

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT**

RULE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Purpose and General Coverage

This Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) Part A, hereinafter called “IRR-A,” is promulgated pursuant to Section 75 of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act” (GPRA), for the purpose of prescribing the necessary rules and regulations for the modernization, standardization, and regulation of the procurement activities of the government. This IRR-A shall cover all fully domestically-funded procurement activities from procurement planning up to contract implementation and termination, except for the following:

- a) Acquisition of real property which shall be governed by Republic Act No. 8974 (R.A. 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; and
- b) Private sector infrastructure or development projects and other procurement covered by Republic Act No. 7718 (R.A. 7718), entitled “An Act Authorizing the Financing, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Infrastructure Projects by the Private Sector, and for Other Purposes,” as amended: *Provided, however,* That for the portions financed by the Government, the provisions of this IRR-A shall apply.

The IRR-B for foreign-funded procurement activities shall be the subject of a subsequent issuance.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy

The provisions of this IRR-A are in line with the Government’s commitment to good governance and its effort to adhere to the principle of transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency, and economy in its procurement process. It is the policy of the Government that procurement of infrastructure projects, goods and consulting services shall be competitive and transparent, and therefore shall be through public bidding, except as otherwise provided in this IRR-A. It is also the policy of the Government to adopt a standard and uniform set of rules and regulations governing the procurement of infrastructure projects, goods and consulting services for government projects and other related activities that embodies a streamlined procurement process.

Section 3. Governing Principles on Government Procurement

Government procurement shall be governed by these principles:

- a) Transparency in the procurement process and in the implementation of procurement contracts through wide dissemination of bid opportunities and participation of pertinent non-government organizations.
 - b) Competitiveness by extending equal opportunity to enable private contracting parties who are eligible and qualified to participate in public bidding.
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- c) Streamlined procurement process that will uniformly apply to all government procurement. The procurement process shall be simple and made adaptable to advances in modern technology in order to ensure an effective and efficient method.
- d) System of accountability where both the public officials directly or 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.
- e) Public monitoring of the procurement process and the implementation of awarded contracts with the end in view of guaranteeing that these contracts are awarded pursuant to the provisions of the Act and this IRR-A, and that all these contracts are performed strictly according to specifications.

Section 4. Scope and Application of IRR-A

- 4.1. This IRR-A shall govern and apply to the procurement of: a) infrastructure projects; b) goods; and c) consulting services, by any branch, agency, department, bureau, office, or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned and/or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and local government units (LGUs).
- 4.2. This IRR-A shall apply to the procurement of infrastructure projects, goods, and consulting services by any procuring entity, subject to the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 138, otherwise known as the "Flag Law." 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.

Section 5. Definition of Terms

For purposes of this IRR-A, the following terms or words and phrases shall mean or be understood as follows:

- a) **Act.** Refers to Republic Act No. 9184, entitled "An Act Providing for the Modernization, Standardization and Regulation of the Procurement Activities of the Government and for other Purposes," otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.
- b) **Approved Budget for the Contract.** Refers to the budget for the contract duly approved by the head of the procuring entity, as provided for in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and/or continuing appropriations, in the case of national government agencies (NGAs); the corporate budget for the contract approved by the governing board, pursuant to Executive Order No. 518, series of 1979 ("E.O. 518"), in the case of GOCCs and GFIs, and Republic Act No. 8292 in the case of SUCs; and the budget approved by the *Sanggunian* in the case of LGUs. For purposes of, and throughout, this IRR-A, the terms "ABC," "Approved Budget for the Contract" and "Approved Budget" shall have the same meaning and shall be used interchangeably.
- c) **BAC.** Refers to the Bids and Awards Committee established in accordance with Rule V of this IRR-A.
- d) **Bid.** Refers to a signed offer or proposal to undertake a contract submitted by a bidder in response to and in consonance with the requirements of the bidding documents. For purposes of, and throughout, this IRR-A, the term "Bid" shall be

equivalent to and be used interchangeably with “Proposal” and “Tender,” particularly when referring to the procurement of consulting services.

- e) **Bidder.** Refers to an eligible contractor, manufacturer, supplier, distributor and/or consultant competing for the award of a contract in any government procurement. A contractor, manufacturer, supplier, distributor or consultant is said to be eligible if it meets all the eligibility requirements issued by the procuring entity.
- f) **Bidding Documents.** Refer to the documents issued by the procuring entity as the bases for bids, furnishing all information necessary for a prospective bidder to prepare a bid for the infrastructure projects, goods and/or consulting services required by the procuring entity.
- g) **Common-Use Supplies.** Refer to those goods, materials and equipment that are repetitively used in the day-to-day operations of procuring entities in the performance of their functions. For the purpose of this IRR-A, common-use supplies shall be those included in the Price List of the Procurement Service (PS) of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).
- h) **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. For purposes of, and throughout, this IRR-A the terms “Competitive Bidding” and “Public Bidding” shall have the same meaning and shall be used interchangeably.
- i) **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.
- j) **G-EPS.** Refers to the Government Electronic Procurement System as provided in Section 8 of this IRR-A.
- k) **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. The term “related” or “analogous services” shall include, but not be limited to, lease or purchase of office space, media advertisements, health maintenance services, and other services essential to the operation of the procuring entity.
- l) **GPPB.** Refers to the Government Procurement Policy Board created in accordance with Rule XX of this IRR-A.
- m) **Head of the Procuring Entity.** Refers to: (i) the head of the agency or body, or his duly authorized official, for NGAs and the constitutional commissions or offices,

and branches of government; (ii) the governing board or its duly authorized official, for GOCCs, GFIs and SUCs; or (iii) the local chief executive, for LGUs: *Provided, however,* That in an agency, department, or office 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 agency, department, or office.

- n) **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, energy/power and electrification facilities, national buildings, school buildings, hospital buildings, and other related construction projects of the government. For purposes of, and throughout this IRR-A, the term “infrastructure projects” shall have the same meaning as and shall be used interchangeably with “civil works.”
- o) **Portal.** Refers to a website that integrates a wide variety of contents for the purpose of attracting and aggregating multiple users together in a central virtual space.
- p) **Procurement.** Refers to the acquisition of Goods, Consulting Services, and the contracting for Infrastructure Projects by the Procuring Entity. In case of projects involving mixed procurements, the nature of the procurement, *i.e.*, goods, infrastructure projects, or consulting services, shall be determined based on the primary purpose of the contract. 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 R.A. 8974 and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- q) **Procuring Entity.** Refers to any branch, constitutional commission or office, agency, department, bureau, office, or instrumentality of the Government, including GOCC, GFI, SUC and LGU procuring Goods, Consulting Services and Infrastructure Projects.

Section 6. Standardization of Procurement Process and Forms.

- 6.1. To systematize the procurement process, avoid confusion and ensure transparency, the GPPB shall pursue the development and approval of generic procurement manuals and standard bidding documents and forms including forms to be used for major procurement like drugs and textbooks.
- 6.2. Once issued by the GPPB, the use of the generic procurement manuals, generic standard bidding documents and forms, and standard evaluation documents shall be mandatory upon all procuring entities. However, whenever necessary, to suit the particular needs of the procuring entity, modifications may be made particularly for major and more specialized procurement subject to the approval of the GPPB.
- 6.3. The GPPB shall formulate, approve and disseminate the generic procurement forms, not later than 30 days upon the approval of this IRR-A. This shall be followed with the forms for the more specialized procurements.

