

## **ANNUAL PROCUREMENT – IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTRACTS**

**(No.B/302) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis**

**East) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the annual procurement of goods and services, capital works and major contracts for Zones Directorates, she will state the measures taken to ensure timely implementation of the contracts thereof.**

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Yes. B/302 and I will have supplementary question.

**Mr Speaker:** This is not the way! This is not the way! Remember you spoke against me.

(Interruptions)

Go and see yourself in the video.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** I have the right.

(Interruptions)

**Mr Speaker:** And our friend, hon. Juman there.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and**

**Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the house that at the level of the Zones, there are officers of the Procurement and the Supply cadre, technical officers as well as Inspectors of works who have the responsibility to ensure effective and timely implementation of procurement exercises and contract management respectively as per guidelines issued by the Ministry.

Regular meetings are held by the Chief Technical Officer of the Ministry with zonal directorates during which issues pertaining to procurement and implementation of projects are also considered.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to major contracts such as infrastructural works, the Infrastructure Management Unit of my Ministry, together with technical staff from the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development, carry out site visits. Project monitoring meetings are held on a monthly basis under the Chair of the Permanent Secretary of the Infrastructure Management Unit of my Ministry.

Cluster meetings are also held at the MNICD on a monthly basis to discuss issues identified during site visits to follow up on progress of works and to ensure timely completion of these projects.

A dashboard has now been devised at the level of the Ministry to monitor infrastructural projects. I wish to draw the attention of the House that the MNICD also has a dashboard monitoring all government projects including those of my Ministry.

As for the services such as watch and security services in schools, suppliers of enhanced meals and hot meals for ZEP schools, monitoring is carried out by the Procurement Section of my Ministry in junction with zonal directorates.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Mr Speaker, Sir, procurement and supply management by the CSD of the Ministry of Education has been criticised by the Director of Audit in his last Audit Report.

Therefore, can I ask the hon. Minister why is it that bids which were cancelled in the financial years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 were not even finalised in 2023?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, for all the bid documents, we have to go back to the MNICD and it is there that the bid documents are reviewed. With the number of projects being carried out by the MNICD, we often have to wait for quite some time.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Mr Speaker, Sir, State Secondary Schools, according to the Audit Report, have not received any supply of chemicals for both Biology and Chemistry laboratories for more than 3 years. In the absence of fresh chemicals, according to the Audit Report, expired non-hazardous chemicals were being used in schools for practical classes and laboratories.

Therefore, can I ask the hon. Minister if she is aware of the situation and what has been done to remedy the situation?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, may I remind the House that for almost a full year, the school was not run and some of the products were, in fact, expired. However, actions were taken by the different departments to make sure that the supplies were renewed and that we had them. It is not really true to say that they had to use expired products.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** The Report!

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** The Audit Report depends on the fact that people go and see what is on the shelves. Now, there have been some of the expired products which were left on the shelves. As soon as the Ministry became aware of it, actions were taken to get all these removed.