

# GTAC E-Procurement Prototype: Relevance for the Public Procurement Act and Draft Regulations

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**GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY CENTRE**

*Analyse, Adjust & Activate*

National Treasury - Republic of South Africa

# PURPOSE

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- ➔ To provide an overview of the GTAC e-procurement prototype
- ➔ Lessons learnt
- ➔ Alignment to the Regulations
- ➔ Prototype lessons to be taken into regulations



# WHO IS THE GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY CENTRE MANDATE AND FUNCTIONS - GTAC

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- To render technical consulting services to the Centre of Government Departments and Organs of State;
  - To provide specialised procurement support for high impact government initiatives
  - To render advice on the feasibility of infrastructure projects
  - To provide knowledge management for projects undertaken
  - To provide services in respect of financial planning for and the costing of policies which are being developed
  - To provide economic analysis and actuarial advice on programmes and projects
- **Gazetted 2012**
    - Proclamation 35194 of 30 March 2012
  - **Government component**
    - 7A(4) of PSA 1994
  - **Mandate**
    - National Treasury PFMA s.6
- To assist organs of state in building their capacity for efficient, effective and transparent financial management*

# E-Procurement: The GTAC Prototype



# MORE ABOUT THE GTAC E -PROCUREMENT PROTOTYPE

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## The e-Procurement system functionalities include:

- Online supplier registration and profile management.
- Bid/RFQ/RFP creation, publication/ submission/ closure, and opening.
- Upload and **automation of SBDs templates**, CV templates, and other response compliance requirements.
- **Automated evaluation** scoring, including approvals.
- **Document Management**
- System-generated **audit trails and transaction logs**.
- Contract **expenditure linked to financial management**.
- Basic **reporting** dashboard.



# LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PROTOTYPE

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## What worked well

- Supplier registration.
- Workflow automation.
- Audit trails.
- Electronic evaluation.
- Structured reporting.

## What was difficult

- User adoption.
- Data quality.
- Change management.
- Supplier onboarding.
- Integration with legacy systems.



# PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS



# WHY DIGITISATION MATTERS

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→ Digitisation is no longer about an IT project

→ It is a core procurement reform mechanism

→ Expected benefits:

- Faster procurement cycles
- Lower transaction costs
- Better supplier access
- Enhanced transparency
- Real-time oversight
- Improved fraud detection
- Structured procurement data



# WHY E-PROCUREMENT: 3 DRIVERS

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- **Policy driver:**
  - National Treasury's long-term objective of full procurement digitisation.
  - OCPO's e-GP roadmap.
  - Public Procurement Act sections 28 and 29.
- **Governance driver**
  - Procurement transparency.
  - Reduction of manual intervention.
  - Auditability.
- **Operational driver:**
  - Faster sourcing.
  - Better supplier experience.
  - Structured procurement data.

# PROCUREMENT RISKS REDUCED THROUGH DIGITISATION

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## Traditional Risk

- Lost documents
- Bid tampering
- Late submissions disputes
- Manual manipulation
- Weak transparency