RULE II – PROCUREMENT PLANNING

Section 7. Procurement Planning and Budgeting Linkage

- 7.1. All procurement should be within the approved budget of the procuring entity and should be meticulously and judiciously planned by the procuring entity concerned. No government procurement shall be undertaken unless it is in accordance with an approved Annual Procurement Plan (APP). In the case of projects funded from lump-sum appropriations, the head of the procuring entity shall immediately update the APP to include such projects or contracts. For infrastructure contract packages projects, the ABC shall cover the individual cost components of civil works only. The other components of the project such as right-of-way (ROW), consulting services and Engineering Supervision and Administrative Overhead (ESAO), shall comply with the applicable provisions of law or agency guidelines. The ABC for the contract shall be at all times consistent with the appropriations for the project authorized in the GAA and/or continuing appropriations, in the case of NGAs; the corporate budget approved by the governing boards, pursuant to E.O. 518, in the case of GOCCs; and the budget approved by the *Sanggunian* in the case of LGUs.
- 7.2. Each procuring entity shall judiciously prepare, maintain and update an APP for all its procurement, that shall include, for each individual project, a Project Procurement Management Plan (PPMP). The APP shall bear the approval of the head of the procuring entity or second-ranking official designated by the head of the procuring entity to act on his behalf, and must be consistent with its duly approved yearly budget. Consistent with government fiscal discipline measures, only those considered crucial to the efficient discharge of governmental functions shall be included in the APP. For purposes of this IRR-A, a procurement shall be considered crucial to the efficient discharge of governmental functions if it is required for the day-to-day operations or is in pursuit of the principal mandate of the procuring entity concerned. In case of Infrastructure Projects, the Plan shall consider the appropriate timing/phasing of related project activities such as engineering design and acquisition of ROW to reduce/lower project costs.
- 7.3. The PPMP shall include: a) the type of contract to be employed; b) the extent/size of contract scopes/packages; c) the procurement methods to be adopted, and indicating if the procurement tasks are to be outsourced as provided in Section 53(e) of this IRR-A; d) the time schedule for each procurement activity; and e) the estimated budget for the general components of the contract e.g., civil works, goods and consultancy services. The APP shall include provisions for foreseeable emergencies based on historical records. In the case of textbooks for general use, the packaging of the contract shall be divided into two components: a) development of the manuscript; and b) printing of the textbooks.
- 7.4. The preparation and updating of the PPMPs shall be the responsibility of the respective Project Management Offices (PMOs) or end-user units of the procuring entities, while the consolidation of these PPMPs into an APP shall be lodged with the BAC Secretariat of that procuring entity. These units may avail of the services of technical experts to review the individual PPMPs.
- 7.5. Updating of the individual PPMPs and the consolidated APP for each procuring entity shall be undertaken every six (6) months or as often as may be required by the head of the procuring entity. Implementation of any project not included in the procuring entity's APP shall not be allowed.

RULE III – PROCUREMENT BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

Section 8. Procurement by Electronic Means and the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS)

8.1. *The G-EPS*

- 8.1.1. To promote transparency and efficiency, information and communications technology shall be utilized in the conduct of procurement procedures. Accordingly, there shall be a single portal that shall serve as the primary source of information on all government procurement. The G-EPS shall serve as the primary and definitive source of information on government procurement. For this purpose, the Electronic Procurement System (EPS) established in accordance with Executive Order No. 322, series of 2000, and Executive Order No. 40, series of 2001 (E.O. 40), shall continue to be managed by the PS-DBM under the supervision of the GPPB, as the G-EPS in accordance with this IRR-A.
- 8.1.2. To take advantage of the significant built-in efficiencies of the G-EPS and the volume discounts inherent in bulk purchasing, all procuring entities shall utilize the G-EPS for the procurement of common-use supplies in accordance with the rules and procedures to be established by the GPPB. With regard to the procurement of non-common use items, infrastructure projects and consulting services, agencies may hire service providers through competitive bidding to undertake their electronic procurement: *Provided, however,* That these service providers meet the following minimum requirements:
- a) Comply with the provisions of the Act and this IRR-A, and Republic Act No. 8792 (R.A. 8792), otherwise known as the “Electronic Commerce Act;”
 - b) Linked to the G-EPS, particularly with regard to the posting of all bid opportunities and awards;
 - c) Allow parallel manual submission of bids to the procuring entity;
 - d) Ensure that the BAC shall have complete control of the bidding process, and that the BAC’s sole authority to open bids is strictly observed;
 - e) Its system must be virus-resilient and must provide sufficient security which is at least equivalent to that employed by the G-EPS, such as, but not limited to, firewall and encryption devices;
 - f) Must provide for the use of electronic signatures and other current electronic authentication devices;
 - g) Must have sufficient redundant back-up facilities;
 - h) Must have provisions for linkage to the procuring entity’s Financial Management Information System (FMIS), Logistics Management Systems, and other internal information systems that may interact with the procurement process; and
 - i) Electronic payment facilities, if used, shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations issued by the Government.

The GPPB shall determine and certify compliance with the above requirements. However, the GPPB may delegate this task to technically capable agencies/offices/units of the Government.

8.2. Features of the G-EPS

The G-EPS includes the following features:

8.2.1. The Electronic Bulletin Board

- a) The G-EPS shall have a centralized electronic bulletin board for posting procurement opportunities, notices, awards and reasons for award. All procuring entities are required to post all procurement opportunities, results of bidding and related information in the G-EPS bulletin board.
- b) Procuring entities shall post the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid in the electronic bulletin board in accordance with Section 21 of this IRR-A.

8.2.2. Registry of Manufacturers, Suppliers, Distributors, Contractors and Consultants

- a) The G-EPS shall have a centralized electronic database of all manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors and consultants registered under the system.
- b) Registration shall entail the submission of the requirements specified by the PS-DBM. Submission of these requirements may be done on-line at the G-EPS website or physically at the G-EPS office. Registration shall be effective for one year and may be renewed, provided that the manufacturer, supplier, distributor, contractor or consultant concerned maintains its registration current and updated at least once a year, or more frequently when needed.
- c) Manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors and consultants applying for registration must also indicate their account number with a bank duly licensed by the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) to facilitate payment as well as the posting of bid and performance security, when applicable.
- d) The G-EPS shall deny registration to or exclude from the registry any party that is found to have willfully misrepresented any of the information provided in the application for registration or who is in the "blacklist" of the Government or any of its procuring entities from participating in any of its procurement opportunities.
- e) A manufacturer, supplier, distributor, contractor or consultant applying for registration shall be required to provide an e-mail address to which all communications from the BAC and the procuring entity shall be sent. The e-mail address provided shall be considered as such applicant's information system for purposes of reckoning the date of sending or receipt of electronic messages or documents.
- f) Registered manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors and consultants shall secure a digital certificate from the appropriate

certification authority to be able to participate in the procurement activities of the G-EPS.

