



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

For immediate release

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MEDIA RELEASE

PUBLICATION OF THE SIMPLIFIED PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, 2024

The Minister of Finance, Hon. Colm Imbert, MP, wishes to advise that on April 5, 2024, he signed into law, with the agreement of the Office of Procurement Regulation (“OPR”), the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Simplified Procurement) Regulations, 2024, that is applicable to the procurement of all goods, services and works valued up to **ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1Mn)** or less (inclusive of taxes, duties and other charges).

The Simplified Procurement Regulations were published as Legal Notice No. 65 of 2024 and have undergone months of formulation and dialogue between the Ministry of Finance and the OPR.

The Regulations are grounded on the amendment in section 58A of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act which was passed by Parliament in July, 2023. The Act proposes to introduce a streamlined procurement process for both public bodies and participating suppliers, contractors and consultants up to One Million Dollars (\$1Mn). The Regulations contains guidance for conducting:

- micro-procurements (the procurement of goods, services or works for which the value of the procurement does not exceed seventy-five thousand dollars, inclusive of taxes, duties and other charges); and
- Small-scale procurements (procurement of goods, services or works for which the value of the procurement exceeds seventy-five thousand dollars but does not exceed one million dollars, inclusive of taxes, duties and other charges)

Notably, the Simplified Procurement Regulations **does not remove** the regulatory/supervisory role and function of the OPR but, conversely, augments their role by making special provision for the OPR to issue guidelines on:

- Due diligence requirements for micro and small-scale procurements;
- Maintaining a registry of suppliers/contractors/consultants by a procuring entity micro-procurements;
- The registration of suppliers/contractors/consultants on procuring entity's registry for micro-procurements; and
- The registration of suppliers/contractors/consultants on the Procurement Depository for small-scale procurements;

Additionally, although all existing procurement methods are still applicable to micro-procurements and small-scale procurements, the Regulations reduces a number of the applicable time periods, makes provision for direct contracting, which is a new method of procurement, and introduces the use of verbal quotations (which must be reduced in writing and kept in the prescribed form).

The Regulations also brings clarity to many ongoing issues, inclusive of but not limited, to the:

- meaning of an “emergency”;
- acquisition of goods and services, only available via an online platform;
- delegation of authority of an accounting officer;
- utilisation of the one-envelope and two-envelope system;

The Minister is therefore confident that the Regulations will improve the ease of business relative to participating in procurement proceedings issued by procuring entity, whilst still ensuring that the objects of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act are achieved.

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The Honourable Colm Imbert M.P.
Minister of Finance