



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



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**OHANGWENA REGIONAL COUNCIL**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**RESPONSE TO A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTATIONS (RFQs) ISSUED BY OHANGWENA REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Ohangwena Regional Council has learnt of a complaint about our procurement process, most especially the Requests for Sealed Quotations (RFQs) from members of the business community (the SMEs). They are alleging that the Regional Council is side-lining them when it comes to RFQs as a method of procurement which is not widely publicised on all platforms for everyone to participate. They further alleged that the staff members within the Procurement Management Unit are corrupt, arrogant and sabotaging SMEs' development.

The Ohangwena Regional Council would therefore like to notify the public and clarify as follows:

1. Ohangwena Regional Council is fully supporting SMEs' development in the region and at the same time aware of the objectives of the Public Procurement Act, 2015 and the provision of section 70 of the same Act, regarding the issuance of the Codes of Good Practice on Preferences, which are not yet in place. However, the Minister of Finance issued a directive on local sourcing, dated 23 May 2019, in terms of section 73 of the same Act, and that has not escaped our cognisance.
2. Section 32(2) of the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act No. 15 of 2015) provides how RFQ, as a method of procurement is administered. The requests are not to be advertised or reserved for SMEs. We therefore like to advise the SMEs, especially the complainants to acquaint themselves with the Act and if need be, to directly contact our offices for further clarifications.
3. Nonetheless, most of our Bid Invitations, Bid Opening Reports (including RFQs) and Executive Summaries for competitive bids are posted and will continue to be posted on our website for transparency, accountability and competitiveness' sake, albeit section 32(2) of the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act No. 15 of 2015). Of course there is still room for improvement as far as our website is concerned.

4. The Council's procurement records are available for scrutiny and should any member of the public feel that there are irregularities or corrupt practices within our procurement system, they are free to approach the relevant institutions established to fight corruption.
5. Furthermore, the Council is dismayed by a number of abandoned projects, partial deliveries and cancelled Purchase Orders due to inability of some SMEs to deliver, but we have not blacklisted any of them and that is a clear indication that we do have their interest at heart. For information sharing, the council may consider listing these SMEs and publicly post on our website and also share on different social media platforms.
6. Over and above, Ohangwena Regional Council has an open door policy and do not condone insults, intimidations or personal attacks in a civilised society, hence we fully condemn and totally reject the claims in question.
7. In conclusion, the Council would like to advise SMEs to always keep themselves abreast with updates on our website: [www.ohangwenarc.gov.na](http://www.ohangwenarc.gov.na) and also on Facebook page: Ohangwena Regional Council.

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