

C/229/2022 – Complaint against a Senior Officer in the Procurement Cadre

On 13 October 2022, this Office received an anonymous complaint regarding the behaviour of a Senior Officer posted at the Central Procurement and Supply Division of a Ministry. It was averred that he favoured certain Officers, was engaged in malpractices and 'harassed' other officers.

When queried, the Ministry informed that the explanations of the Officer were sought. By way of a letter dated 28 December 2022, this Office was informed that the Officer denied all allegations made against him in the complaint. Based on the explanations provided, supported by testimonies of other staff, it was difficult to investigate the complaint fully in a fair and objective manner and no disciplinary action could be taken by the Ministry.

Nonetheless, the Officer's attention was drawn in writing by the Ministry to stand guided by the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and to the consequences for not complying with established procedures in the performance of his/her duties. Moreover, the Ministry reassured this Office that it would continue to monitor the situation closely and that *"any departure from ethical values or established procedures will not be tolerated."*