## Digital Mitigation

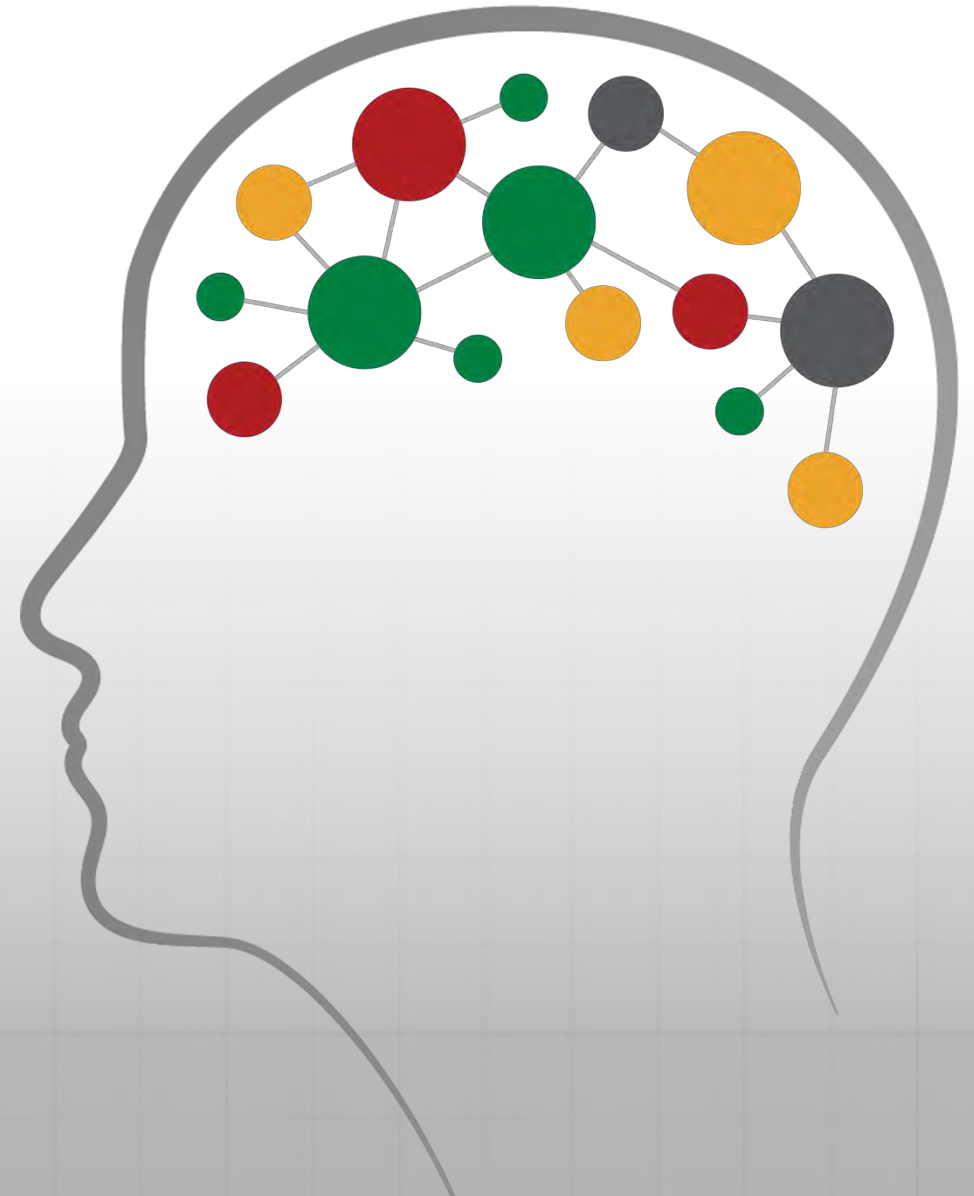
- Digital audit trail
- Timestamped submissions
- Automated cut-off
- System controls
- Public publication



# ALIGNMENT WITH PPA, 2024

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- E-procurement **reduce administrative costs** and staffing pressures while improving communication through faster access to information..
- Government **identify regular suppliers**
- information publicly available, supporting transparency and value for money.
- World Bank improved **transparency and competition** as key benefits of e-procurement, both of which align with section 217 of the Constitution



# THE ACT CREATES A DIGITAL PROCUREMENT MANDATE

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GTAC demonstrates the practical implementation of all four provisions.

- 1 Section 28 – Information and communications technology-based procurement
- 2 Section 29 – Use of technology by procuring institutions
- 3 Section 30 – Public access. Scrutiny and monitoring
- 4 Section 31 – Procurement information disclosure

# DIRECT ALIGNMENT WITH DRAFT REGULATIONS : GTAC PROTOTYPE RELEVANCE

Reg 19 – Electronic bidding

Reg 35 – Central online portals

Reg 36 - Public access to procurement information

Reg 84 - Digital record retention

Reg 85 - ICT systems and interoperability

These provisions are already substantially reflected in the prototype

# REGULATORY IMPLICATIONS

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Need for interoperability standards.