- g) Registration with the G-EPS is not tantamount to a finding of eligibility, nor is it a guaranty that a manufacturer, supplier, distributor, contractor or consultant may participate in a public bidding without first being determined to be eligible for that particular public bidding.

8.2.3. The Electronic Catalogue

- a) The G-EPS shall have a centralized electronic catalogue of common and non-common use goods, supplies, materials and equipment.
- b) Procuring entities shall procure common-use goods, supplies, materials and equipment from the Electronic Catalogue in the G-EPS. To be able to use the G-EPS, procuring entities shall be required to register and designate the officials or personnel authorized to transact with and operate the G-EPS from such procuring entities' terminals.
- c) Procuring entities without internet access may avail of the G-EPS Public Access Terminals which shall be installed at DBM designated locations in the provinces and in Metro Manila: *Provided, however,* That they shall comply with Section 8.3 of this IRR-A.
- d) The Electronic Catalogue may also feature non-common use items that may be procured directly and without public bidding by procuring entities from suppliers: *Provided, however,* That for an item to be carried in the Electronic Catalogue for this purpose, the supplier thereof must have been determined as the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder in a previous bidding conducted by PS-DBM or by a procuring entity for PS-DBM: *Provided, further,* That such item will be featured in the Electronic Catalogue for a maximum period of six (6) months unless another supplier offers a price lower by at least five percent (5%) and such supplier is determined by the procuring entity that conducted the previous bidding to meet the eligibility and bidding requirements for the item, in which case the item from the latter supplier will be that featured in the Electronic Catalogue for the remainder of the six (6)-month period.

8.2.4. Additional Features

The G-EPS shall also feature a Virtual Store, Electronic Payment, Electronic Bid Submission, and such other features as may be developed in the future.

8.2.4.1. Virtual Store

The G-EPS may have a feature that will enable the ordering of common-use and non-common use items online called a virtual store. The virtual store shall be open only to registered procuring entities and may not be accessed by suppliers.

8.2.4.2. Electronic Payment

The G-EPS may support e-Payment functions that will allow the system to manage the generation of purchase orders and the payment of bids processed through the system.

The focus of this feature is to facilitate the electronic transfer of funds from PS-DBM to and from procuring entities and suppliers, and from procuring entities to suppliers for bids managed directly by the procuring entity. The system shall:

- a) Generate purchase orders from a bid notice, award notice or contract;
- b) Support approval process for purchase orders before any payment or fund transfer is processed;
- c) Have a process to submit request for payment upon delivery of goods and/or services and the completion of the approval process; and
- d) Have the ability to interface with the designated bank of the procuring entity and suppliers to support the electronic transfer of funds.

8.2.4.3. Electronic Bid Submission

The G-EPS may support the implementation of e-Bid submission processes, which includes creation of electronic bid forms, creation of bid box, delivery of bid submissions, notification to supplier of receipt of bids, bid receiving and electronic bid evaluation. This facility shall cover all types of procurement for goods, infrastructure projects and consulting services.

8.3. *Use of the G-EPS*

- 8.3.1. All procuring entities are mandated to fully use the G-EPS in accordance with the policies, rules, regulations and procedures adopted by the GPPB and embodied in this IRR-A. In this connection, all procuring entities shall register with the G-EPS and shall undertake measures to ensure their access to an on-line network to facilitate the open, speedy and efficient on-line transmission, conveyance and use of electronic data messages or electronic documents. The PS-DBM shall assist procuring entities to ensure their on-line connectivity and help in training their personnel responsible for the operation of the G-EPS from their terminals.
- 8.3.2. The rules and regulations governing the manual method of procurement shall apply whenever the rules in this Section are silent. Further, the GPPB is authorized to approve changes in the procurement process to adapt to improvements in modern technology, provided that such modifications are consistent with the provisions of Section 3 of the Act and this IRR-A.
- 8.3.3. All central and regional offices of NGAs, GFIs, GOCCs, SUCs and city governments are mandated to use the G-EPS and all its available facilities by the end of 2003; all district offices of NGAs and provincial governments, by the end of 2004; all municipal offices of NGAs and all municipal governments, by the end of 2005; and barangays, by the end of 2006: *Provided, however,* That barangays may procure through the municipal governments.

8.4. *Pre-bid Conferences and Notices under the G-EPS*

- 8.4.1. Pre-bid conferences shall be conducted in accordance with Section 22 of this IRR-A: *Provided, however,* That the requirement for face-to-face bidding

conference may be replaced once videoconferencing or similar technology becomes the norm in business transactions in the country. Procuring entities with videoconferencing capabilities that have manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors and/or consultants that also have videoconferencing capabilities may conduct their pre-bidding conferences electronically.

8.4.2. Requests for clarification from bidders may be sent electronically to the BAC. To be binding on bidders, clarifications and amendments to the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and to the bidding documents shall be in the form of Supplemental/Bid Bulletins which shall be posted in the G-EPS bulletin board.

8.4.3. The Supplemental/Bid Bulletins mentioned in the immediately preceding Subsection as well as all other notices to be made by the BAC to the bidders or prospective bidders shall be posted in the G-EPS bulletin board and sent electronically to the e-mail address indicated in the bidders' registration.

8.5. *Registration, Eligibility Requirements and Submission of Bids under the G-EPS*

8.5.1. Manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors and/or consultants shall register with the G-EPS. All procuring entities already maintaining an electronic registry upon the effectivity of this IRR-A shall integrate the same with that of the G-EPS. A manufacturer, supplier, distributor, contractor or consultant duly registered with the G-EPS may participate in a procurement undertaken by any procuring entity, provided that the said manufacturer, supplier, distributor, contractor or consultant maintains its registration current and updated in accordance with the provisions of this IRR-A, and its registration is proper and relevant to the particular type of procurement.

8.5.2. Letters of Intent (LOIs) and eligibility requirements, as the case may be, may be sent electronically to a procuring entity through the G-EPS: *Provided, however,* That the G-EPS shall allow manual submission of LOIs and eligibility requirements. The G-EPS shall generate and send an acknowledgement of any LOI or eligibility requirement received by it.

8.5.3. Registered bidders determined to be eligible may submit their bids at any time before the closing date specified in the bidding documents. The G-EPS shall bar all incoming bids after such date.

8.5.4. The G-EPS shall have a feature that allows the electronic submission of LOIs, eligibility requirements and bids.

8.5.5. Upon receipt of a bid, the G-EPS shall generate and send a message to the bidder acknowledging such receipt.

8.6. *Opening of Bids under the G-EPS*

8.6.1. The BAC shall have the sole authority to open the bids.

8.6.2. Only the financial proposals of bidders whose technical proposals meet the minimum technical requirements shall be opened or decrypted.

8.6.3. An update of all procurement contracts, regardless of whether procurement is done electronically or manually, shall be posted on the G-EPS bulletin board. The update shall include, but shall not be limited to, the status of procurement

contracts, including the names of contract awardees and the amount of the contract.

