# NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PREPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session )

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SENATE S. B. No. 2466 RECEIVED BY.

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

# AN ACT REVISING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to strengthen and enhance government procurement by revising Republic Act (RA) No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA).

RA No. 9184, enacted in 2003, was crafted to unify and institutionalize the fragmented policies, rules and regulations pertaining to government procurement. The primary goal was to guarantee transparency and competitiveness in the selection of bidders, leading to a more efficient and effective procurement and ultimately, public service. Since then, it has become the single regulatory framework for the procurement activities of the government, earning recognition from both local and international institutions as an effective tool against graft and corruption. Over the course of the 20 years from its enactment, some challenges have been identified and linked with the procurement process. Reports from the Department of Budget and Management point out that several government entities attribute the low utilization or the underspending of budgets, prolonged delays and tedious processes in procuring goods, services, and infrastructure projects to the procurement law.

This measure is intended to address the current challenges and assist procuring entities to cope with the implementation of vast, complex and intricate government projects. The proposed amendments embody a shift towards a fit-for-purpose procurement approach developed to meet the specific needs of procuring entities. In particular, the proposed bill will bolster government procurement by emphasizing strategic procurement planning and preparations through the conduct of relevant market scoping, supply positioning, analysis of available procurement modalities, and risk management. These efforts will be complemented by reliable strategies to design and prepare procurement projects, such as Early Procurement Activities, Green Public Procurement, Socially Responsible Procurement, Design and Build Scheme, Engagement of a Procurement Agent, Use of Framework Agreement, and Use of Life-Cycle Assessment and Life-Cycle Cost Analysis.

To ensure transparency and accuracy in the utilization of funds, the proposed bill also provides that funds transfers between NGAs, or by NGAs to GOCCs and vice

versa, or by NGAs to LGUs, are not to be considered as disbursed until the transferred amounts are actually utilized within the validity period. This clause also aims to ensure accountability and efficient use of government resources. The bill also underscores strategic procurement by electronic means to promote greater transparency, accountability, operational efficiency, and value for money, which covers all procurement activities from planning to payment of contracts, while leveraging on emerging technologies and innovative solutions.

This measure likewise puts primacy in the establishment of a proficient cadre of public procurement professionals. This would entail the development of a competency framework to delineate the necessary skills, knowledge, and attributes for each procurement role; a certification framework to elevate competencies and ensure ongoing professional growth; a code of ethics for ethical conduct; and an inclusive capacity development program.

To ramp up these initiatives, the GPPB, as the central procurement policy arm of the government, can tap Inter-Agency Technical Working Group/s from various sectoral groups to provide subject matter expertise in the formulation and review of policies, rules and regulations on government procurement, to promote inclusivity and good governance. The GPPB shall continue to be assisted by a Technical Support Office that provides legal, technical and administrative support to the Board in the performance of its functions under the new GPRA.

The bill also institutionally strengthens the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System to serve as the single electronic portal for government procurement which shall maintain an integrated system that covers procurement planning until payment. It shall serve as the primary channel and source of information for procuring entities in the conduct of their procurement activities.

Finally, to address challenges in the available modalities of procurement and in furtherance of the principles of efficiency and proportionality, the measure also introduces new modes of procurement, such as competitive dialogue, unsolicited offer with bid matching, and direct acquisition, among other innovative provisions and pronouncements.

The innovations introduced in this measure aim to create a more agile, transparent, competitive, accountable, and efficient government procurement system, enabling the new GPRA to effectively respond to the changing times and evolving demands of public service.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this Bill is urgently sought.

SONNY ANGARA

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### NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

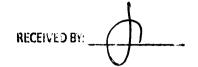
Second Regular Session

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### SENATE

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s. B. No. <u>246</u>6



#### Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

# AN ACT REVISING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1	ARTICLE I
2	GENERAL PROVISIONS
3	SECTION 1. Short Title This Act shall be known as the "Revised Government
4	Procurement Reform Act."
5	SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to promote
6	the ideals of good governance with a view to transparency, competitiveness,
7	efficiency, proportionality, accountability, public monitoring, procurement
8	professionalization, and sustainability in government procurement.
9	SEC. 3. Governing Principles on Government Procurement All procurement
10	of the national government, its departments, bureaus, offices and agencies, including
11	state universities and colleges, government-owned and/or -controlled corporations,
12	government financial institutions, and local government units, shall, in all cases, be
13	governed by these principles:
14	(a) Transparency in the procurement process and in the
15	implementation of procurement contracts to ensure disclosure of, and
16	open access to, procurement process and information consistent with
17	open contracting practice.

(b) Competitiveness by extending equal opportunity to enable 1 contracting parties that are eligible and qualified to participate in public bidding. (c) Efficient process that shall be applied uniformly to all government procurement. The procurement process shall be simple

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proportionality, such that the conditions and parameters in the (d) development of requirements, choice of procurement modality, and implementation of contracts shall be reasonably proportional to the needs of the procuring entity and the nature of the contract or project to be procured.

and shall take advantage of emerging technologies and innovative

solutions in order to ensure an effective and efficient method.

- A system of accountability where both public officials directly or (e) indirectly involved in the procurement process as well as in the implementation of procurement contracts, and the private parties that deal with government are, when warranted by circumstances, investigated and held liable for their actions relative thereto.
- (f) Participatory procurement through public monitoring of the procurement process and the implementation of contracts to ensure prudent and judicious use of government resources with the end in view of guaranteeing that these contracts are awarded pursuant to the provisions of this act and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR), and that all these contracts are strictly implemented.
- A sustainable procurement process that will ensure value for (g) money covering a whole life cycle from acquisition to disposal, but with minimal impact to the environment while generating maximum benefits to the society and the economy.
- (h) Professionalization of public procurement through development of specialized qualification standards, competency and certification framework, and a code of ethics for public procurement professionals.

**SEC. 4.** Scope and Application. – This Act shall apply to the Procurement of Infrastructure Projects, Goods, and Consulting Services, including disposal as may be applicable, regardless of source of funds, whether local or foreign, by all branches and instrumentalities of the government, its departments, offices and agencies, including State Colleges and Universities (SUCs), Government-Owned and/or -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) and Local Government Units (LGUs), subject to the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 138. Any treaty, or international or executive agreement affecting the subject matter of this Act to which the Philippine government is a signatory shall be observed. **SEC. 5.** *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms or

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- words and phrases shall mean or be understood as follows:
  - (a) Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) refers to the budget for the contract duly approved by the Head of the Procuring Entity, as provided for in the General Appropriations Act or other authorized funding, in the case of National Government Agencies (NGAs); the Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing Boards, pursuant to Executive Order (EO) No. 518, series of 1979, in the case of GOCCS, GFIs and SUCs; and the Budget for the contract approved by the respective Sanggunian, in the case of LGUs. For multi-year contracts, for which a Multi-year Contractual Authority (MYCA) or an equivalent document is required, the project cost reflected in the MYCA or equivalent document shall be the basis or reference for the ABC.
  - (b) BAC refers to the Bids and Awards Committee established in accordance with Article IV of this Act.
  - (c) Bidding Documents refer to documents issued by the Procuring Entity as the basis for Bids, furnishing all information necessary for a prospective bidder to prepare a bid for the Goods, Infrastructure Projects, and Consulting Services to be provided.
  - (d) Bid refers to a signed offer or proposal submitted by a supplier, manufacturer, distributor, contractor or consultant in response to the Bidding Documents.

(e) *Common-use Supplies and Equipment (CSE)* – refers to goods, materials, and equipment that are used in the day-to-day operations of agencies in the performance of their functions. CSEs shall be those included in the electronic catalogue of the PhilGEPS.

- (f) *Competitive Bidding* refers to a method of procurement which is open to participation by any interested party and which consists of the following processes: advertisement, pre-bid conference, eligibility screening of prospective bidders, receipt and opening of bids, evaluation of bids, post-qualification, and award of contract, the specific requirements and mechanics of which shall be defined in the IRR to be promulgated under this Act.
- (g) Consulting Services refer to services for Infrastructure Projects and other types of projects or activities of the Government requiring adequate external technical and professional expertise that are beyond the capability and/or capacity of the government to undertake such as, but not limited to: (i) advisory and review services; (ii) pre-investment or feasibility studies; (iii) design; (iv) construction supervision; (v) management and related services; and (vi) other technical services or special studies.
- (h) *Goods* refer to all items, supplies, materials and general support services, except consulting services and infrastructure projects, which may be needed in the transaction of public businesses or in the pursuit of any government undertaking, project or activity, whether in the nature of equipment, furniture, stationery, materials for construction, or personal property of any kind, including non-personal or contractual services such as the repair and maintenance of equipment and furniture, as well as trucking, hauling, janitorial, security, and related or analogous services, as well as procurement of materials and supplies provided by the procuring entity for such services.
- (i) *GPPB* refers to the Government Procurement Policy Board established in accordance with Article XVII of this Act.

