



*The following were the communication threads between the UNDP Country A and UNDP/PSO/GPU in Copenhagen*

20 Feb 2008

Ms. VB: Hello Mr. LS, I am Ms. VB calling from Country A. I am so disappointed with PSO. You very well know that we have an election scheduled for 15 August 2008 and a Voter Registration beginning 15 June 2008.

Mr. LS: Hello Ms. VB. This is Mr. LS. We are equally concern regarding the deadlines. We have spoken a few times now that your timeline is too tight. Anyhow, we have not received the specification for the Biometric Registration system from your office.

Ms. VB: Well, the Biometric Registration system is easy, don't worry, please buy from Company CA. All the companies operating in this region have made their cases to the government and the Electoral Commission, PSO just need to buy it fast.

Mr. LS: First – please, the specs need to be improved, its too restricted now. Secondly, if UNDP is to undertake the tender exercise, we cannot agree to the single source contracting you propose with Company CA. We need to follow UNDP Procurement guidelines. Do you have sufficient budget to cover these exercises? It may cost US\$5 million.

Ms. VB: Money is not an issue.

*Tender went ahead for Biometric Registration system. Tender completed. The following communication threads took place:*

1 April 2008

Mr. LS: Hello Ms. VB. This is Mr. LS. The top 3 suppliers will be in Country A on 9 April to do the validation test. Please get the Electoral Commission and your office on board on that day.

Ms. VB: No problem.

*On 9 April 2008, all 3 suppliers and PSO arrived in the country. The following communication threads took place:*

Ms. VB: We have a problem. The Electoral Commission has just told us that they cannot make it today. The person in charge of IT and database for the registration is not on board yet. Please come back after 1 month.

*On 9 May 2008, all 3 suppliers and PSO returned to the country. The following communication threads took place:*

Ms. VB, Electoral Commission and PSO: We unanimously agree to clear all 3 suppliers as technically compliant and also to pass the validation test.

Mr. LS: After evaluation, we need to take the case to the Headquarters Contracts Committee, the ACP. After which, the contract will be awarded to Company DS. In this case, the total estimated amount will be US\$4.8 million.

Ms. VB: We don't have that money.

Electoral Commission: We will need to trim the offer to suit the budget. But if they won't do it, let's go to Company CA.

### **GROUP WORK**

**Discuss the above case:**

**What are the risks and challenges in the above procurement exercise?**

**How will the risks and challenges impact the project?**

**How would you handle it differently?**



In collaboration with: International Organization for Migration



Canadian International Development Agency



Promoting Credible Elections and Democratic Governance in Africa