8.6.4. Without prejudice to criminal prosecution under the applicable provisions of the Act and this IRR-A, R.A. 8792, Republic Act No. 3019 (R.A. 3019), otherwise known as the “Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act,” other applicable penal laws, public officials and employees who commit any of the following acts shall be deemed to have committed grave misconduct and shall be sanctioned and/or penalized in accordance with the applicable Civil Service rules and regulations:

1. Opening or decryption, by whatever means, of bids submitted through the G-EPS ahead of the appointed time for the opening or decryption of such bids;
2. Causing the unauthorized disclosure of any information or document submitted through the G-EPS;
3. Hacking into or cracking the G-EPS, or aiding another person to hack into or crack the same; or
4. Any other act that breaches or violates the Security, Integrity and Confidentiality of the G-EPS.

8.6.5. When any of the foregoing acts is done by the administrator(s) or employee(s) of a service provider hired by a procuring entity, or in collusion with or by a private party who is a participant in the bidding process, said administrator(s), employee(s) or private party shall be imposed the corresponding sanctions and/or penalties under this IRR-A.

8.7. *Observers*

The G-EPS shall allow observers, duly authorized by the BAC, to monitor the procurement proceedings on-line: *Provided, however,* That such observers do not have any direct or indirect interest in the contract to be bid.

Section 9. Security, Integrity and Confidentiality

9.1. The G-EPS shall incorporate the following features, which shall be periodically upgraded to keep abreast with developments in technology:

9.1.1. *Security* – The G-EPS shall be protected from unauthorized access or interference through the incorporation of security features such as, but not limited to, firewalls. Periodic tests shall be conducted to ensure that the system cannot be breached.

9.1.2. *Integrity* – The G-EPS shall ensure that no person, including the system administrators and chairperson and members of the BAC, shall be able to alter the contents of bids submitted through the system or read the same ahead of the stipulated time for the decryption or opening of bids. For this purpose, bids submitted through the G-EPS shall be sealed through electronic keys. The authenticity of messages and documents submitted through the G-EPS shall also be ensured by the use of electronic signatures.

9.1.3. *Confidentiality* – The G-EPS shall ensure the privacy of parties transacting with it. For this purpose, no electronic message or document sent through

the system shall be divulged to third parties unless such electronic message or document was sent after the sender was informed that the same will be made publicly available. The G-EPS shall protect the intellectual property rights over documents, including technical designs, submitted in response to Invitations to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid.

- 9.1.4. *Audit Trail* – The G-EPS shall include a feature that provides for an audit trail for on-line transactions, and allows the Commission on Audit (COA) to verify the security and integrity of the system at any time.
- 9.1.5. *Performance Tracking* – The performance of manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors and consultants shall be tracked to monitor compliance with delivery schedules and other performance indicators. Similarly, the performance of procuring entities shall be tracked to monitor the settlement of their obligations to manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors and consultants.

RULE IV – COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Section 10. Competitive Bidding

All procurement shall be done through competitive bidding, except as provided in Rule XVI of this IRR-A.

RULE V – BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Section 11. The BAC and its Composition

11.1. *BAC Structure*

Each procuring entity shall establish in its head office a single BAC to undertake the functions specified in Section 12 of this IRR-A. However, to expedite the procurement process for practical intents and purposes, the head of the procuring entity may create separate BACs where the number and complexity of the items to be procured shall so warrant. The BACs may be organized either according to: (a) geographical location of PMO or end-user units of the procuring entity; or (b) nature of procurement. Similar committees for decentralized and lower level offices may also be formed when deemed necessary by the head of the procuring entity. The creation of the separate BACs shall be limited in order to facilitate professionalization and harmonization of procedures and standards. In line with the objective to integrate the operations of foreign assisted projects to the mainstream operation of agencies separate BACs created to manage foreign assisted projects are discouraged.

11.2. *BAC Composition*

- 11.2.1. *National Government agencies, departments, bureaus, offices, or instrumentalities of the Government, including the judiciary and legislative branches, constitutional commissions, SUCs, GOCCs, and GFIs:*

Regular Members:

- 1. Chairman, who is at least a third ranking permanent official of the procuring entity;

2. An officer, who is at least a fifth ranking permanent official, with knowledge, experience and/or expertise in procurement who, to the extent possible, represents the legal or administrative area of the procuring entity, provided that in the case of bureaus, regional offices and sub-regional/district offices, BAC members shall be at least a third ranking permanent personnel;

3. An officer, who is at least a fifth ranking permanent official, with knowledge, experience and/or expertise in procurement who, to the extent possible, represents the finance area of the procuring entity, provided that in the case of bureaus, regional offices and sub-regional/district offices, BAC members shall be at least a third ranking permanent personnel;

Provisional Members:

4. An officer who has technical expertise relevant to the procurement at hand, and, to the extent possible, has knowledge, experience and/or expertise in procurement; and

5. A representative from the end user unit who has knowledge of procurement laws and procedures.

The members of the BAC, including the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, shall be designated by the head of the procuring entity. Moreover, the Vice-Chairman shall be a regular member of the BAC. For purposes of this IRR-A, the term "permanent" shall refer to a *plantilla* position within the procuring entity concerned.

11.2.2. *Local Government Units*

The BAC shall be composed of one (1) representative each from the regular offices under the Office of the Local Chief Executive such as, but not limited to the following: Office of the Administrator, Budget Office, Legal Office, Engineering Office, General Services Offices. The end user office shall always be represented in the BAC. The Chairman of the BAC shall be at least a third ranking permanent official of the procuring entity. The members of the BAC shall be personnel occupying *plantilla* positions of the procuring entity concerned.

The local chief executive shall designate the members of the BAC. The members shall elect among themselves who shall act as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

11.2.3. The members to be designated by the head of the procuring entity to the BAC shall be at least five (5), but not more than seven (7).

11.2.4. 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 appointment, renewable at the discretion of the head of the procuring entity. In case of resignation, retirement, separation, transfer, re-assignment, removal, death, the replacement shall serve only for the unexpired term: *Provided, however,* 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. In the interest of professionalization, the head of the procuring entity is encouraged to extend the terms of office of deserving members.

- 11.2.5. In no case shall the head of the procuring entity and/or the approving authority be the Chairman or a member of the BAC.

Section 12. Functions of the BAC.

- 12.1. The BAC shall have the following functions: advertise and/or post the invitation to bid, conduct pre-procurement and pre-bid conferences, determine the eligibility of prospective bidders, receive bids, conduct the evaluation of bids, undertake post-qualification proceedings, resolve motions for reconsideration, recommend award of contracts to the head of the procuring entity or his duly authorized representative: *Provided, however,* That in the event the head of the 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 Rule XXIII, 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, particularly in the eligibility screening, evaluation of bids and post-qualification. In proper cases, the BAC shall also recommend to the head of the procuring entity the use of Alternative Methods of Procurement as provided for in Rule XVI hereof.
- 12.2. The BAC shall be responsible for ensuring that the procuring entity abides by the standards set forth by the Act and this IRR-A, and it 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 procurement monitoring report shall cover all procurement activities specified in the APP, whether ongoing and completed, costing fifty million pesos (P50,000,000) and above for goods and infrastructure projects, and five million pesos (P5,000,000) and above for consulting services. The report shall cover major activities from the holding of the pre-procurement conference to the issuance of notice of award and the approval of the contract, including the standard and actual time for each major procurement activity. It shall be submitted in printed and electronic format within ten (10) working days after the end of each semester.
- 12.3. *Quorum*
- A majority of the total BAC composition as designated by the head of the procuring entity shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided that the presence of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall be required.
- 12.4. *Meetings*
- The Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the BAC. The decision of at least a majority of those present at a meeting at which there is quorum shall be valid and binding as an act of the BAC: *Provided, however,* That the Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, shall vote only in case of a tie. Observers and representatives of BAC members shall have no right to vote during BAC meetings, nor shall the representatives of BAC members be authorized to sign in behalf of the members represented.