(j) Head of Procuring Entity - refers to: (i) the head of the agency or his duly authorized official, for national government agencies; (ii) the governing board or its duly authorized official, for government-owned and/or -controlled corporations; or (iii) the local chief executive, for local government units. Provided, That in a department, office or agency where the procurement is decentralized, the Head of each decentralized unit shall be considered as the Head of the Procuring Entity subject to the limitations and authority delegated by the head of the department, office or agency.

- (k) *Infrastructure Projects* include the construction, improvement, rehabilitation, demolition, repair, restoration, or maintenance of roads and bridges, railways, airports, seaports, communication facilities, civil works components of information technology projects, irrigation, flood control and drainage, water supply, sanitation, sewerage and solid waste management systems, shore protection, shipbuilding and ship repair, energy/power and electrification facilities, national buildings, school buildings, hospital buildings, and other related construction projects of the government.
- (I) *IRR* refers to the implementing rules and regulations to be promulgated in accordance with Section 79 of this Act.
- (m) Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS)

   refers to the single electronic portal as provided in Section 19 of this Act.
- (n) Portal refers to a website that aggregates a wide variety of content for the purpose of attracting a large number of users.
- (o) Procurement refers to the acquisition of Goods, Consulting Services, and the contracting for Infrastructure Projects by the Procuring Entity. Procurement shall also include the lease of goods and real estate. With respect to real property, its procurement shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 8974, entitled "An Act to Facilitate the Acquisition of Right-of-Way Site or Location for National

Government Infrastructure Projects and for Other Purposes", and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

(p) *Procuring Entity* - refers to any branch, department, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, including state universities and colleges, government-owned and/or -controlled corporations, government financial institutions, and local government units procuring Goods, Consulting Services and Infrastructure Projects.

**SEC. 6.** Standardization of Procurement Process and Forms. – To systematize the procurement process, avoid confusion, and ensure transparency, the procurement process, including the forms to be used, shall be standardized insofar as practicable.

For this purpose, the GPPB shall pursue the development of generic procurement manuals and standard bidding forms, the use of which once issued shall be mandatory upon all Procuring Entities.

#### **ARTICLE II**

#### STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT PLANNING

**SEC. 7.** Strategic Procurement Planning. – All procurement shall be undertaken only upon proper and sufficient planning and preparations to arrive at sound procurement decisions. This includes the conduct of a relevant market scoping, supply positioning, analysis of available procurement modalities, and risk management.

Procuring entities shall likewise adopt a procurement strategy that will help ensure fit-for-purpose and proportional procurement approaches, and with due consideration to the whole life cycle of a procurement project in order to achieve value for money. During the planning stage, the procuring entity shall ensure that the project has minimal economic, social, and environmental risks or negative impact during its life cycle, and that the goods and services are procured alongside responsible consumption and production practices in accordance with national policy. Measures, such as, but not limited to, take-back, recycling, repurchase, destruction, auction, barter, or direct donation to public or private persons shall be considered by the procuring entity in the development of its requirements for purposes of disposal at the end of the useful life of the property.

**SEC. 8.** *Mandatory Market Scoping.* – To ensure proper and strategic procurement planning, procuring entities shall conduct market scoping to support the

submission of their project procurement plan. Market scoping enables the procuring entity to gather all related information on the procurement at hand, including engaging with the market operators to get the right information on project costing, technical specifications, availability, delivery lead time, storage or warehousing, and all other procurement-related information.

**SEC. 9.** Procurement Planning and Budgeting Linkage. — All procurement should be within the approved budget of the Procuring Entity and meticulously and judiciously planned by the Procuring Entity concerned. Consistent with government fiscal discipline measures, only those considered crucial to the efficient discharge of governmental functions shall be included in the Annual Procurement Plan (APP) to be specified in the IRR. Multi-year procurements shall be within the approved MYCA or any similar document issued by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for NGAs, or its equivalent document for GOCCs, GFIs, and LGUs.

No government procurement shall be undertaken unless it is in accordance with the approved APP or indicative APP of the Procuring Entity, as the case may be. The APP shall be approved by the Head of the Procuring Entity and must be consistent with its duly approved yearly budget or proposed budget in the case of the indicative APP. The APP shall be formulated and revised only in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the IRR. In the case of Infrastructure Projects, the plan shall include detailed architectural and engineering design, and acquisition of right-of-way.

**SEC. 10.** *Specifications.* – Specifications for the procurement of goods, as well as the goods component of infrastructure projects and consulting services, shall be based on any or a combination of the following: relevant characteristics; performance or functionality requirements; or product or service standards specified by appropriate government entities or similar international bodies.

Reference to a brand name shall not be allowed except for reasons of technical compatibility, servicing, maintenance, or preservation of warranty in order to keep the performance, functionality, and useful life of the equipment, in which case, the procuring entity shall indicate the reasons or justifications for availing of the exception.

**SEC. 11.** Early Procurement Activities. – In order to ensure the timely implementation of projects, procuring entities are authorized to undertake early procurement activities even pending approval of the funding thereof.

The conduct of early procurement activities shall be made only upon approval of the indicative app by the Head of Procuring Entity. No award of contract shall be made until the approval and effectivity of the appropriate funding.

In case of projects requiring acquisition of right-of-way, no award of contract shall likewise be made until an authority or permit to enter is issued by the property owner; or a notarized deed of sale or deed of donation is executed in favor of the government; or a writ of execution is issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, as the case may be.

The GPPB shall issue the guidelines in the conduct of early procurement activities.

**SEC. 12.** *Green Public Procurement Strategy.* – Green Public Procurement (GPP) is an approach whereby procuring entities seek to procure goods, infrastructure projects, and consulting services with reduced environmental impact through their life cycle.

As part of strategic procurement planning and in support of the Philippines' commitment to accelerate climate action and strengthen disaster resilience by transitioning into a low carbon economy, procuring entities shall integrate green practices, as well as environmentally relevant criteria or requirements, in the design of their procurement projects in order to achieve broader policy objectives on energy, water and material efficiency, waste reduction, pollution and emission prevention, climate change mitigation, local and rural development, greening supply chains, greening infrastructure and work, industry productivity, innovation and competitiveness, inclusive business models, green jobs, and circular economy.

- **SEC. 13.** Development of a Green Local Market. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in consultation with relevant government agencies and the private sector shall develop a cost-efficient validation and certification program for green products to attract green investments and improve the competition in government procurement.
- **SEC. 14.** Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy. Sustainable public procurement incorporates social considerations, such as gender parity and women's empowerment in the procurement of goods, infrastructure projects, and consulting services. A gender responsive procurement strategy is a mechanism to integrate

gender dimensions in the design of procurement projects through a gender-based needs and impact assessment.

The GPPB shall develop procurement policies that engender an enabling environment for meaningful competition across all bidders; implement an inclusive capacity development program; and provide greater access to markets through digitalization. It shall also issue the policy guidelines on how procuring entities can implement gender responsive approaches in public procurement in relation to project planning, eligibility and selection criteria, contract performance, and grounds for exclusion/suspension/debarment.

**SEC. 15.** *Procurement of Second-Hand Goods.* – Procurement of second-hand goods and equipment may be allowed under any of the applicable modes of procurement enumerated in Article III of this Act, subject to considerations as to durability, remaining useful life, sustainability, maintenance cost, warranty, price, and such other relevant factors in order to secure a contract that is most advantageous to the government. Procurement of second-hand motor vehicles shall be in accordance with the guidelines and circulars issued by the Department of Budget and Management.

**SEC. 16.** *Life-Cycle Assessment and Life-Cycle Cost Analysis.* – To further support strategic procurement management and ensure smart and prudent use of government resources, procuring entities shall apply Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Life-Cycle Cost Analysis (LCCA) in project planning, eligibility and selection criteria, or contract implementation, as may be applicable.

The GPPB shall issue the guidelines on the use of LCA and LCCA in the proper planning, determination of eligibility and selection criteria, and implementation of procurement projects.

- **SEC. 17.** Design and Build Scheme for Government Building Construction Projects. In preparing for a procurement project, procuring entities may consider employing the Design and Build Scheme as a procurement approach whereby a single contractor is responsible for both design and construction of the government building, thus, allowing for quality assurance and effective cost and schedule management.
- **SEC. 18.** Engagement of a Procurement Agent. As part of strategic procurement planning, the Head of Procuring Entity may authorize the engagement

of a procurement agent if the procuring entity does not have the capability or proficiency to undertake a particular procurement, subject to the guidelines of the GPPB.

