



national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: 71/2/2/4

Ms. Alice Muller
Acting National Leader: Audit
Auditor General of South Africa
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Dear Ms. Muller,

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED WITH THE PUBLICATION OF TENDERS AND AWARDS ON THE GOVERNMENT TENDER BULLETIN AND THE NATIONAL TREASURY E-TENDER PORTAL

We would like to bring to your attention that as of the 02 March 2021 the National Treasury started experiencing some reliability issues with the eTenders Portal where the system would not be available during certain times. The investigations carried out pointed to various issues within the technical makeup of the system. The situation worsened overtime and more system blackouts were reported as the month progressed and now the system is completely innacecible.

The Government Printing Works also reported that their system is also down and therefore Organs of State cannot publish their tenders. A decision was then taken to instruct Organs of State to advertise on the eTenders system. This was done through Instruction Note No. 12 of 2020/2021.

Having both systems not being available for publishing of tenders left Organs of State with an undesirable situation where there was a lot of uncertainty relating to publication of tenders. It is for this reason that the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer issued communication to all Organs of state on the 05 March 2021 advising them to use alternative media platforms for publication of tenders. The alternative platforms would be the government institution's own website and or printed or online media platforms.

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The Auditor General is therefore requested to consider this situation when executing audits for the current financial year. The Office of the Chief Procurement Officer together with other stakeholders are working tirelessly to resolve all issues relating to the e-Tenders system so that Organs of State can continue to publish tenders .

The OCPO could not exactly determine the date from which government institutions started having difficulties on either Government Printing Works or the e-Tender Portal and would therefore recommend that we work on a date from 1 February 2021 until further notice.

May I also request that you disseminate this information to the relevant audit network that needs to take note of this correspondence.

Kind regards,

**ESTELLE SETAN
ACTING CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER
DATE:**