Section 13. Observers

- 13.1. 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 COA, at least two (2) observers to sit in its proceedings:
1. At least one (1) shall come from a duly recognized private group in a sector or discipline relevant to the procurement at hand, for example:
 - a) For infrastructure projects –
 - (i) National Constructors Associations duly recognized by the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP), such as, but not limited to:

The Philippine Constructors Association, Inc. (PCA); and
The National Constructors Association of the Philippines, Inc. (NACAP); and
 - (ii) The Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE).
 - b) For goods -

A specific relevant chamber-member of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).
 - c) For consulting services -
 - (i) A project-related professional organization accredited or duly recognized by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) or the Supreme Court (SC), such as, but not limited to:

The Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE); and
The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA); or
 - (ii) The Confederation of Filipino Consulting Organizations (COFILCO).
 2. The other observer shall come from a non-government organization (NGO).
- 13.2. The observers shall come from an organization duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and should meet the following criteria:
1. Knowledge, experience or expertise in procurement or in the subject matter of the contract to be bid;
 2. Absence of direct or indirect interest in the contract to be bid out; and
 3. Any other criteria that may be determined by the BAC.
- 13.3. Observers will be informed at least 2 days before the stages of procurement to which observers shall be invited: pre-bid conference; opening of bids; post-qualification; and contract award; and special meetings of the BAC. The absence of observers will not nullify the BAC proceedings, provided that they have been duly invited in writing.

13.4. *Responsibilities of the Observers*

The observers shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Preparation of the report either jointly or separately indicating their observations made on the bidding activity conducted by the BAC for submission to the Head of the Procuring entity, copy furnished the BAC Chairman. The report shall assess the extent of the BAC's compliance with the provisions of this IRR-A and areas of improvement in the BAC's proceedings. For this purpose, the BAC shall furnish them a copy of the following documents upon their request:
 - a. Minutes of related proceedings of BAC meetings;
 - b. Abstract of Bids;
 - c. Post-qualification summary report;
 - d. APP and related PPMP; and
 - e. Copies of "opened" proposals.

Observers may also give a copy of their report to the Office of the Ombudsman/Resident Ombudsman if the BAC is found to have failed in following the prescribed bidding procedures or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the Government as defined in this IRR-A.

2. To sign the abstract of bids if, in their independent observation, the bidding activity conducted by the BAC followed the correct procedure as indicated in this IRR-A; and
3. To sign the post-qualification summary report if, in their independent observation, the BAC followed the procedure as indicated in this IRR-A and that the observer is amenable to the results of the post-qualification.

Section 14. BAC Secretariat

14.1. The head of the procuring entity shall create a Secretariat which will serve as the main support unit of the BAC. He may also designate an existing organic office within the said procuring entity to serve as Secretariat. However, to strengthen and promote the professionalization of the organizations' procuring unit, he may reorganize this unit by designating it as BAC Secretariat and redeploying appropriate existing personnel to it to perform this function, as well as procurement related task. The Secretariat shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

1. Provide administrative support to the BAC;
2. Organize and make all necessary arrangements for the BAC meetings;
3. Attend BAC meetings as Secretary;
4. Prepare Minutes of the BAC meetings;

5. Take custody of procurement documents and be responsible for the sale and distribution of bidding documents to interested bidders;
 6. Assist in managing the procurement processes;
 7. Monitor procurement activities and milestones for proper reporting to relevant agencies when required;
 8. Consolidate PPMPs from various units of the procuring entity to make them available for review as indicated in Section 7 of this IRR-A;
 9. Make arrangements for the pre-procurement and pre-bid conferences and bid openings; and
 10. Be the central channel of communications for the BAC with end users, PMOs, other units of the line agency, other government agencies, providers of goods, civil works and consulting services, and the general public.
- 14.2. The head of the Secretariat in central offices shall be at least a fifth ranking permanent employee or, if not available, a permanent official of the next lower rank; or shall be at least a third ranking permanent employee in bureaus, regional offices and sub-regional/ district offices, or if not available, a permanent employee of the next lower rank.
- 14.3. To expedite the procurement process, the head of the procuring entity shall ensure that the members of the BAC and TWG shall give utmost priority to BAC assignments over all other duties and responsibilities, until the requirements for the said assignments at hand are completed.

Section 15. Honoraria of BAC and TWG Members

The procuring entity may grant payment of honoraria to the BAC members in an amount not to exceed twenty five percent (25%) of their respective basic monthly salary subject to availability of funds. For this purpose, the DBM shall promulgate the necessary guidelines. The procuring entity may also grant payment of honoraria to the TWG members, subject to the relevant rules of the DBM.

Section 16. Professionalization of BAC, TWG Members and Procurement Units

- 16.1. The GPPB shall establish a sustained training program to develop the capability of the BACs, BAC Secretariats, TWGs, and the Procurement Units of procuring entities, and professionalize the same.
- 16.2. *Procurement Proficiency*

In addition to integrity, heads of procuring entities shall consider procurement proficiency as a factor in designating officials to the BAC as well as the head of the Secretariat and Procurement Unit. In turn, the BAC shall consider the same in their selection of the TWG members.
- 16.3. In line with the standardization of procurement procedures and the thrust towards strengthening the procurement function to increase operational efficiency and effectiveness, heads of procuring entities shall aim to consolidate, or unify all procurement activities of the organization, whether locally funded or

foreign assisted, and whether pertaining to goods, infrastructure projects or consulting services.

RULE VI - PREPARATION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS

Section 17. Form and Contents of Bidding Documents

- 17.1. The Bidding Documents shall be prepared by the procuring entity following the standard forms and manuals prescribed by the GPPB. The bidding documents shall include the following:
- a) Approved Budget for the Contract;
 - b) Eligibility Requirements;
 - c) Instructions to Bidders, including criteria for eligibility, bid evaluation and post-qualification, as well as the date, time and place of the pre-bid Conference (where applicable), submission of bids and opening of bids;
 - d) Terms of Reference (TOR), for consulting services;
 - e) Scope of work, where applicable;
 - f) Plans and Technical Specifications;
 - g) Form of Bid, Price Form, and List of Goods or Bill of Quantities;
 - h) Delivery Time or Completion Schedule;
 - i) Form, Amount and Validity Period of Bid Security;
 - j) Form and Amount of Performance Security and Warranty; and
 - k) Form of Contract, and General and Special Conditions of Contract.
- 17.2. The bidding documents shall clearly and adequately define, among others: (a) the objectives, scope and expected outputs and/or results of the proposed contract; (b) the expected contract duration, the estimated quantity in the case of procurement of goods, delivery schedule and/or time frame; (c) the obligations, duties and/or functions of the winning bidder; and (d) the minimum eligibility requirements of bidders, such as track record to be determined by the head of the procuring entity.
- 17.3. The procuring entity may require additional document requirements or specifications such as summary of data, facilities and/or services where applicable and necessary to complete the information required for the bidders to prepare and submit their respective bids. The bidding documents, as may be amended, shall subsequently form an integral part of the contract.
- 17.4. The specifications and other terms in the bidding documents shall reflect minimum requirements or specifications required to meet the needs of the procuring entity in clear and unambiguous terms. The bidder may submit an offer which provides for superior specifications and/or better terms and conditions to the Government at no extra cost. However, these shall not be given any bonus, credit or premium in the bid evaluation.