All funds transferred between NGAs, or by NGAs to GOCCs and vice versa, or by NGAs to LGUs shall not be considered disbursed until the transferred amounts have been actually utilized to pay for completed construction, goods delivered and services rendered, inspected and accepted, within the validity period. It is understood that transfer of funds shall strictly be in accordance with pertinent budgeting, accounting, auditing, and procurement laws, rules, and regulations.

**SEC. 19.** *Use of Framework Agreement.* – Procuring Entities may use a framework agreement as a procurement strategy that may be utilized in government procurement in order to expand the pool of prospective bidders, take advantage of economies of scale, minimize the administrative burden of conducting separate procurement activities, and generate time and money savings. The framework agreement is in the nature of an option contract between the procuring entity and the bidder(s) that stipulates the terms and conditions that would be applied in subsequent contracts for the procurement of goods, infrastructure projects, and consulting services with a single or multiple contractor, manufacturer, supplier, distributor, and/or consultant. The GPPB shall issue the guidelines in the use of framework agreement.

**SEC. 20.** Procurement by Electronic Means. – To promote greater transparency, accountability, operational efficiency, and value for money, the PhilGEPS, managed by the Procurement Service (PS) – DBM, shall be the single electronic portal that shall serve as the primary channel and source of information in the conduct of all procurement activities by the government for the acquisition of goods, infrastructure projects and consulting services. The PhilGEPS shall maintain an integrated system that covers procurement planning until payment.

To take advantage of the significant built-in efficiencies of the PhilGEPS and the volume discounts inherent in bulk purchasing, through the centralized procurement undertaken by the PS-DBM, all procuring entities may utilize the PhilGEPS virtual store for the procurement of common-use supplies and equipment (CSE) in accordance with the rules and procedures to be established by the GPPB.

The PhilGEPS shall include additional innovative features and solutions, such as but not limited to electronic reverse auction, electronic marketplace, and electronic shopping/electronic small value procurement.

The GPPB is authorized to approve changes in the procurement process to adapt to improvements in modern and emerging technologies, provided that such modifications are consistent with the provisions of Section 3 of this Act.

**SEC. 21.** Security, Integrity and Confidentiality. – The PhilGEPS shall ensure the security, integrity, and confidentiality of documents submitted, stored, and managed through the system. It shall include a feature that provides for an audit trail of electronic transactions and allow the Commission on Audit to verify the security and integrity of the system at any time.

#### **ARTICLE III**

#### **MODES OF PROCUREMENT**

**SEC. 22.** *Modes of Procurement.* – The Procuring Entity shall adopt any of the following modes of procurement consistent with the fit-for-purpose procurement approach:

- Competitive Bidding refers to a mode of procurement which is open to participation by any eligible bidder. Notwithstanding the applicability of the other modes of procurement defined in the succeeding items, the Procuring Entity may adopt competitive bidding in its procurement activity.
- 2. Limited Source Bidding a mode of procurement that involves direct invitation to bid by the Procuring Entity to a set of pre-selected suppliers or consultants with known experience and proven capability relative to the requirements of a particular contract. Limited Source Bidding may only be resorted to in any of the following conditions:
  - a. Procurement of highly specialized types of Goods and Consulting Services which are known to be obtainable only from a limited number of sources; or
  - b. Procurement of major plant components where it is deemed advantageous to limit the bidding to known eligible bidders in

order to maintain an optimum and uniform level of quality and performance of the plant as a whole.

- 3. Competitive Dialogue a mode of procurement where the Procuring Entity invites suppliers, contractors, or consultants to a dialogue to propose solutions to address its needs and requirements. Competitive Dialogue may be resorted to if any of the following conditions is present:
  - a. The procurement includes innovative design or solutions involving procurement of complex purchases, such as but not limited to, sophisticated products, intellectual services, or major information and communications technology projects;
  - b. The contract requires prior negotiations with the supplier, contractor, or consultant because of specific circumstances related to the nature, complexity, legal and financial issues, or risks attached to the procurement; or
  - c. The technical specifications cannot be sufficiently established or precisely defined by the Procuring Entity.
- 4. *Unsolicited Offer with Bid Matching* the Procuring Entity may consider unsolicited offers on a negotiated basis for Goods and Consulting Services *Provided*, That the following conditions are met:
  - a. The procurement involves a new concept or technology as determined by the head of Procuring Entity; and
  - b. The Procuring Entity has invited comparative or competitive bids. The procedure for bid matching shall be provided in the IRR.

The contract shall be awarded to the original proponent if: (i) no comparative or competitive bid is received within the period prescribed in the IRR; (ii) the bids submitted by the comparative proponents failed at bid opening; or (iii) the original proponent matched or submits a lower price proposal against the comparative or competitive bid.

For purposes of this mode of procurement, and when the new concept or technology is acceptable, the Procuring Entity may secure funds from available sources, subject to government budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules.

5. *Direct Contracting* – a mode of procurement that does not require elaborate bidding documents because the supplier is simply asked to submit a price quotation or a pro-forma invoice together with the conditions of sale, which may be accepted immediately or after some negotiations.

Direct Contracting, or Single Source Procurement, may only be resorted to in any of the following conditions:

- a. Procurement of Goods of proprietary nature, which can be obtained only from the proprietary source, i.e., when patents, trade secrets, and copyrights prohibit others from manufacturing the same item;
- b. When the procurement of critical components from a specific manufacturer, supplier, or distributor is a condition precedent to hold a contractor to guarantee its project performance, in accordance with the provisions of the contract; or
- c. Those sold by an exclusive dealer or manufacturer which does not have sub-dealers selling at lower prices and for which no suitable substitute can be obtained at more advantageous terms to the government.
- 6. Direct Acquisition due to the need of the Procuring Entity, subject to compliance with the identified legal, technical and financial requirements, a Procuring Entity may procure directly from any known and reputable source, its required goods and services for the procurement of Non Common-Use Supplies and Equipment (Non-CSE) with an ABC not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP 100,000.00). The threshold amount can be adjusted as may be deemed appropriate by the GPPB to reflect changes in economic conditions and for other justifiable reasons.

- 7. Repeat Order when provided for in the APP, Repeat Order may be allowed wherein the Procuring Entity directly procures Goods from the previous winning bidder whenever there arises a need to replenish goods procured under a contract previously awarded through Competitive Bidding, subject to post-qualification process prescribed in the Bidding Documents and provided all the following conditions are present:
  - a. The unit price must be equal to or lower than that provided in the original contract;
  - b. Except in special circumstances defined in the IRR, the repeat order shall be availed of only within six (6) months from the date of the notice to proceed arising from the original contract; and
  - c. The repeat order shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the quantity of each item in the original contract.
- 8. Shopping a mode of procurement whereby the Procuring Entity requests for the submission of price quotations for readily available off-the-shelf goods or ordinary/regular equipment to be procured directly from suppliers of known qualifications. Shopping may be resorted to under any of the following instances:
  - a. When there is an unforeseen contingency requiring immediate purchase: *Provided, however,* that the amount shall not exceed Two Million Pesos (PhP 2,000,000.00); or
  - b. Procurement of ordinary or regular office supplies and equipment not available in the PS-DBM involving an amount not exceeding Two Million Pesos (PhP 2,000,000.00): *Provided,* however, that at least three (3) price quotations from bona fide suppliers shall be obtained.

The above amounts shall be subject to a periodic review by the GPPB. For this purpose, the GPPB shall be authorized to adjust the said amount in order to reflect changes in economic conditions and for other justifiable reasons.

- 9. Small Value Procurement a mode of procurement whereby the Procuring Entity requests for the submission of at least three (3) price quotations, and receipt of one (1) quotation is sufficient to proceed with the evaluation of bidders for Goods, Infrastructure Projects and Consulting Services where the amount involved does not exceed Two Million Pesos (PhP 2,000,000.00): Provided, that in case of goods, the procurement does not fall under Shopping in the preceding item, subject to threshold amount adjustments as may be deemed appropriate by the GPPB.
- 10. *Negotiated Procurement* negotiated procurement shall be allowed only in the following instances:
  - a. In cases of two (2) failed biddings, as provided in Section 48 hereof;
  - b. In case of imminent danger to life or property during a state of calamity, or when time is of the essence arising from natural or man-made calamities or other causes where immediate action is necessary to prevent damage to or loss of life or property, or to restore vital public services, infrastructure facilities and other public utilities;
  - c. Take-over of contracts which have been rescinded or terminated for causes provided for in the contract and existing laws, where immediate action is necessary to prevent damage to or loss of life or property, or to restore vital public services, infrastructure facilities and other public utilities;
  - d. Where the subject contract is adjacent or contiguous to an ongoing infrastructure project, as defined in the IRR: *Provided, however*, That the original contract is the result of a Competitive Bidding; the subject contract to be negotiated has similar or related scopes of work; it is within the contracting capacity of the contractor; the contractor uses the same prices or lower unit prices as in the original contract less mobilization cost; the amount involved does not exceed the amount of the

ongoing project; and, the contractor has no negative slippage: *Provided, further,* That negotiations for the procurement are commenced before the expiry of the original contract. Whenever applicable, this principle shall also govern consultancy contracts, where the consultants have unique experience and expertise to deliver the required service;

- e. Subject to the guidelines specified in the IRR, purchases of Goods from another agency of the government, such as the PS-DBM, which is tasked with the centralized procurement of CSE for the government in accordance with Letter of Instructions No. 755, EO No. 359, series of 1989, and Administrative Order No. 17, series of 2011; or
- f. In the case of individual consultants hired to do work that is (i) highly technical or proprietary; or (ii) primarily confidential or policy determining: *Provided*, That in both instances, trust and confidence are the primary consideration for the hiring of the consultant: *Provided, however*, That the term of the individual consultants shall, at the most, be on a six month basis, renewable at the option of the appointing head of Procuring Entity, but in no case shall exceed the term of the latter; or

g. Other instances that may be allowed by the GPPB in the IRR.

