

PROCUREMENT POLICY OFFICE

- 23.66 The Procurement Policy Office (PPO), which operates under the *aegis* of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, serves as an independent procurement policy making and compliance monitoring body. It is conferred with the mission to promote the development of a modern and efficient public procurement system for Mauritius based on international best practices through close monitoring, regular audits, reviews, capacity building and research.
- 23.67 Formulating policies relating to procurement; gathering information relating to procurement activities and ensuring compliance with the Public Procurement Act; recommending and facilitating the implementation of measures to improve the functioning of the procurement system, including the operation of annual procurement planning, introduction of information and communications technology and the dissemination of publications and the setting up of websites dedicated to procurement are some of the key functions carried out by the PPO in order to achieve its mission.
- 23.68 Over the years, the PPO has been constantly improving on its services. For instance, in September 2015, it launched a new e-Procurement System where public procurement activities are carried out digitally. Besides, as mandated by the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) Projects Act 2016, the PPO has set up a BOT Projects Unit to deal with BOT projects. This new Unit would, *inter alia*, be responsible to: formulate policies, directives, procedures and guidelines on BOT projects; assess feasibility report submitted by a contracting authority and submit its comments and findings; and monitor value for money and budget affordability during the operational stage of the BOT project.
- 23.69 The administration of the PPO, as stipulated in the Public Procurement Act, rests upon the Director, Procurement Policy Office and two other independent persons appointed by the President of the Republic. The latter are assisted in their tasks by officers in the Procurement and Supply Officer and Analyst Cadres as well as officers belonging to grades of the General Services.
- 23.70 In our last Report, upon request of the parent Ministry, we abolished the grades of Manager, Procurement Policy Office and Assistant Manager, Procurement Policy Office. It was averred that the need for these grades were no longer felt given that the necessary technical support was already being provided by officers of the Procurement and Supply Officer and Analyst Cadres.
- 23.71 For this review exercise, we have been requested by the parent Ministry to provide for a level of Head, BOT Unit to lead the said Unit. In examining this request, we have taken note that the Unit, which is presently being run by a Lead Analyst, is not yet fully operational. In the circumstance, we consider that it would not be appropriate to provide for the requested level at this juncture, the moreso, the Unit is not staffed by officers in a permanent and pensionable capacity. Hence, the present staffing

arrangement should continue. The salary of the only grade on the establishment of the PPO is revised as hereunder.

PROCUREMENT POLICY OFFICE
SALARY SCHEDULE

Salary Code	Salary Scale and Grade
01 000 120	Rs 163250 Director, Procurement Policy Office