17.5. Prospective bidders shall be given ample time to examine the bidding documents and to prepare their respective bids. To provide ample time, the concerned BAC shall promptly issue the bidding documents for the contract to be bid at the time the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is first advertised. Bidders may be asked to pay for the bidding documents to recover the cost of its preparation and development. The BAC shall issue the bidding documents upon payment of the corresponding cost thereof to the collecting/disbursing officer of the procuring entity concerned.

17.6. *Detailed Engineering for the Procurement of Infrastructure Projects*

No bidding and award of contract for infrastructure projects shall be made unless the detailed engineering investigations, surveys and designs except for design and build schemes wherein bidders shall be allowed to submit its detailed engineering designs as part of its bid, including the acquisition of the ROW, for the project have been sufficiently carried out and duly approved in accordance with the standards and specifications prescribed by the head of the procuring entity concerned or his duly authorized representative, and in accordance with the provisions of Annex "A" of this IRR-A.

17.7. *Responsibility of Prospective or Eligible Bidder*

17.7.1. A prospective or eligible bidder shall be responsible for:

- a) Having taken steps to carefully examine all of the bidding documents;
- b) Having acknowledged all conditions, local or otherwise, affecting the implementation of the contract;
- c) Having made an estimate of the facilities available and needed for the contract to be bid, if any; and
- d) Having complied with his responsibility as provided for under Section 22.5.1.

Failure to observe any of the above responsibilities shall be at the risk of the prospective bidder or eligible bidder concerned. For this purpose, a bidder shall execute a sworn statement attesting to the foregoing responsibilities, to be submitted by the bidder as an annex to its technical proposal.

17.7.2. It shall be the sole responsibility of the prospective bidder to determine and to satisfy itself by such means as it considers necessary or desirable as to all matters pertaining to the contract to be bid, including: (a) the location and the nature of the contract, project or work; (b) climatic conditions; (c) transportation facilities; (c) for the procurement of infrastructure projects, nature and condition of the terrain, geological conditions at the site communication facilities, requirements, location and availability of construction aggregates and other materials, labor, water, electric power and access roads; and (d) other factors that may affect the cost, duration and execution or implementation of the contract, project or work.

In the case of procurement of infrastructure projects, the bidder, by the act of submitting its bid, shall be deemed to have inspected the site and determined the general characteristics of the contract works and the

conditions indicated above. The BAC shall require an affidavit of such site inspection from the eligible bidder.

17.7.3. The procuring entity shall not assume any responsibility regarding erroneous interpretations or conclusions by the prospective or eligible bidder out of the data furnished by the procuring entity.

17.7.4. Before submitting their bids, the bidders are deemed to have become familiar with all existing laws, decrees, ordinances, acts and regulations of the Philippines which may affect the contract in any way. However, in cases where the cost of the awarded contract is affected by any applicable new laws, ordinances, regulations or other acts of Government promulgated after the date of bidding, a contract price adjustment shall be made or appropriate relief shall be applied on a no loss-no gain basis, provided such is not covered by the contract provisions on price adjustment.

Section 18. Reference to Brand Names

Specifications for the procurement of goods shall be based on relevant characteristics and/or performance requirements. Reference to brand names shall not be allowed.

Section 19. 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 to prospective bidders, 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.

RULE VII – INVITATION TO BID

Section 20. Pre-procurement Conference

20.1. Prior to the advertisement or the issuance of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for each procurement undertaken through a public bidding, the BAC, through its Secretariat, shall call for a pre-procurement conference. The pre-procurement conference shall be attended by the BAC, the Secretariat, the unit or officials, including consultants hired by the procuring entity who prepared the technical plans, technical specifications, TORs, bidding documents and the draft advertisement, as the case may be, for each procurement, as well as those who separately reviewed these documents prior to final approval, if any. During this conference, the participants, led by the BAC, shall:

1. Ensure that the procurement is in accordance with the project and annual procurement plans;

2. Determine the readiness of the procurement at hand, including, among other aspects, confirmation of the availability of ROW, the ownership of affected properties, availability of appropriations and programmed budget for contract, and adherence of bidding documents, technical plans, specifications, scope of work, and/or TOR, and other related matters, to relevant general procurement guidelines;

3. Review, modify and agree on the criteria for eligibility screening to ensure their fairness, reasonableness and that they are of the “pass/fail” type and are written in such manner;
 4. Review, modify and agree on the criteria for the evaluation of bids/proposals to ensure their fairness, reasonableness and applicability to the procurement at hand;
 5. Clarify that the specifications and other terms in the bidding documents are minimum requirements and that the bidder may submit an offer which provides for superior specifications and/or better terms and conditions to the Government at no extra cost, without any bonus, credit or premium in the bid evaluation; and
 6. Reiterate and emphasize the importance of confidentiality during the bid evaluation process, and the applicable sanctions and penalties, as well as agree on measures to ensure compliance with the foregoing.
- 20.2. The holding of a pre-procurement conference may not be required for small procurements, *i.e.*, procurement of goods costing two million pesos (P2,000,000.00) and below, procurement of infrastructure projects costing five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) and below, and procurement of consulting services costing one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) and below.

Section 21. Advertising and Contents of the Invitation to Bid

21.1. Contents of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid shall provide prospective bidders the following information, among others:

1. For the procurement of:
 - a) Goods, the name of the contract to be bid and a brief description of the goods to be procured;
 - b) Infrastructure projects, the name and location of the contract to be bid, the project background and other relevant information regarding the proposed contract works, including a brief description of the type, size, major items, and other important or relevant features of the works; and
 - c) Consulting services, the name of the contract to be bid, a general description of the project and other important or relevant information;
2. A general statement on the criteria to be used by the procuring entity for the eligibility check, the short listing of prospective bidders, in the case of the procurement of consulting services, the examination and evaluation of bids, and post-qualification;
3. The date, time and place of the deadline for the submission and receipt of the eligibility requirements, the pre-bid conference if any, the submission and receipt of bids, and the opening of bids;
4. The approved budget for the contract to be bid;
5. The source of funding;

6. The period of availability of the bidding documents, the place where the bidding documents may be secured and, where applicable, the price of the bidding documents;
7. The contract duration or delivery schedule;
8. The name, address, telephone number, facsimile number, e-mail and website addresses of the concerned procuring entity, as well as its designated contact person; and
9. Such other necessary information deemed relevant by the procuring entity.