**SEC. 23.** Prohibition on Splitting of Government Contracts. – In using any of the modes of procurement under Section 22 of this Act, the Procuring Entity shall ensure that this does not result in splitting of government contracts, which involves dividing or breaking up of contracts into smaller quantities and amounts, or dividing contract implementation into artificial phases or sub-contracts for the purpose of evading or circumventing the requirements of this Act and its IRR.

**SEC. 24.** *Procurement of CSE.* - All NGAs, GOCCs, GFIs, SUCs, and LGUs shall procure their CSE from PS-DBM.

Due to the efficiency and economy of bulk purchasing, the PS-DBM may deal directly with manufacturers or exclusive distributors subject to defined legal, technical and financial requirements ensuring that products are obtained from reliable sources,

of the best quality, and at the most advantageous price for the whole of government.

Access to goods and equipment in economic lot sizes may likewise be achieved by PS-

3 DBM through consignment or any appropriate contractual arrangement.

PS-DBM shall develop the parameters in the identification, and the definition of requirements and specifications of CSEs through the conduct of market scoping, survey and market availability.

**ARTICLE IV** 

#### **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**SEC. 25.** The BAC and its Composition. – Each Procuring Entity shall establish one or several Bids and Awards Committees (BACs) as warranted by the volume and complexity of the procurement projects and to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of its procurement, as determined by the Head of the Procuring Entity. Each BAC shall have at least five (5) members, but not more than seven (7) members. It shall be chaired by at least a third ranking permanent official of the Procuring Entity or in the absence thereof, a permanent official of the next lower rank other than the duly authorized representative of the Head of the Procuring Entity. The members of the BAC shall be designated by the Head of the Procuring Entity. However, in no case shall the Head of the Procuring Entity or the approving authority be a member of the BAC.

Unless sooner removed for a cause, the members of the BAC shall have a fixed term of one (1) year reckoned from the date of designation, subject to reappointment by the Head of the Procuring Entity: *Provided*, That no member of the BAC shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

In case of resignation, retirement, separation, transfer, reassignment, or removal, the replacement shall serve only for the unexpired term: *Provided*, That in case of leave or suspension, the replacement shall serve only for the duration of the leave or suspension. For justifiable causes, a member shall be suspended or removed by the Head of the Procuring Entity. For transfer of knowledge and experience, membership in the BAC shall allow for staggered designations, to be identified in the IRR.

**SEC. 26.** Functions of the BAC. – The BAC shall have the following functions: conduct the bidding process, recommend award of contracts to the Head of Procuring

Entity or his duly authorized representative: *Provided*, That in the event the Head of Procuring Entity shall disapprove such recommendation, such disapproval shall be based only on valid, reasonable, and justifiable grounds to be expressed in writing, copy furnished the BAC; recommend the imposition of sanctions in accordance with Article XX, and perform such other related functions as may be necessary, including

the creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) from a pool of technical, financial, and/or legal experts to assist in the procurement process.

In proper cases, the BAC shall also recommend to the Head of the Procuring Entity the use of any of the Modes of Procurement as provided in Article III of this Act.

The BAC shall prepare a procurement monitoring report that shall be approved and submitted by the Head of the Procuring Entity to the GPPB on a semestral basis. The contents and coverage of this report shall be provided in the IRR.

**SEC. 27.** *Observers.* – To enhance the transparency of the process, the BAC shall, in all stages of the procurement process, invite, in addition to the representative of the Commission on Audit, at least two (2) observers to sit in its proceedings, one (1) from a duly recognized private group in a sector or discipline relevant to the procurement at hand, and the other from a civil society organization or people's organization, as the case may be: *Provided*, however, That they do not have any direct or indirect interest in the contract to be bid out. The observers should be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and should meet the criteria for observers as set forth in the IRR.

**SEC. 28.** Procurement Support for the BAC. – There shall be a procurement unit, division, or office in each procuring entity which shall serve as secretariat to the BAC and perform other procurement-related functions as may be delegated by the BAC. the creation of the procurement unit, division, or office shall be subject to the standards and guidelines prescribed by the DBM.

**SEC. 29.** *Honoraria.* – The Procuring Entity may grant payment of honoraria to all members of the BAC regardless of position, TWG, and ad hoc secretariat, in an amount not to exceed thirty percent (30%) of their respective basic monthly salaries, subject to availability of funds. The DBM shall promulgate the necessary guidelines for this purpose.

1	SEC. 30. Professionalization of Government Procurement Practitioners In
2	order to build a cadre of public procurement professionals, the DBM shall create
3	procurement positions in the government based on the qualification standards
4	recommended by the GPPB and approved by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).
5	Further, the GPPB, in collaboration with the Professional Regulation Commission
6	(PRC), shall provide comprehensive guidelines aimed at establishing and maintaining
7	effective regulation for the practice of the procurement profession.
8	The GPPB shall develop the following:
9	a. a competency framework to identify the skills, knowledge, and
10	attribute of each of the procurement positions;
11	b. a certification framework to upscale procurement competencies and
12	ensure continued professional development;
13	c. a code of ethics for public procurement professionals; and
14	d. an inclusive capacity development program in order to enhance
15	accountability of all procurement practitioners, both from the public
16	and private sectors, promote supplier diversity, promote competition
17	and optimize efficiency, and value for money.
18	ARTICLE V
19	PREPARATION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
20	SEC. 31. Form and Content of Bidding Documents. – The Bidding Documents
21	shall be prepared by the Procuring Entity following the standard forms and manuals
22	prescribed by the GPPB. The Bidding Documents shall include the following:
23	a. Approved Budget for the Contract;
24	b. Instructions to Bidders, including criteria for eligibility, bid evaluation
25	and post-qualification, The weight assigned to each criteria and the
26	quality-price ratio if awarded to the most economically advantageous
27	responsive bid under Section 45, as well as the date, time and place
28	of the pre-bid conference (where applicable), submission of bids and
29	opening of bids;
30	c. Terms of Reference;
31	d. Eligibility Requirements;
32	e. Plans and Technical Specifications;

- f. Form of Bid, Price Form, and List of Goods or Bill of Quantities;
- g. Delivery Time or Completion Schedule;

- h. Form and Amount of Bid Security;
  - i. Form and Amount of Performance Security and Warranty;
- j. Form of Contract, and General and Special Conditions of Contract; and
- k. Additional documentary requirements or specifications necessary to complete the information required for the bidders to prepare and submit their respective bids.

Based on specific needs, the end-user unit or implementing unit of the procuring entity shall be responsible for the preparation of all documents necessary for the procurement activity, including but shall not be limited to, the technical specifications, scope of work, or terms of reference.

**SEC. 32.** Access to Information. – In all stages of the preparation of the bidding documents, the Procuring Entity shall ensure equal access to information. Prior to their official release, no aspect of the bidding documents shall be divulged or released to any prospective bidder or person having direct or indirect interest in the project to be procured, or to any party, except those officially authorized in the handling of the documents.

*Provided*, That, in procurements involving and affecting national security, the disclosure of the specific components of the procurement documents, such as, the technical specifications, requirements, and components, shall be dependent upon the head of procuring entity, having due regard to the nature, classification, sensitivity, and confidentiality of the relevant documents vis-a-vis the purpose and reason for the request.

## 25 ARTICLE VI 26 INVITATION TO BID

**SEC. 33.** *Pre-Procurement Conference.* – Prior to the issuance of the Invitation to Bid, the BAC is mandated to hold a pre-procurement conference on each and every procurement, except those contracts below a certain level or amount specified in the IRR, in which case, the pre-procurement conference is optional.