Need for dispute procedures.

Need for cyber-security requirements.

Need for digital accessibility standards.

# PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS TO DRAFT REGULATIONS



Mobile devices.

Low-bandwidth access.

Accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Multiple official languages.

**Digital accessibility**



Backup systems.

Disaster recovery.

Business continuity.

**System resilience**



ISO 27001.

Encryption.

Penetration testing.

Access controls.

**Cybersecurity**



Technical failures:

Before closure.

During submission.

During bid opening.

Detailed dispute process absent

**Dispute management**

# FUTURE STATE VISION

GTAC'S prototype demonstrates the feasibility of an end-to-end digital procurement lifecycle

Supplier  
Registration



Advertisement



Planning



Submission



Evaluation



Award

Contract  
Management



Performance  
Monitoring &  
Open Data  
Reporting

# OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

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## Opportunities

- efficiency and turnaround time,
- transparency and auditability,
- data for oversight and integrity analytics,
- reduced administrative burden.

## Risks / Implementation considerations

- readiness and capability of institutions,
- training and change management,
- treatment of quality and socio-economic criteria,
- interoperability and system governance.



# SUGGESTED REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

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- Clarify how electronic procurement can accommodate professional services,
- Provide for interoperability and data standards,
- Support phased adoption/readiness-based implementation,
- Address evaluation beyond price,
- Enable piloting and controlled testing of solutions.

# CONCLUSION

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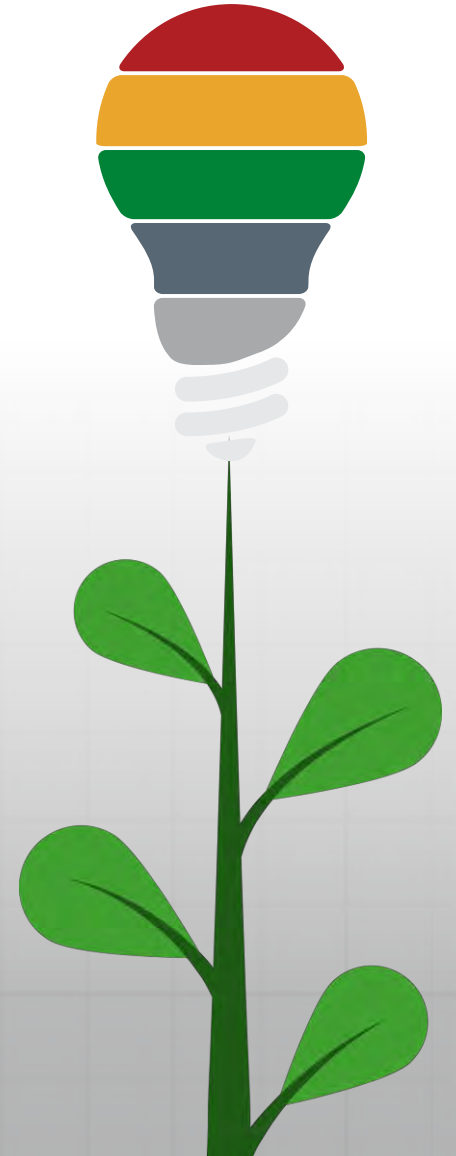
→ The Public Procurement Act creates a strong legal basis for digital procurement.

→ The Draft Regulations substantially advance that vision.

→ GTAC's prototype provides practical evidence of implementation challenges and opportunities.

→ The regulations can be strengthened through:

- interoperability requirements,
- cyber-security provisions,
- digital accessibility standards,
- technical dispute procedures, and
- structured data standards.





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Ndo livhuwa

**Enkosi**

*Kea leboha*

*Thank you*

Ndza nkhensa

Ke a leboga

**Ngiyabonga**



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Dankie