21.2. Advertising and Posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

21.2.1. Except as otherwise provided in Sections 21.2.3 and 21.2.4 of this IRR-A and for the procurement of common-use goods and supplies, the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid shall be:

- a) Advertised at least twice within a maximum period of fourteen (14) calendar days, with a minimum period of six (6) calendar days in between publications, in a newspaper of general nationwide circulation which has been regularly published for at least two (2) years before the date of issue of the advertisement;
- b) Posted continuously in the website of the procuring entity concerned, if available, the website of the procuring entity's service provider, if any, as provided in Section 8 of this IRR-A, and the G-EPS during the maximum period of fourteen (14) calendar days stated above; and
- c) Posted at any conspicuous place reserved for this purpose in the premises of the procuring entity concerned, as certified by the head of the BAC Secretariat of the procuring entity concerned.

21.2.2. The following periods from the last day of the period for advertising and/or posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid up to the opening of bids shall be observed:

- (i) For goods, a maximum period of thirty (30) calendar days from the last day of the period of advertising and/or posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid up to opening of bids.
- (ii) For infrastructure projects, the bidding documents shall be issued within thirty (30) calendar days from the last day of the period of advertising and/or posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid, and the opening of bids shall be conducted within the following periods from the last day of the issuance of the bidding documents:

Estimated Contract Cost (in pesos)	Period
Up to twenty five (25) million	15 to 30 calendar days
Above twenty five (25) million up to fifty (50) million	15 to 45 calendar days
Above fifty (50) million up to two hundred (200) million	30 to 60 calendar days
Above two hundred (200) million	60 to 90 calendar days

In case of simple or repetitive or standardized works where time is of the essence, the head of the procuring entity may reduce the above term of issuance to not less than fifty percent (50%) of the periods indicated above: *Provided, however,* That the periods for conducting eligibility check, pre-bid conference and the issuance of bidding documents shall be followed.

(iii) For consulting services, a maximum period of ninety (90) calendar days from the last day of the period of advertising and/or posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid up to the opening of bids.

With respect to priority programs and infrastructure projects funded out of the annual GAA which are intended for implementation within the province, the procuring entity may, in addition to the requirements specified in this Section, publish the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid in a local newspaper of general circulation within the respective periods stated in this Section.

21.2.3. For contracts to be bid with an ABC costing two million pesos (P2,000,000.00) and below for the procurement of goods, and five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) and below for the procurement of infrastructure projects, the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid shall be posted at least in the website of the procuring entity concerned, if available, the website of the procuring entity's service provider, if any, as provided in Section 8 of this IRR-A, the G-EPS, and posted at any conspicuous place reserved for this purpose in the premises of the procuring entity concerned, as certified by the head of the BAC Secretariat of the procuring entity concerned, during the same period as above. For projects/contracts for consulting services with an ABC costing one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) and below and/or those whose duration is four (4) months or less, the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid shall be posted at least in the website of the procuring entity concerned, if available, the website of the procuring entity's service provider, if any, as provided in Section 8 of this IRR-A, the G-EPS, and posted at any conspicuous place reserved for this purpose in the premises of the procuring entity concerned, as certified by the head of the BAC Secretariat of the procuring entity concerned, during the same period as above.

21.2.4. For alternative methods of procurement as provided for in Rule XVI of this IRR-A, advertisement in a newspaper as required in this Section may be dispensed with: *Provided, however,* That posting shall be made in the website of the procuring entity concerned, if available, the G-EPS, and posted at any conspicuous place reserved for this purpose in the premises of the procuring entity concerned, as certified by the head of the BAC Secretariat of the procuring entity concerned, during the same period as above.

21.3. *LOI for the Procurement of Infrastructure Projects and Consulting Services*

21.3.1. For the procurement of infrastructure projects and consulting services, the interested party shall submit a written LOI together with its application for eligibility, which must be received by the BAC not later than seven (7) calendar days after the last day of the period for advertising and/or posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid provided in Section 21.2 of this IRR-A.

21.3.2. A contractor or consultant that is duly registered and that maintains its registration current and updated in the G-EPS electronic registry, or a

procuring entity's electronic registry already existing upon the effectivity of the Act and that allows electronic submission and/or recording/entry of eligibility requirements simultaneously with registration, may simply submit its LOI for the contract to be bid: *Provided, however,* That its registration is proper and relevant for the particular contract to be bid: *Provided, further,* That the eligibility of the contractor or consultant to participate in the bidding shall still be determined by the BAC through the conduct of an eligibility check, electronically or otherwise.

Section 22. Pre-bid Conference

- 22.1. For contracts to be bid with an approved budget of one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) or more, the BAC shall convene at least one (1) pre-bid conference to clarify and/or explain any of the requirements, terms, conditions and specifications stipulated in the bidding documents. For contracts to be bid costing less than one million pesos (P1,000,000.00), pre-bid conferences may be conducted at the discretion of the BAC. Subject to the approval of the BAC, a pre-bid conference may also be conducted upon written request of any prospective bidder.
- 22.2. The pre-bid conference shall be held at least twelve (12) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids. However, attendance of the bidders shall not be mandatory.
- 22.3. The pre-bid conference shall discuss, among other things, the technical and financial components of the contract to be bid, and, for the procurement of goods, the eligibility requirements. The minutes of the pre-bid conference shall be recorded and made available to all participants not later than three (3) calendar days after the pre-bid conference.
- 22.4. Any statement made at the pre-bid conference shall not modify the terms of the bidding documents, unless such statement is specifically identified in writing as an amendment thereto and issued as a Supplemental/Bid Bulletin.
- 22.5. *Supplemental/Bid Bulletins*
 - 22.5.1. Requests for clarification(s) on any part of the bidding documents or for an interpretation must be in writing and submitted to the BAC of the procuring entity concerned at least ten (10) calendar days before the deadline set for the submission and receipt of bids. The BAC shall respond to the said request by issuing a Supplemental/Bid Bulletin, duly signed by the BAC chairman, to be made available to all those who have properly secured the bidding documents from the procuring entity, at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids. It shall be the responsibility of all those who have properly secured the bidding documents to inquire and secure Supplemental/Bid Bulletins that may be issued by the BAC.
 - 22.5.2. Supplemental/Bid Bulletins may be issued upon the procuring entity's initiative for purposes of clarifying or modifying any provision of the bidding documents not later than seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids. Any modification to the bidding documents shall be identified as an amendment. Bidders who have submitted bids before the issuance of the Supplemental/Bid Bulletin must be informed and allowed to modify or withdraw their bids in accordance with Section 26.1 of this IRR-A.

- 22.5.3. Any Supplemental/Bid Bulletin issued by the BAC shall also be posted on the website of the procuring entity concerned, if available, and on the G-EPS.

