

**THE NEW GPPB GUIDELINES FOR
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENT**
(GPPB Resolution No. 18 0 2021, 22 October 2021)

Procurement Before Sagip Saka

- Prior to the enactment of Republic Act No. 11321, An Act Instituting the Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Program of the Department of Agriculture, or commonly known as the Sagip Saka Act, the supply of agricultural and fishery products to government agencies and local government units is usually done through regular bidding. As such, only well-established companies and single proprietorships have the ability and the chance to participate and gain from this exercise.
- Although the Government Procurement Reform Act, or Republic Act No. 9184, allows **Negotiated Procurement** as an alternative mode to the rigorous competitive bidding procedure, this modality is itself limiting as the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Law specifies so many conditions before an agency or LGU can directly purchase through Negotiated Procurement.

Procurement Under Sagip Saka

- The **enactment of the Sagip Saka**, on April 17, 2019, and the eventual issuance of its IRR on October 21, 2019, is **one of the impetuses that forced the Government Procurement Policy Board to revise the existing guidelines**. The other factors are R. A. No. 11037, the “Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act”, R. A. No. 11148, the “Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act,” and different programs of several departments, DSWD, DPWH, DENR, etc., that will procure goods and services from targeted small beneficiaries as part of their strategies to lift them from extreme poverty.
- The revision of the guidelines will now give opportunity to our farmers and fisherfolk, and their accredited cooperatives and enterprises, to participate in the supply of agricultural and fishery products needed by government agencies and LGUs to perform their functions, such as feeding programs, provision/giving of agricultural and fishery inputs (seeds, seedlings, fingerlings, chicks, piglets, among others), rescue and relief efforts, etc.

The features of the new GPPB resolution are, as follows:

1. **Goods (which includes agricultural and fishery products)** and Small Infrastructure Projects (SIPs) to be provided in communities, **with an Approved Budget for Contract (or ABC) of Five Million Pesos (P 5,000,000.00)** and below, or One Million Pesos and below of labor supply, **can now be acquired or contracted out through a less stringent type of bidding**.

In this case, the End-User of a government agency or LGU, or the office that will consume the goods or the one providing the infrastructure facility, will post in conspicuous places (including the concerned communities) and in the

internet, the details, technical specifications, quantity, of the goods or SIP that will be procured.

One or several organized Community or Social Groups (CSGs), which includes accredited farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives and enterprises from the Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Information System of the Sagip Saka, can submit bids in the form of a Lowest Calculated Quotation (LCQ). The one with the lowest LCQ, which will now be called the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Quotation, will then be contracted by the End-User to supply the goods or SIPs and will be awarded the contract.

There will still be legal, technical, and financial requirements among CSGs to make sure that they are capable of supplying the Goods and SIPs. But accredited farmers and fisherfolk enterprises are already allowed to participate in supplying agricultural and fishery products.

2. In addition to the participation of accredited farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives and enterprises, **farmers and fisherfolk are now also given the opportunity to supply agricultural and fishery products.**

Under Section 8 of the Guidelines on Community Participation in Procurement, the **Procuring Entity (PE), which may be a government agency of a LGU, is now allowed to directly purchase agricultural and fishery products from local farmers or local fisherfolk.** The PE can directly negotiate the purchase based on or guided by the average prevailing farm-gate price for the province or the recommended retail price by the local price coordinating council for commodities sold by farmers or fisherfolks in their respective provinces, municipalities, and cities.

All the local farmer, who has been approached to supply, has to do is to submit a formal offer and a certification that he or she is in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) or Photocopy of the RSBSA identification card; and in case of Local Fisherfolk, a certification that the local fisherfolk is registered in the National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration (FishR) or Photocopy of his FishR identification card.

There are other procedural and documentary requirements that a local farmer or local fisherfolk has to comply, but these are all meant to ensure a smooth transaction between the Procuring Entity and the local farmer or local fisherfolk.