The pre-procurement conference shall assess the readiness of the procurement in terms of confirming the certification of availability of funds, as well as reviewing all

relevant documents in relation to their adherence to the law. this shall be attended by the BAC, end-user unit or implementing unit, or officials who prepared the bidding documents and the draft invitation to bid. consultants, if any, may likewise attend the pre-procurement conference, as necessary.

For the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, the BAC, based on the recommendation of the end-user unit, shall determine whether the contract will be awarded to the lowest calculated responsive bid or the most economically advantageous responsive bid as defined in Section 45 of this Act.

The most economically advantageous responsive bid, as an award criterion, may be used where the consideration of assigning weights for the technical and financial aspects of the project is more appropriate to recognize both the qualitative and economic values of the bid.

**SEC. 34.** Publication and Contents of the Invitation to Bid. — In line with the principle of transparency and competitiveness and to ensure the widest possible dissemination thereof, all Invitations to Bid for contracts under competitive bidding shall be published by the Procuring Entity, in the PhilGEPS, in any conspicuous place in the premises of the procuring entity, and in the website or social media platforms of the Procuring Entity, if available or such other channels as may be authorized by the GPPB.

For justifiable reasons, procuring entities that cannot publish procurement opportunities in its website, social media platform, or such other channels authorized by the GPPB shall publish its invitation to bid, at least once, in a newspaper of general nationwide circulation. The details and mechanics of implementation shall be provided in the IRR.

The Invitation to Bid shall contain, among others:

- a. A brief description of the subject matter of the Procurement;
- b. A general statement on the criteria to be used by the Procuring Entity for the eligibility check, the examination and evaluation of Bids, and post-qualification: *Provided*, That, in the case of procurement of consulting services, the invitation to bid shall also contain the criteria for the shortlisting of prospective bidders;

c. For the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, whether the 1 contract will be awarded to the lowest calculated responsive bid or the 2 3 most economically advantageous responsive bid; d. If the contract is to be awarded to the most economically 4 5 advantageous responsive bid, the criteria to be used in assessing the bid, the weight or score assigned by the procuring entity to each 6 7 criteria, and the quality-price ratio to determine the award; e. The date, time and place of the deadline for the submission and 8 receipt of the eligibility requirements, the pre-bid conference if any, 9 the submission and receipt of bids, and the opening of bids; 10 f. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid; 11 g. The source of funds; 12 h. The period of availability of the Bidding Documents, and the place 13 where these may be secured; 14 i. The contract duration; and 15 j. Such other necessary information deemed relevant by the Procuring 16 17 **SEC. 35.** *Pre-bid Conference.* – At least one pre-bid conference shall be 18 conducted for each procurement, unless otherwise provided in the IRR. Subject to the 19 approval of the BAC, a pre-bid conference may also be conducted upon the written 20 request of any prospective bidder. The pre-bid conference(s) shall be held within a 21 reasonable period before the deadline for receipt of bids to allow prospective bidders 22 to adequately prepare their bids, which shall be specified in the IRR. 23 For purposes of transparency, efficiency, and competitiveness, procuring 24 entities may guide prospective bidders in the understanding and accomplishment of 25 the necessary documents to support their participation in the procurement process. 26 **ARTICLE VII** 27 **RECEIPT AND OPENING OF BIDS** 28 SEC. 36. Eligibility Requirements for the Procurement of Goods, Infrastructure 29 30

**SEC. 36.** Eligibility Requirements for the Procurement of Goods, Infrastructure Projects, and Consulting Services. – The BAC or, under special circumstances specified in the IRR, its duly designated organic office shall require the submission of the prospective bidder's valid and updated PhilGEPS Certificate of Registration and

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Membership to ensure that the bidder is technically, legally, and financially capable to undertake the proposed project for the procurement of goods, infrastructure projects, and consulting services within the period set forth in the Invitation to Bid.

The documents submitted to support the issuance of the PhilGEPS Certificate of Registration and Membership shall be subject to validation by the BAC during post-qualification.

A prospective bidder may be allowed to submit its eligibility requirements electronically. However, said bidder shall later on certify under oath as to the correctness of the statements made and the completeness and authenticity of the documents submitted.

**SEC. 37.** Short-Listing for Consulting Services. – The eligible prospective bidders for the procurement of consulting services shall be evaluated using numerical ratings on the basis of the short-listing requirements prescribed for the Competitive Bidding concerned, within the period stated in the Invitation to Bid to determine the short-list of bidders that shall be allowed to submit their respective bids.

**SEC. 38.** Submission and Receipt of Bids. – A bid shall have two (2) components, namely the technical and financial components which should be in separate sealed envelopes, and which shall be submitted simultaneously. The bids shall be received by the BAC on such date, time, and place specified in the Invitation to Bid. The deadline for the receipt of bids shall be fixed by the BAC, providing sufficient time to complete the bidding process and giving the prospective bidders sufficient time to study and prepare their bids. The deadline shall also consider the urgency of the procurement involved. Bids submitted after the deadline shall not be accepted.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section and Section 39 of this Act, the GPPB shall adopt technological advances to enhance the procurement process, and leverage emerging technologies and innovative procedures for the submission, receipt, and opening of bids through the PhilGEPS.

**SEC. 39.** *Modification and Withdrawal of Bids.* – A bidder may modify his bid, provided that this is done before the deadline for the receipt of bids. The modification shall be submitted in a sealed envelope duly identified as a modification of the original bid and stamped received by the BAC.

A bidder may, through a letter, withdraw his bid or express his intention not to participate in the bidding before the deadline for the receipt of bids. In such case, he shall no longer be allowed to submit another Bid for the same contract either directly or indirectly.

**SEC. 40.** *Bid Security.* – All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid security, which shall serve as a guarantee that, after receipt of the Notice of Award, the winning bidder shall enter into contract with the Procuring Entity within the stipulated time and furnish the required performance security. The specific amounts and allowable forms of the Bid security shall be prescribed in the IRR.

**SEC. 41**. *Bid Validity*. — Bids and Bid securities shall be valid for such reasonable period of time indicated in the Bidding Documents. The duration for each undertaking shall take into account the time involved in the process of Bid evaluation and award of contract.

**SEC. 42**. *Bid Opening.* – The BAC shall publicly open all bids at the time, date, and place specified in the bidding documents. The minutes of the bid opening shall be made available to the public upon written request and payment of a specified fee.

**ARTICLE VIII** 

#### 18 BID EVALUATION

**SEC. 43.** *Preliminary Examination of Bids.* – Prior to Bid evaluation, the BAC shall examine first the technical components of the bids using "pass/fail" criteria to determine whether all required documents are present. Only bids that are determined to contain all the bid requirements of the technical component shall be considered for opening and evaluation of their financial component.

**SEC. 44.** *Ceiling for Bid Prices.* – The ABC shall be the upper limit or ceiling for the Bid prices. Bid prices that exceed this ceiling shall be disqualified outright from further participating in the bidding. There shall be no lower limit to the amount of the award.

**SEC. 45.** *Bid for the Procurement of Goods and Infrastructure Projects.* – For the procurement of Goods and Infrastructure Projects, the BAC shall evaluate the financial component of the bids.

For contracts to be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, the bids that passed the preliminary examination shall be ranked from lowest to highest in

terms of their corresponding calculated prices. The bid with the lowest calculated price shall be referred to as the "Lowest Calculated Bid."

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For contracts to be awarded to the Most Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid, the BAC shall evaluate the bid using a predetermined quality-price ratio. The quality component shall be assessed on the basis of criteria that may include qualitative, environmental and/or social aspects linked to the subject matter of the contract. The price component shall be rated based on the Lowest Calculated Bid not exceeding the ABC.

The BAC shall specify in the Invitation to Bid the quality-price ratio and the criteria for assessing the quality component. The bidder with the best overall score using the quality-price ratio shall be referred to as the "Most Economically Advantageous Bid.

**SEC. 46.** Bid Evaluation of Short Listed Bidders for Consulting Services. – For the procurement of Consulting Services under a quality-based evaluation procedure, the Bids of the short-listed bidders shall be evaluated and ranked using numerical ratings in accordance with the evaluation criteria stated in the Bidding Documents, which shall include factors such as, but not limited to, experience, performance, quality of personnel, price and methodology. The Bids shall be ranked from highest to lowest in terms of their corresponding calculated ratings. The Bid with the highest calculated rating shall be the "Highest Rated Bid." The BAC shall invite the bidder concerned for negotiation and/or clarification on the following items: financial proposal submitted by the bidder, terms of reference, scope of services, methodology and work program, personnel to be assigned to the job, services/facilities/data to be provided by the Procuring Entity concerned, and provisions of the contract. When negotiations with the first-in-rank bidder fails, the financial proposal of the second rank bidder shall be opened for negotiations: *Provided*, That the amount indicated in the financial envelope shall be made as the basis for negotiations and the total contract amount shall not exceed the amount indicated in the envelope and the ABC. Whenever necessary, the same process shall be repeated until the bid is awarded to the winning bidder.

