

5.3 Reasons for Deviation

SUITABLE VENUE

The National Cultural History Museum that hosted the 2013 exhibition was targeted to host the 2014 exhibition. The Museum had initially agreed to host the 2014 exhibition and around November 2013 when SRSA officials sought to follow-up and to concretise plans for the 2014 exhibition it became apparent that the Museum will no longer be available. Formal correspondence, setting out requests for utilisation of the Museum, was never responded to. This led to a new search for a suitable venue.

Finding a suitable and ideal venue proved much more difficult than anticipated, meaning that a home of the exhibition was only found in February. Finding and securing a venue is essential before production can be planned and started. This was further exacerbated by the holiday season, which resulted in a major delay as businesses were closed, holding up the search for a venue and slowing down communication. This was further amplified by the conditions precedent set by the Apartheid Museum on matching the standard and quality of the exhibition panels SRSA was to utilise for this exhibition in line with the standard of the venue. This meant that the historical prices of 2013 which were below the threshold of R500 000.00 would no longer be applicable.

The following venues were considered and approached amongst others:

- Constitution Hill Johannesburg (no suitable space available for the requested period)
- Museum Africa, Johannesburg (Booked up)
- Worker's Museum, Johannesburg (Too small)
- District 6 Museum (Didn't respond to enquiries)
- Cape Town City Hall (Access not adequate)
- Cape Town Stadium (Available but not enough people traffic)
- Sammy Marks library area and National Library (Pretoria) – Not suitable

NATURE OF THE EXHIBITION

The other key reason is that, based on the success of this exhibition in 2013, a decision was made when the APP was approved that the 2014 exhibition should be expanded and that it should be comprehensive and also to include other media forms as video and props. The format of the exhibition therefore is such that it must be transportable and therefore much more durable than a static exhibition. For instance the display panels must be made of aluminum frames and include transport cases. This feature makes the exhibition much more expensive than originally anticipated.

The fact that the exhibition includes multi-media, which was not present in the first edition of the exhibition, also adds to the cost. Overall the exhibition is much larger than the first edition, covering about 80 sq m of space, but also due to the change in concept as explained above.

RESULTANT TIME CONSTRAINTS

Due to time constraints it will be impractical to go for open tender process as stated in the Departmental supply chain circular No 01 of 2011/2012 on threshold around procurement through quotations and open tender, which states that procurement over **R 500 000.00** (VAT included) "Bids must be invited for all procurement of goods and services exceeding R500 000. (This process takes +/- 7 weeks careful planning to ensure delivery at the required time is therefore advised)". However with the venue only being confirmed in mid-February, there was therefore no sufficient time to call for competitive bidding process.

In light of the above background the cost implications will be above R 500 000 threshold which means, the open tender process is required, hence it is recommended that the accounting officer approve the deviations from the open tender process and allow the Supply Chain Directorate to invite reputable suppliers

on the Departmental data base to attend a briefing session and submit their proposals and budgets relative to the Exhibition and the new requirements.