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Ohangwena's N\$22 million kitchen tender questioned

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by Sonja Smith



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THE Ohangwena Regional Council awarded a N\$22-million kitchen construction tender to a company that has a record of failing to complete projects in the region.

The council advertised the tender for the construction of a new kitchen-dining facility for the William Billy Mwaningange Rural Development Centre on 24 August 2020.

The tender was then awarded to Ndakalimwe Investment CC on 8 October 2020, a company owned by northern businessman Josef Ndafediva.

Around 42 companies competed for this tender.

The decision to award this contract to Ndakalimwe Investment CC has attracted several objections from other bidders.

The aggrieved bidders are calling for the award to be cancelled.

The Namibian is in possession of the three objection letters lodged by Mukapa Investment CC, Global-deli Civil Engineering CC in a joint venture with Kapiya Construction & Pigeon Industries and Onyofi trading Enterprises.

"One of the conditions of this contract you ignore is that it states that no contractor will be awarded more than one contract within the region. We have learned that Ndakalimwe Investments CC has more than one contract in your region as well as the town council.

"Therefore, awarding him this contract is void, corrupt, unconstitutional, and contravened the terms of that contract.

Not only that, but they have unfinished contracts in other regions of the country including a similar project in the Kavango region," reads the objection by Global-deli Civil Engineering CC, owned by businessman Gabriel Shilume.

Global-deli Civil Engineering CC says the evaluation report of the council was unfinished, so, it should "relook the matter and make an ethical decision rather than a corrupt one".

"We are willing to spend any available resources to fight such corrupt decisions till a fair and ethical decision is made," the company further said.

Ndafediva's company tendered N\$22,9 million, Global-deli civil Engineering tendered N\$24,8 million, while Mukapa Investment asked for around N\$23 million.

Speaking to The Namibian on Friday last week, Ndafediva said he is not concerned by the objections and complaints, as he was not part of the evaluation process.

"All I do is tender. I tender everywhere in this country whenever I see an opportunity. I don't participate in evaluation processes," he said.

The Ohangwena Regional Council's chief regional officer, Fillipus Shilongo, said he would review the complaints and give feedback.

"I am yet to receive these objections. I will study them and see what their dissatisfactions are about so that I take it up and provide them with feedback.

"We are guided by the legal instrument, which is the Procurement Act. Once we see discrepancies, I will engage our procurement department," Shilongo said.

Ndafediva refused to comment on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) investigations that implicate him.

The deputy executive director of the Procurement Policy Unit in the Ministry of Finance, Francois Brand, told The Namibian last week that there is no policy that prohibits anyone from bidding if they are under investigation.

"The person would be suspended from bidding if investigations were completed, and was found guilty," Brand said.

Shidhudhu said Ndakalimwe Investments CC is free to tender, unless it is banned by the national procurement review panel.

Tenders awarded to Ndafediva and still pending are the construction of a rural development centre in Kavango West region, and the construction of police headquarters at Ongha in Ohangwena, and the Ohangwena Regional Council offices at Eenhana.