For quality-cost based evaluation procedure, the rules shall be defined in the IRR.

#### ARTICLE IX

POST-QUALIFICATION

**SEC. 47**. *Objective and Process of Post-qualification.* – Post-qualification is the stage where the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid, or the Most Economically Advantageous Bid, in the case of Goods and Infrastructure Projects, or the Highest Rated Bid, in the case of Consulting Services, undergoes verification and validation whether it has passed all the requirements and conditions as specified in the Bidding Documents.

If the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid or Highest Rated Bid passes all the criteria for post-qualification, its Bid shall be considered the "Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid," in the case of Goods and Infrastructure projects or the "Highest Rated Responsive Bid," in the case of Consulting Services.

If the bidder with the Most Economically Advantageous Bid passes the verification and validation by the BAC and TWG of each bid component, to which any weight or score is given during evaluation, as well as all the criteria for post-qualification, its bid shall be considered the "Most Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid." The quality and price components, the corresponding numerical weights, and the procedures for the determination of the most economically advantageous responsive bid shall be provided in the IRR.

However, if a bidder fails to meet any of the requirements or conditions, it shall be "post-disqualified" and the BAC shall conduct the post-qualification on the bidder with the second Lowest Calculated Bid or Highest Rated Bid, or the Most Economically Advantageous Bid with the second highest score. The same procedure shall be repeated until the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, Highest Rated Responsive Bid, or the Most Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid, as the case may be, is finally determined.

In all cases, the contract shall be awarded only to the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, Highest Rated Responsive Bid, or Most Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid, as the case may be.

**SEC. 48**. *Failure of Bidding.* – There shall be a failure of bidding if:

a. No bids are received; or

1	b. No bid qualifies as the lowest calculated responsive Bid,
2	highest rated responsive bid, or most economically
3	advantageous responsive bid; or
4	c. Whenever the bidder with the lowest calculated responsive
5	bid, highest rated responsive bid, or most economically
6	advantageous responsive bid, as the case may be, refuses,
7	without justifiable cause, to accept the award of contract.
8	Under any of the above instances, the contract shall be re-advertised or
9	reposted and re-bid. The BAC shall observe the same process and set the new periods
10	according to the same rules followed during the first bidding. After the second failed
11	bidding, however, the BAC may resort to negotiated procurement as provided for in
12	Section 22 of this Act.
13	SEC. 49. Single Calculated/Rated and Responsive Bid Submission. – A Single
14	Calculated/Rated/Most Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid shall be
15	considered for award if it falls under any of the following circumstances:
16	a. If after advertisement, only one prospective bidder applies for
17	eligibility check, and meets the eligibility requirements or criteria,
18	after which it submits a bid, which is found to be responsive to the
19	bidding requirements;
20	b. If after the advertisement, more than one prospective bidder
21	applies for eligibility check, but only one bidder meets the eligibility
22	requirements or criteria, after which it submits a bid which is found
23	to be responsive to the bidding requirements; or
24	c. If after the eligibility check, more than one bidder meets the
25	eligibility requirements, but only one bidder submits a bid, and its
26	bid is found to be responsive to the bidding requirements.
27	In all instances, the Procuring Entity shall ensure that the ABC reflects the most
28	advantageous prevailing price for the government.
29	ARTICLE X
30	AWARD, IMPLEMENTATION AND TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT
31	<b>SEC. 50</b> . <i>Notice and Execution of Award.</i> — Within a period not exceeding ten
32	(10) calendar days from the determination and declaration by the BAC of the Lowest

Calculated Responsive Bid, Highest Rated Responsive Bid, or Most Economically
Advantageous Responsive Bid, as the case may be, and the recommendation of the
award, the Head of the Procuring Entity or his duly authorized representative shall
approve or disapprove the said recommendation. In case of approval, the Head of the
Procuring Entity or his duly authorized representative shall immediately issue the
Notice of Award to the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, Highest
Rated Responsive Bid, or Most Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid.

The winning bidder shall formally enter into contract with the Procuring Entity within ten (10) calendar days from award of the contract. When further approval of higher authority is required, the approving authority for the contract shall be given a maximum period of fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the contract to approve or disapprove it. In the case of GOCCs, the concerned board shall take action on the said recommendation within twenty (20) calendar days from receipt thereof. The prescribed periods for execution and/or approval of contracts may be extended for reasons beyond the control of the Procuring Entity or the Approving Authority, or for other justifiable causes.

The Procuring Entity shall issue the Notice to Proceed to the winning bidder not later than three (3) calendar days from the date of approval of the contract by the appropriate authority. All notices called for by the terms of the contract shall be effective only at the time of receipt thereof by the contractor.

**SEC. 51**. Period of Action on Procurement Activities. — The procurement process from the opening of bids up to the award of contract shall not exceed three (3) months, or a shorter period to be determined by the Procuring Entity in accordance with the timelines prescribed in the IRR. Without prejudice to the provisions of the preceding Section, the different procurement activities shall be completed within reasonable periods to be specified in the IRR.

If no action on the contract is taken by the Head of the Procuring Entity, or by his duly authorized representative, or by the concerned board, in the case of government-owned and/or -controlled corporations, within the periods specified in the preceding paragraph, the contract concerned shall be deemed approved.

**SEC. 52**. *Performance Security.* – Prior to the signing of the contract, the winning bidder shall, as a measure of guarantee for the faithful performance of and

compliance with its obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the Bidding Documents, be required to post a performance security in such form and amount as may be specified by the GPPB.

The Insurance Commission (IC) shall identify the surety companies that may be tapped to issue surety and/or performance bonds. The list of surety companies identified by IC shall include only those whose surety business is ready to provide callable-on-demand surety contracts, where the procuring entity can claim outright on the surety contract and receive the proceeds thereof upon default of the bidder. The performance security posted by the winning bidder must remain effective until final acceptance by the procuring entity.

**SEC. 53.** Failure to Enter into Contract and Post Performance Security. – If for justifiable causes, the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, Highest Rated Responsive Bid, or Most Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid, as the case may be, fails, refuses, or is otherwise unable to enter into contract with the Procuring Entity, or if the bidder fails to post the required performance security within the period stipulated in the Bidding Documents, the BAC shall disqualify the said bidder and shall undertake post-qualification for the next-ranked Lowest Calculated Bid, Highest Rated Bid, or Most Economically Advantageous Bid. This procedure shall be repeated until an award is made. However, if no award is possible, the contract shall be subjected to a new bidding.

In the case of failure to post the required performance security, the bid security shall be forfeited without prejudice to the imposition of sanctions prescribed under Article XX.

**SEC. 54.** Reservation Clause. – The invitation to bid is simply an invitation to make proposals, and the Head of the Procuring Entity is not bound to accept the highest or lowest bid.

The Head of Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in the following situations:

a. If there is prima facie evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the Procuring Entity, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third

1	party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or	
2	tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition;	
3	b. If the BAC is found to have failed in following the prescribed	
4	bidding procedures; or	
5	c. For any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the	
6	contract will not redound to the benefit of the government as	
7	defined in the IRR.	
8	SEC. 55. Contract Implementation and Termination. – The rules and guidelines	
9	for the implementation and termination of contracts awarded pursuant to the	
10	provisions of this Act shall be prescribed in the IRR. The rules and guidelines for	
11	implementation shall include general and special conditions of contract.	
12	ARTICLE XI	
13	DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PROCUREMENT	
14	SEC. 56. Procurement of Domestic and Foreign Goods Consistent with the	
15	country's obligations under international treaties or agreements, goods may be	
16	obtained from domestic or foreign sources and the procurement thereof shall be open	
17	to all eligible suppliers, manufacturers and distributors. However, in the interest of	
18	availability, efficiency and timely delivery of Goods, the Procuring Entity may give	
19	preference to the purchase of domestically-produced and manufactured goods,	
20	supplies and materials that meet the specified or desired quality.	
21	ARTICLE XII	·
22	LEASE OF COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION AND OTHER	
23	EQUIPMENT	
24	SEC. 57. Lease Contracts Lease of construction and office equipment,	***
25	including computers, communication and information technology equipment are	
26	subject to the same public bidding and to the processes prescribed under this Act.	

#### **ARTICLE XIII**

#### **DISCLOSURE OF RELATIONS**

**SEC. 58.** *Disclosure of Relations.* – In addition to the proposed contents of the Invitation to Bid as mentioned under Section 34 of this Act, all bidding documents shall be accompanied by a sworn affidavit of the bidder that he or she, any director, or any corporate officer of their corporation is not related to the Head of Procuring Entity; the members of the BAC, the TWG, and the BAC Secretariat, the head of the PMO or the end-user unit or implementing unit, and the project consultants of the Procuring Entity, or of the Procurement Agent, whichever is applicable, by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree. In order to determine the ultimate beneficiary and prevent collusion, the ultimate beneficial ownership of an entity shall be disclosed by the bidder. Failure to comply with the aforementioned provision shall be a ground for the automatic disqualification of the bid in consonance with Section 43 of this Act.

