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info@sppra.co.sz



+268 2404 7527

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ESWATINI
PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT
REGULATORY
AGENCY

RHUS Office Park, Karl Grant Street
P. O. Box 9665
Mbabane, Eswatini

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency Mr. Madoda Mngomezulu has been elected as the Chairperson of the African Public Procurement Network.

The elections took place at the 1st Edition of the General Assembly, 14-17 November 2019, in Dakar, the capital city of Senegal, where public procurement regulators, experts and practitioners from 45 nations in Africa as well as representatives from development agencies like the World Bank, Africa Development Bank and others on the theme "Innovative approaches to public procurement".

The Meeting of African Network of Experts and Practitioners in Public Procurement sought to be a source of proposals and lobby to mobilise stakeholders, promote information exchange, share experiences and start the second generation of public procurement reforms focused on sustainable development.

THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF EXPERTS IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The General Assembly of the African Public Procurement Network is a very significant event. It brings together most African countries and shows commitment to enhancing their public procurement systems. Formally established by 47 African countries in Togo a year ago (where Eswatini is a founder member), the Network provides key stakeholders a platform of learning, networking and coordination. Their attendance reflects the importance attached to public procurement as a tool for economic development. The 2019 theme of the General Assembly "Innovative Approaches to Public Procurement" reflects the challenges that the region is facing to continuously improve their procurement systems. Therefore, during the forum's four days, participants were deliberating, exchanging knowledge and learning about future impact of disruptive technologies on public procurement, electronic procurement, professionalization of public procurement, public and private partnership, use of procurement data for monitoring performance, etc.

The African countries spend billions of dollars in public procurement so even small savings resulting from the application of some of the techniques discussed during the forum will expand service delivery to directly benefit the people in Africa. The outcome of the Dakar event became a regional agenda to continue public procurement knowledge exchange, promote interaction among the public procurement officials – all in the interest of public procurement performance enhancement.

By statute, the country holding the Chairmanship of the APPN, hosts the next General Assembly. Eswatini will be hosting the 2nd General Assembly of the APPN in August or September 2020. This is expected to attract close to 200 delegates from the continent and additional delegates from outside the continent of Africa.

Established by an Act of Parliament of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini to regulate Public Procurement

All written correspondence to be directed to the Chief Executive Officer

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