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Media Release

Establishment of an Independent Appeal Committee for Procurement Sanctions

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has implemented the process prescribed in the Section 10.2 of Chapter 10 of the Procurement Guidelines – 2024 for Goods, Works and Non-Consultancy Services to strengthen fairness, transparency and confidence in public procurement through the establishment of an Independent Appeal Committee.

The Committee provides an independent avenue for bidders, suppliers, contractors and service providers to appeal against sanctions, debarment or blacklisting decisions imposed by Chief Accounting Officers (CAOs) of Procuring Entities. Until now, there was no formal mechanism such as the requirement specified in the Section 10.2 of Chapter 10 of the Procurement Guidelines – 2024 for Goods, Works and Non-Consultancy Services, to independently review such appeals, making the establishment of the Committee a significant improvement to the procurement system.

Strengthening Fairness and Confidence in Public Procurement

A fair and transparent procurement system is essential to maintaining the confidence of businesses and other stakeholders that participate in government procurement. The new appeal mechanism ensures that decisions affecting a business's ability to participate in public procurement can be reviewed through a structured process.

For businesses, this provides greater assurance that:

- decisions affecting their participation in public procurement can be independently reviewed by a mechanism outside the Procuring Entity.
- they have an opportunity to present relevant evidence and explanations;
- procurement decisions are subject to greater transparency and accountability; and
- legitimate businesses have greater confidence in participating in government procurement opportunities.

This mechanism therefore contributes to creating a more predictable, fair and business-friendly procurement environment, while protecting the integrity of public procurement and ensuring the responsible use of public funds.

Establishment and Composition of the Committee

The Independent Appeal Committee was established with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers on 08 June 2026, following a proposal submitted by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The Committee operates in accordance with Section 10.2 of Chapter 10 of the Procurement Guidelines - 2024 for Goods, Works and Non-Consultancy Services.

A three-member Committee has been appointed for a period of three years. It comprises a retired Judge as Chair and two former Secretaries of Ministries as members. Their combined experience and expertise provide a strong foundation for the objective, impartial and informed consideration of appeals.

How Appeals Are Considered.

The Committee considers appeals based on written submissions, supporting evidence and other relevant information provided by the parties concerned. Where necessary, the Committee may request additional information or clarification to obtain a complete understanding of the circumstances surrounding the decision under review.

This approach helps ensure that appeals are considered carefully, consistently and on the basis of relevant facts and evidence.

Importantly, the Committee does not seek to replace or undermine the authority of the Procuring Entities. Its role is to provide an independent assessment of an appeal and make recommendations to the Secretary to the Treasury, who exercises the relevant authority under the Procurement Guidelines - 2024.

Support Provided by the Department of Public Finance

The Department of Public Finance serves as the Secretariat to the Committee. It facilitates the appeal process and provides the administrative and procedural support necessary for the Committee to effectively carry out its responsibilities.

The Secretariat also coordinates communication with relevant institutions and facilitates the submission of information required for the Committee's consideration.

An implementation that will benefit Businesses and Government

Since its establishment, the Independent Appeal Committee has already considered several appeals submitted by bidders against whom sanctions had been imposed by CAOs of relevant Procuring Entities. The Committee reviewed these appeals and submitted its recommendations to the Secretary to the Treasury in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Procurement Guidelines - 2024.

The consideration of these initial appeals represents an important milestone in strengthening the transparency, accountability and integrity of public procurement.

For the business community, the new mechanism provides an additional level of confidence that procurement-related decisions will be handled through a fair, transparent and accountable process. It also supports a level playing field by ensuring that businesses have access to an appropriate avenue to seek an independent review when they believe a sanction may warrant reconsideration. Through the establishment of the Independent Appeal Committee, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development continues to strengthen the institutional framework for good governance and integrity in public procurement. At the same time, the mechanism supports greater business confidence, an efficient mechanism to strengthen the process, fair participation in government procurement and the effective protection of public resources.