ARTICLE XIV

#### **PROTEST MECHANISM**

**SEC. 59**. *Protests on Decisions of the BAC*. – Decisions of the BAC in all stages of procurement may be protested to the Head of the Procuring Entity and shall be in writing. Decisions of the BAC may be protested by filing a verified position paper and paying a non-refundable protest fee. The amount of the protest fee and the periods during which the protests may be filed and resolved shall be specified in the IRR.

**SEC. 60.** Resolution of Protests. – The protests shall be resolved strictly on the basis of records of the BAC. Subject to the provisions of existing laws on the authority of Department Secretaries and the Heads of agencies, branches, constitutional commissions, or instrumentalities of the government to approve contracts, the decisions of the head of the procuring entity shall be final up to the limit of his contract approving authority. With respect to LGUs, the decision of the Local Chief Executive shall be final.

**SEC. 61.** *Non-interruption of the Bidding Process.* – In no case shall any protest taken from any decision treated in this Article stay or delay the bidding process. Protests must first be resolved before any award is made.

**SEC. 62**. *Report to Regular Courts; Certiorari*. – Court action may be resorted to only after the protests contemplated in this Article shall have been completed. Cases that are filed in violation of the process specified in this Article shall be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. The Regional Trial Court shall have jurisdiction over final decisions of the Head of the Procuring Entity. Court actions shall be governed by Rule 65 of Revised Rules of Civil Procedure.

**SEC. 63.** Prohibition on the Issuance of Temporary Restraining Orders, Preliminary Mandatory Injunctions. – No court, except the Supreme Court, shall issue any temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or preliminary mandatory injunction against the government, or any of its subdivisions, officials, or any person or entity, whether public or private acting under the government direction, to restrain, prohibit or compel the procurement, bidding or awarding of contracts for goods, infrastructure projects, and consulting services of the government; commencement, execution, implementation, operation of any such contract; termination or rescission of any such contract; and the undertaking or authorization of any other lawful activity necessary for such contract.

This prohibition shall apply in all cases, disputes or controversies instituted by a private party, including but not limited to cases filed by bidders or those claiming to have rights through such bidders involving such contract. This prohibition shall not apply when the matter is of extreme urgency involving a constitutional issue, such that unless a temporary restraining order is issued, grave injustice and irreparable injury will arise, the applicant shall file a bond, in an amount to be fixed by the court, which bond shall accrue in favor of the government if the court should finally decide that the applicant was not entitled to the relief sought.

25 ARTICLE XV

#### **SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

**SEC. 64.** *Dispute Resolution.* — Any and all disputes arising from the implementation of a contract covered by this Act may be submitted to arbitration or other forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Philippines according to the provisions of RA No. 9285, otherwise known as the "Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004": *Provided, However*, that, disputes that are within the competence of the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission to resolve shall be referred thereto.

#### **ARTICLE XVI**

#### **CONTRACT PRICES AND WARRANTIES**

**SEC. 65.** Contract Prices. – For the given scope of work in the contract as awarded, all bid prices shall be considered as fixed prices, and therefore not subject to price escalation during contract implementation, except under extraordinary circumstances and upon prior approval of the GPPB.

For purposes of this Section, "extraordinary circumstances" shall refer to events that may be determined by the National Economic and Development Authority in accordance with the Civil Code of the Philippines, and upon the recommendation of the Procuring Entity concerned.

**SEC. 66.** Warranty. – (a) For the procurement of Goods, in order to assure that manufacturing defects shall be corrected by the supplier, manufacturer, or distributor, as the case maybe, for a specific time after performance of the contract, a warranty shall be required from the contract awardee for such period of time as may be provided in the IRR, the obligation for which shall be covered by either retention money in the amount equivalent to a percentage of every progress payment, or a special bank guarantee equivalent to a percentage of the total contract price, to be provided in the IRR. The said amounts shall only be released after the lapse of the warranty period, provided that the Goods supplied are free from defects and all the conditions imposed under the contract have been fully met.

(b) For the procurement of infrastructure projects, the contractor shall assume full responsibility for the contract work from the time project construction commenced up to a reasonable period as defined in the IRR, taking into consideration the scale and coverage of the project from its final acceptance by the government, and shall be held responsible for any damage or construction of works except those occasioned by force majeure. The contractor shall be fully responsible for the safety, protection, security, and convenience of his personnel, third parties, and the public at large, as well as the works, equipment, installation and the like to be affected by his construction work, and shall be required to put up a warranty security in the form of cash, bank guarantee, letter of credit, Government Service Insurance System bond, or callable surety bond.

The contractor shall undertake the repair works, at his own expense, of any defect or damage to the infrastructure projects on account of the use of materials of inferior quality within ninety (90) days from the time the Head of the Procuring Entity has issued an order to undertake repair. In case of failure or refusal to comply with this mandate, the government shall undertake such repair works and shall be entitled to full reimbursement of expenses incurred therein upon demand.

Any contractor who fails to comply with the preceding paragraph shall suffer perpetual disqualification from participating in any public bidding and his property or properties shall be subject to attachment or garnishment proceedings to recover the costs. All payables of the government in his favor shall be offset to recover the costs.

#### **ARTICLE XVII**

#### THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICY BOARD

SEC. 67. Organization and Functions. — The GPPB shall be the central body that sets strategic directions and makes policy decisions regarding all matters affecting public procurement, having due regard to the country's regional and international obligations, and is tasked to lead the nation's efforts in advancing public procurement reforms in accordance with this act. the board shall: (a) formulate and amend, whenever necessary, the IRR, associated issuances and government procurement manuals, Philippine bidding documents and standard forms for procurement, and issue policy papers to ensure that the procurement process is streamlined and responsive to the needs of the government; (b) establish and implement the professionalization program provided in this act; and (c) establish and implement a strategic procurement monitoring program that uses data analytics to enhance procurement planning and evidence-based policymaking.

The GPPB shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management as Chairperson; the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority as Alternate Chairperson; with the following as members: Secretaries of the Departments of Finance, Public Works and Highways, Trade and Industry, Interior and Local Government, or their duly designated representatives, and a representative from the private sector to be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the GPPB. The GPPB may call upon secretaries/heads of agencies or their duly designated representatives to assist

them in policy determination.

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The GPPB shall be supported by a Technical Support Office (TSO) in the performance of its functions under this act. The TSO shall be headed by an Executive Director equivalent to the rank of an Undersecretary and supported by two (2) Deputy Executive Directors equivalent to the rank of an Assistant Secretary, of good moral character, honesty, probity, and unquestionable integrity, to be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, as recommended by the Chairperson of the GPPB. The GPPB shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the TSO, subject to the evaluation and approval of the DBM.

In addition to the powers granted under this act, the GPPB shall absorb all the powers, functions and responsibilities of the Procurement Policy Board created under EO No. 359, series of 1989. All affected functions of the infrastructure committee of the National Economic and Development Authority board are hereby transferred to the GPPB.

The GPPB may establish Inter-Agency Technical Working Group/s (IATWG/S) to provide subject matter expertise to the GPPB in the formulation and review of policies, rules, and regulations related to government procurement. The IATWG/S, in particular, shall endorse policy recommendations for the GPPB's consideration and approval. The IATWG/S shall consist of representatives from the sectoral groups, such as economic services, social services, agriculture, health, education, construction, energy, environment, information and communications technology, research and development, and others as determined by the GPPB, to guarantee that the procurement policies are inclusive and promote good governance.

24 ARTICLE XVIII
25 PENAL CLAUSE

**SEC. 68.** Offenses and Penalties. – (a) Without prejudice to the provisions of RA No. 3019, otherwise known as the "Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act" and other penal laws, public officers who commit any of the following acts shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day, but not more than fifteen (15) years:

1. Opening any sealed Bid including but not limited to Bids that may have been submitted through the electronic system and any and all

documents required to be sealed or divulging their contents, prior to the appointed time for the public opening of Bids or other documents.

- Delaying, without justifiable cause, the screening for eligibility, opening of bids, evaluation and post evaluation of bids, and awarding of contracts beyond the prescribed periods of action provided for in the IRR.
- 3. Unduly influencing or exerting undue pressure on any member of the BAC or any officer or employee of the procuring entity to take a particular bidder.
- Splitting of contracts which exceed procedural purchase limits and competitive bidding.
- 5. When the head of the agency abuses the exercise of his power to reject any and all bids as mentioned under Section 54 of this Act with manifest preference to any bidder who is closely related to him in accordance with Section 58 of this Act.

