
- a three-year Bachelor of Procurement Management, and
- a Post Graduate Diploma in Procurement Management

*Director of Ceremonies,*

13. There is no doubt that the assortment of skills to be acquired through this targeted program resonates well with the national objectives of human capacity development in general and specific skills in public procurement management in particular.

14. *Ladies and gentlemen,* capacity development is not an end in itself, but a means to an end. Of particular significance with this program is that it is aligned to the market needs and specifically responds to the demand and training needs of the public sector in the field of public procurement management. It goes beyond the theoretical constructs of public procurement to include applied and practical sessions as well as research, thus improving the functional skills and numeracy of the participants.

15. Synergy and integration are important in the execution of this program. It is the Government's expectation that the partner institutions would leverage their economies of scale, infrastructure and delivery platforms to ensure that the program is sustainable, affordable and accessible through regional footprints and online platforms.
16. Beyond the core curriculum lies the need for developing research and innovation products aimed at realizing the national policy objectives for public procurement, modernizing the conduct of the public procurement function and undertaking impact analyses of public procurement on local economic development, wealth and job creation.
17. For public procurement to catalyze local productive and manufacturing capacity through local sourcing, an up to date database of locally produced goods and services is needed as well as the research on new products development or enhancing the complexity of existing products as well as supporting the monitoring and evaluation in relation to objectives.

## **Conclusion**

18. To conclude, *ladies and gentlemen*, this collaboration between and among our institutions is significant as we are building an effective partnership for the benefit of the country.
19. Let me take this opportunity to assure you that the Ministry of Finance would honour its obligations under this Agreement and would remain an active partner to ensure the successful implementation of this program.
20. Let me also take this opportunity to call on all the public entities to prioritize training in public procurement for their staff and take advantage of the skills development opportunities offered by this laudable initiative.

21. It is now my distinct honour to declare the NUST, UNAM and NIPAM Public procurement Management Program officially launched. Congratulations!

I thank you