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Ministries, Others Snub Rules

Most government ministries and agencies are sidestepping the procurement laws and relevant officials fail to monitor the implementation of concession agreements, the Chairman of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission, charged here Tuesday.

Prof. Willie Belleh said those deviant public institutions and other entities are single sourcing contracts and not subjecting such transactions to competitive bidding as legally required.

"No body wants to go through bidding process. Everybody wants to single source," he complained, saying the deviant ministries and agencies cite "security" concern and "expediency" as reasons for not submitting contracts for bidding.

Establishing the validated basis for which contracts are being awarded unilaterally, the procurement Chief said that has been extremely difficult due to resource constraints.

He lamented how officials spend more time attracting investors and negotiating contracts but with relatively nothing done afterwards to ensure that

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those contracts are implemented according to stipulated terms and conditions.

Government claims US\$16 billion has been injected into the domestic economy via direct foreign investment, but those multinational companies are yet to commence full operation.

On the other hand government has been

It is noteworthy mentioning how several officials single sourced a carbon credit concession to the British firm Carbon Harvesting Corporation reportedly for a US\$2.5 million kickback submerged in a controversy.

Submerged in a controversy wherein several officials single sourced a carbon credit concession to a British firm - Carbon Harvesting Corporation reportedly in return for a US\$2.5 million kickback.

The World Bank Institute and its Africa Region, together with the Liberian Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), the Liberian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) supported by the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition, organized the workshop as the start of a two year program on contract monitoring. The aim is to improve the transparency and accountability of public procurement and extractive industries contracting (including the mining sector) in four West African countries: Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria.

---Festus Poquie