When any of the foregoing acts is done in collusion with private individuals, the private individuals shall likewise be liable for the offense.

In addition, the public officer involved shall also suffer the penalty of temporary disqualification from public office, while the private individual shall be permanently disqualified from transacting business with the government.

- (b) Private individuals who commit any of the following acts, including any public officer, who conspires with them, shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than fifteen (15) years:
  - When two or more bidders agree and submit different Bids as if they
    were bona fide, when they knew that one or more of them was so
    much higher than the other that it could not be honestly accepted and
    that the contract will surely be awarded to the pre-arranged lowest
    Bid
  - 2. When a bidder maliciously submits different Bids through two or more persons, corporations, partnerships or any other business entity in which he has interest to create the appearance of competition that does not in fact exist so as to be adjudged as the winning bidder.

3. When two or more bidders enter into an agreement which call upon one to refrain from bidding for Procurement contracts, or which call for withdrawal of Bids already submitted, or which are otherwise intended to secure an undue advantage to any one of them.

4. When a bidder, by himself or in connivance with others, employ schemes which tend to restrain the natural rivalry of the parties or operates to stifle or suppress competition and thus produce a result disadvantageous to the public.

In addition, the persons involved shall also suffer the penalty of temporary or perpetual disqualification from public office and be permanently disqualified from transacting business with the government.

- (c) Private individuals who commit any of the following acts, and any public officer conspiring with them, shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than fifteen (15) years:
  - Submit eligibility requirements of whatever kind and nature that
    contain false information or falsified documents calculated to
    influence the outcome of the eligibility screening process or conceal
    such information in the eligibility requirements when the information
    will lead to a declaration of ineligibility from participating in public
    bidding.
  - 2. Submit Bidding Documents of whatever kind and nature that contain false information or falsified documents or conceal such information in the Bidding Documents, in order to influence the outcome of the public bidding.
  - 3. Participate in a public bidding using the name of another or allow another to use one's name for the purpose of participating in a public bidding.
  - 4. Withdraw a Bid, after it shall have qualified as the Lowest Calculated Bid/Highest Rated Bid/Most Economically Advantageous Bid, or refuse to accept an award, without just cause or for the purpose of forcing the Procuring Entity to award the contract to another bidder. This shall include the non-submission within the prescribed time, or

1	delaying the submission of requirements such as, but not limited to,
2	performance security, preparatory to the final award of the contract.
3	(d) When the bidder is a juridical entity, criminal liability and the accessory penalties
4	shall be imposed on its directors, officers or employees who actually commit any of
5	the foregoing acts.
6	SEC. 69. Jurisdiction Jurisdiction over the offenses defined under this Article
7	shall belong to the appropriate courts, according to laws existing at the time of the
8	commission of the offenses.
9	ARTICLE XIX
10	CIVIL LIABILITY
11	SEC. 70. Civil Liability in Case of Conviction. – Without prejudice to
12	administrative sanctions that may be imposed in proper cases, a conviction under this
13	Act or RA No. 3019 shall carry with it civil liability, which may either consist of
14	restitution for the damage done or the forfeiture in favor of the government of any
15	unwarranted benefit derived from the act or acts in question or both, at the discretion
16	of the courts.
17	SEC. 71. Liquidated Damages. – All contracts executed in accordance with this
18	Act shall contain a provision on liquidated damages which shall be payable in case of
19	breach thereof. The amount thereof shall be specified in the IRR.
20	ARTICLE XX
21	ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS
22	SEC. 72. Imposition of Administrative Penalties. – (a) In addition to the
23	provisions of Articles XVIII and XIX of this Act, the Head of the Procuring Entity,
24	subject to the authority delegated to the BAC, if any, shall impose on bidders or
25	prospective bidders, the administrative penalty of suspension for one (1) year for the
26	first offense, and suspension of two (2) years for the second offense from participating
27	in the public bidding process, for the following violations:
28	1. Submission of eligibility requirements containing false information or
29	falsified documents.
30	2. Submission of bids that contain false information or falsified
31	documents, or the concealment of such information in the Bids in

order to influence the outcome of eligibility screening or any other stage of the public bidding.

- 3. Allowing the use of one's name, or using the name of another for purposes of public bidding.
- 4. Withdrawal of a Bid, or refusal to accept an award, or enter into contract with the government without justifiable cause, after he had been adjudged as having submitted the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid/Highest Rated Responsive Bid/Most Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid.
- 5. Refusal or failure to post the required performance security within the prescribed time.
- 6. Termination of the contract due to the default of the bidder.
- 7. Refusal to clarify or validate in writing its Bid during post-qualification within a period of seven (7) calendar days from receipt of the request for clarification.
- 8. Any documented unsolicited attempt by a bidder to unduly influence the outcome of the bidding in his favor.
- 9. All other acts that tend to defeat the purpose of the Competitive Bidding.
- (b) In addition to the penalty of suspension, the Bid security or the performance security posted by the concerned bidder or prospective bidder shall also be forfeited.
- (c) The Head of the Procuring Entity may delegate to the BAC the authority to impose the aforementioned administrative penalties.
  - **SEC. 73.** Preventive Suspension. The Head of the Procuring Entity may preventively suspend any member of the TWG or the Secretariat, or the BAC if there are strong reasons or prima facie evidence showing that the officials or employees concerned are guilty of the charges filed against them under Articles XVIII and XIX of this Act or for dishonesty as defined by the Civil Service Laws. In all cases, procedural and substantive due process as mandated by the Constitution and Civil Service laws, rules, and regulations, shall be strictly observed.

**SEC. 74.** Lifting of Suspension and Removal of Administrative Disabilities. - Lifting of preventive suspension pending administrative investigation, as well as removal of administrative investigation, as well as removal of administrative penalties and disabilities shall be in accordance with the provisions of Sections 52 and 53, Chapter 6 (Civil Service Commission), Book V of Executive Order No. 292, the Administrative Code of 1987.

**ARTICLE XXI** 

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION PACKAGE FOR BAC MEMBERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

**SEC. 75.** *Private Legal Assistance.* – All members of the BAC, TWG, and Secretariat, are hereby authorized to engage the services of private lawyers or external counsel immediately upon receipt of Court Notice that a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding is filed against them in connection with the performance of their functions and duties. The lawyer's fee shall be part of the indemnification package for the members of the BAC, TWG, and Secretariat, subject to the provisions of Section 76 hereof.

**SEC. 76.** *Indemnification Package.* – The GPPB shall establish an equitable indemnification package for public officials providing services in the BAC, TWG, and Secretariat, which may be in the form of free legal assistance, liability insurance, and other forms of protection and indemnification for all costs and expenses reasonably incurred by such persons in connection with any civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding to which they may be, or have been made, a party by reason of the performance of their functions or duties, unless they are finally adjudged in such action or proceeding to be liable for gross negligence or misconduct or grave abuse of discretion.

In the event of a settlement or compromise, indemnification shall be confined only on matters covered by the settlement, as to which the Procuring Entity had been advised by counsel that the public officials to be indemnified have not committed gross negligence or misconduct in the performance of their functions and duties.

The members of the BAC, TWG, and Secretariat shall also be entitled to medical assistance for injuries incurred in the performance of their functions.

#### **ARTICLE XXII** 1 2 **FINAL PROVISIONS SEC.** 77. Oversight Committee. – There is hereby created a Joint 3 Congressional Oversight Committee to oversee the implementation of this Act for a 4 5 period not exceeding five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of the Chairman of the appropriate Senate and House Committees 6 and two (2) members thereof appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of 7 the House of Representatives, respectively. 8 **SEC. 78.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations and Standard Forms.* – Within 9 one hundred eighty (180) days from the promulgation of this Act, the necessary rules 10 and regulations for the proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by 11 the GPPB. For a period not later than ninety (90) days upon the approval of the IRR, 12 the standard forms for procurement shall be formulated and approved. 13 14 **SEC. 79.** Reportorial Requirements. – The GPPB shall, upon approval of the IRR and the Standard Procurement Forms, effect the publication of the same, in 15 accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations. Upon approval, the same shall 16 also be posted on the website of the GPPB. 17 Thereafter, the GPPB, through its TSO, shall send written notices when the said 18 documents have been posted on its website to the Office of the President, the Senate 19 of the Philippines, and the House of Representatives. 20 **SEC. 80.** Repealing Clause. – Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as 21 "Government Procurement Reform Act" is hereby repealed. All other laws, acts, 22 presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules 23 and regulations, or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the 24 25 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly. SEC. 81. Separability Clause. - If any portion or provision of this Act is 26 subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are 27

Approved,

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publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 82. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its

not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.