

Department of Contracts  
Notre Dame Ravelin  
Floriania

To Permanent Secretaries  
Directors General  
Director  
Heads of Government Entities  
Local Councils

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### **MAINSTREAMING GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACROSS THE PUBLIC SECTOR CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES**

The GPP National Action Plan (NAP), as adopted since January 2012, set out Green Public Procurement (GPP) targets which were incorporated within the national procurement framework for eighteen product and service groups for which common GPP criteria have been set at EU level. The targets set out in the Plan were purposely incremental so as to avoid potential market distortions and allowed sufficient lead time for the market operators to adapt to the new government purchasing policy.

Following the implementation of GPP in line with Contracts Circular N° 21/2011 (Green Public Procurement and Other Procedures), the need was felt to take stock of the positive impact that GPP can have on greening the national economy and to review this important function by mainstreaming it across Government with each contracting authority regulating up its own GPP processes. This review of operations is intended to maximise the benefit of the GPP compliance cycle also at a time when the current NAP is being reviewed.

To date the GPP function is being implemented by the GPP office within the Ministry for Sustainable Development the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC). As such, the GPP office screens all tenders to be issued by public contracting authorities to verify their compliance with GPP criteria. Whilst MSDEC shall continue to take a leading role in the policy development and oversight of the GPP function, it has to be recognised that all public sector contracting authorities have a shared collective responsibility of contributing towards the wider objective of greening the economy. To this end all public sector contracting authorities will assume the GPP function in recognition of its cross-cutting nature and its contribution towards this goal.

In order for the Government to strengthen the GPP function while at the same time simplifying the relevant procedures also in preparation for the launch of the second National Action Plan, the following measures shall be implemented:

- (i) The Director Corporate Services of each Ministry or his representative shall act as Ministry GPP Coordinator for the respective Ministry and Contracting Authorities falling under its portfolio as outlined in the Memorandum to Cabinet dated 23 June 2014;
- (ii) Details of the appointed Ministry GPP Coordinator shall be forwarded to GPP Office at MSDEC by no later than 31 December 2014. Details are to be forwarded on [gpp@gov.mt](mailto:gpp@gov.mt);
- (iii) The Ministry GPP Coordinator shall ensure that all Contracting Authorities within the respective Ministry comply to the provisions of the GPP NAP;
- (iv) Each Contracting Authority shall in turn set up a GPP function as a specific but integral part of its procurement function;
- (v) To this aim, Contracting Authorities shall carry out effective verification of compliance of public procurement procedures with GPP criteria at all stages of the procurement process including design, tender, award and implementation;
- (vi) Contracting Authorities shall use the compliance system to extract valid and meaningful data that can be used for the monitoring and evaluation of the NAP. This data shall be communicated to the GPP office within the MSDEC through the Ministry GPP Coordinator on a quarterly basis or as required; and
- (vii) The Ministry GPP Coordinator shall sit on the GPP Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) and shall contribute to the work of the Task Force in accordance to its terms of reference.

It is acknowledged that in order to bring about this review successfully, there is a need to address the existing knowledge gaps with regards to the implementation of GPP through increasing of awareness and the provision of training. To this end a number of GPP training courses will be held over the coming months for public officers involved in the procurement process at all levels.

The GPP training is expected to be completed by May 2015. Further instructions will be issued at a later date.

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