national treasury
Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CONFIDENTIAL

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To:

ACCOUNTING OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENTS
ACCOUNTING OFFICERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
ACCOUNTING AUTHORITIES OF SCHEDULE 2 AND 3 PUBLIC ENTITIES
HEAD OFFICIALS OF PROVINCIAL TREASURIES
ACCOUNTING OFFICERS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND MUNICIPAL ENTITIES
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICERS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND MUNICIPAL ENTITIES

CAUTIONARY NOTICE: ADVERTISING, PUBLISHING AND CLOSING OF BIDS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

1. Section 217 of the Constitution requires that when an organ of state contracts for goods and services, it must do so in accordance with principles of fairness, equitability, transparency, competitiveness, and cost-effectiveness.

2. The festive period generally commences on 17 December 2026 to 8 January 2027. During this period, many suppliers, service providers and other industries are closed and therefore unable to respond to bid opportunities advertised during this period. The National Treasury has experienced a flood of allegations of misconduct relating to the above-mentioned practices, during this period. Advertising, publishing, and or closing bids during this period have been questioned and compromise principles of transparency and fairness, amongst others.

3. The National Treasury cautions Accounting Officers and Accounting Authorities (AO/AA) on advertising, publishing and or closing of bids during the festive period, unless relating to emergencies in terms of the supply chain management prescripts. Such practices may lead to unnecessary litigation that will further delay service delivery to the public. Therefore, it is advised that AOs/AAs must ensure that officials responsible for supply chain management processes are made aware of this cautionary communication. It is imperative that appropriate internal control measures and approval protocols are instituted, to mitigate risks associated with bids to be advertised during this period.

4. Procuring institutions can still advertise bids until 15 December 2026 but are advised to extend closing dates to late January 2027 to provide sufficient time for prospective bidders to respond to such bids.

5. This communication is applicable for the period 17 December 2026 to 08 January 2027.

Please do not hesitate to contact **SCMGMC1@treasury.gov.za** for any further clarity.

Yours sincerely

Dr DUNCAN PIETERSE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 29/01/26