

FOREX Rates

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar	3628	3648
Euro	4288	4388
Pound	4867	4979
Kenya	34.8	35.3
Tz Sh	1.58	1.63
S.A Rand	250	275
Japanese Yen	31.6	32.9
Dharam	972	1001
Rwandese francs	4	4.4
Dollar old and small	3610	3648

RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Suppliers warned against compromising procurement officers

By Wilson Manishimwe

The deputy governor of Bank of Uganda (BOU), Dr Louis Kasekende, has warned suppliers of products and services against bribing and compromising the bank's procurement staff and other institutions. He said the vice is unacceptable and also be eliminated from procurement process.

Kasekende said procurement officials should be held responsible for their role in the vice, but suppliers and bidders must also take the blame.

"Some bidders engage in collusive or cartel-like bidding leading to high and unreasonable costs relative to market rates for products and services," Kasekende said.

He was speaking to the bank's suppliers at the third BOU annual supplier conference yesterday at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala.

He said all parties involved in the procurement process should adhere to the prescribed regulations, which should ensure transparency. There should be equitable provision of information to everybody concerned.

He said integrity requires establishment of efficient frameworks for compliance and dispute resolution.

Kasekende revealed that some stakeholders have proposed elimination of the contracts committee from the institutional framework as the law on the Public Procurement and Disposal and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) is being reviewed.

He advised against the move saying it will reduce the number of individuals who have to make decisions and give too much powers to accounting officers.

Ronald Tumuhairwe, the PPDA manager for capacity building said a number of issues make suppliers fail to get contracts, among them is false information, their failure to observe ethical standards and late application for bidding opportunities.

"In the last two financial years, PPDA has handled over 306 cases related to unethical behaviour by bidders and out of this, about 105 companies have been suspended to supply materials to any government body," he stated.

Tumuhairwe, who represented the PPDA executive director, Benson Turanye warned the that errant suppliers risk missing contracts.

Edson Arinaitwe, from Exceed Health and Safety consultancy pointed at that some companies practice what is called 'self-competition' where a multiplicity of firms are created by the same person who then bids through them, which eliminates other bidders.

Enock Tugume from Excel Insurance Company said the price of bid documents is high with some entities charging between sh300,000 and sh500,000.