

2024 Pre-Budget Document Proposals by
The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry on:

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

1. Setting up an **adequately reorganised and resourced Contracting Authority** with the right expertise and technical competencies to oversee the entire procurement process at drafting stage, during award and post award.
2. **Publishing a publicly accessible public procurement outlook** for all government entities and departments, at least 6 months in advance to help bidders plan ahead and submit the best solutions, products and services.
3. **Obligatory public pre-market consultations** for high-tech and high-value solutions/systems/services.
4. Make better use of the BPQR and MEAT systems as against cheapest compliance so as to ensure that government gets the best ROI on its investment.
5. Setting up a **publicly accessible and easy to use Contract Register** for all public contracts issued by contracting authorities, including direct orders, which would include the specific milestones and deliverables reached by the contractor, the payments made (when and how much), any disputes that may have been registered, any variations and their reason thereof as well as any modifications.
6. **Timely release of retention money** and the **offsetting of dues** to improve cash flow
7. Move away from the generic **Design and Build tenders** to tendering which sets clear criteria and parameters, and includes support and maintenance to avoid damages and reduce long-term costs on the Contracting Authorities.
8. Introduce an **objective, clear and automated mechanism for price revision linked to an industry recognised index**, particularly in commodities and products subject to regular fluctuation.
9. Introduce a **whitelisting** system to ensure that government entities engage with reliable and reputable suppliers – this should include financial stability, legal and financial compliance, quality certifications, performance history, adherence to ethical standards, and capacity to meet government requirements.
10. Introduce a **blacklisting** system with clearly established criteria against which defaulting contractors and defaulting service providers are assessed.