RULE VIII – RECEIPT AND OPENING OF BIDS

Section 23. Eligibility Requirements for the Procurement of Goods and Infrastructure Projects

- 23.1. The eligibility requirements or statements shall be submitted to the BAC in the form prescribed in Section 23.6 of this IRR-A and in the Instructions to Bidders, in a sealed eligibility envelope duly marked as such: *Provided, however,* That the minimum requirements provided for in this IRR-A shall be complied with. The eligibility envelopes of prospective bidders for the procurement of goods shall be submitted, together with the technical and financial envelopes, on or before the deadline specified in the Instructions to Bidders, and shall be opened on the date of the bid opening to determine eligibility of each of the prospective bidders. The eligibility envelopes of prospective bidders for the procurement of infrastructure projects shall be submitted on or before the deadline specified in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid, and shall be opened before the dates of the pre-bid conference and bid opening to determine eligibility of prospective bidders, who shall then be allowed to acquire or purchase the relevant bidding documents from the procuring entity.
- 23.2. In relation to Section 25 on submission and receipt of bids, and subject to the provisions of Section 21.3 of this IRR-A, the BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria, as stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid, and shall be determined as either "eligible" or "ineligible." If a prospective bidder submits the specific eligibility document required, it shall be rated "passed" for that particular requirement. In this regard, failure to submit a requirement, or an incomplete or patently insufficient submission, shall be considered "failed" for the particular eligibility requirement concerned. If a prospective bidder is rated "passed" for all the eligibility requirements, it shall be considered eligible to participate in the bidding, and the BAC shall mark the set of eligibility documents of the prospective bidder concerned as "eligible." If a prospective bidder is rated "failed" in any of the eligibility requirements, it shall be considered ineligible to participate in the bidding, and the BAC shall mark the set of eligibility documents of the prospective bidder concerned as "ineligible." In either case, the markings shall be countersigned by the BAC chairperson or duly designated authority.
- 23.3. The BAC shall inform an eligible prospective bidder that it has been found eligible to participate in the bidding. On the other hand, the BAC shall inform an ineligible prospective bidder that it has been found ineligible to participate in the bidding, and the grounds for its ineligibility. Those found ineligible have seven (7) calendar days upon written notice or, if present at the time of opening of eligibility requirements, upon verbal notification, within which to file a request for a reconsideration with the BAC: *Provided, however,* That the BAC shall decide on the request for reconsideration within seven (7) calendar days from receipt thereof. The BAC may request a prospective bidder to clarify its eligibility documents, if it is deemed necessary. The BAC shall not be allowed to receive, hold and/or open the bids of ineligible prospective bidders: *Provided, however,* That if an ineligible prospective bidder signifies his intent to file a motion for

reconsideration, the BAC shall hold the eligibility documents of the said ineligible prospective bidder until such time that the motion for reconsideration has been resolved. Furthermore, for procurement of goods, the BAC shall hold the bid of the said ineligible prospective bidder unopened and duly sealed until such time that the motion for reconsideration has been resolved.

- 23.4. Notwithstanding the eligibility of a prospective bidder, the procuring entity concerned reserves the right to review its qualifications at any stage of the procurement process if it has reasonable grounds to believe that a misrepresentation has been made by the said prospective bidder, or that there has been a change in the prospective bidder's capability to undertake the project from the time it submitted its eligibility requirements. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility requirements, statements or documents, or any changes in the situation of the prospective bidder which will affect the capability of the bidder to undertake the project so that it fails the preset eligibility criteria, the procuring entity shall consider the said prospective bidder as ineligible and shall disqualify it from submitting a bid or from obtaining an award or contract, in accordance with Rules XXI, XXII, and XXIII of this IRR-A.
- 23.5. To further enhance the capability, experience and professionalism of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Corps of Engineers, and in the interest of economy and efficiency, the AFP, subject to the approval of the Secretary of National Defense, may undertake, by administration, infrastructure projects funded out of the Department of National Defense (DND) appropriations and the proceeds of the disposition of military camps/stations under Republic Act No. 7227 which are intended for the replication of AFP facilities affected by such disposition; *Provided, however, That:*
- 23.5.1. The civilian labor component for the project shall not be more than sixty percent (60%), and, as far as practicable, shall be sourced from the project locality; and
- 23.5.2. The procurement of supply requirements for the project shall be subject to the provisions of the Act and this IRR-A.
- 23.6. *Eligibility Check for the Procurement of Goods and Infrastructure Projects*

The determination of eligibility shall be based on the submission of the following documents to the BAC, utilizing the forms prepared by the BAC and using the criteria stated in Section 23.11 of this IRR-A:

1. Class "A" Documents -

Legal Documents

- a) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines;
- b) Valid and current Mayor's permit/municipal license;
- c) Taxpayer's Identification Number;
- d) Statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the Government or any of its agencies, offices,

corporations or LGUs, including non-inclusion in the Consolidated Blacklisting Report issued by the GPPB, once released in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69.4 of this IRR-A;

- e) Other appropriate licenses as may be required by the procuring entity concerned;

Technical Documents

- f) Statement of the prospective bidder of all its ongoing and completed government and private contracts within the relevant period, where applicable, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any. The statement shall state for each contract whether said contract is:

f.1. Ongoing, Completed or Awarded but not yet started: within the relevant period, where applicable. The statement shall include, for each contract, the following:

f.1.1. For the procurement of goods:

- (i) the name of the contract;
- (ii) date of the contract;
- (iii) kinds of goods sold;
- (iv) amount of contract and value of outstanding contracts;
- (v) date of delivery;
- (vi) end user's acceptance, if completed; and
- (vii) specification whether prospective bidder is a manufacturer, supplier or distributor; or

f.1.2. For the procurement of infrastructure projects:

- (i) the name of the contract;
- (ii) date of award of the contract;
- (iii) contract duration;
- (iv) owner's name and address;
- (v) nature of work;
- (vi) contractor's role (whether sole contractor, sub-contractor, or partner in a joint venture);
- (vii) total contract value at award;
- (viii) date of completion or estimated completion time;
- (ix) total contract value at completion, if applicable;
- (x) percentages of planned and actual accomplishments, if applicable;
- (xi) value of outstanding works, if applicable;
- (xii) the statement shall be supported by the notices of award and/or notices to proceed issued by the owners; and
- (xiii) the statement shall be supported by the Contractor's Performance Evaluation System (CPES) rating sheets, and/or certificates of completion and owner's acceptance, if applicable.

f.2. Similar or not similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid.

- g) In the case of procurement of infrastructure projects, a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license and registration for the type and cost of the contract to be bid;
- h) In the case of procurement of infrastructure projects, the prospective bidder's statement of:
 - h.1. Availability of the prospective bidder's key personnel, such as project managers, project engineers, materials engineers and foremen, that may be used for construction contracts; and
 - h.2. Availability of equipment that he owns, has under lease, and/or has under purchase agreements, that may be used for construction contracts, provided that ownership of equipment is not a requisite for eligibility;

Financial Documents

- i) The prospective bidder's audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities; and
- j) The prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be in accordance with Section 23.11 of this IRR-A; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

To facilitate eligibility checking, the BAC of a procuring entity may maintain a file of the foregoing Class "A" documents submitted by manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and contractors for non-common goods and/or for infrastructure projects, as may be applicable. When such file is required by the procuring entity, a manufacturer, supplier, distributor or contractor who wishes to participate in a public bidding for non-common goods and/or infrastructure projects should maintain this file current and updated at least once a year, or more frequently when needed. A manufacturer, supplier, distributor or contractor who maintains a current and updated file of his Class "A" documents will be issued a certification by the BAC to that effect, which certification may be submitted to the procuring entity concerned in lieu of the foregoing Class "A" documents.

2. Class "B" Documents –

- a) Valid joint venture agreement, in case of a joint venture; and
- b) Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative/s to verify any or all of the documents submitted for the eligibility check.

23.7. In the case of foreign manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and contractors, the eligibility requirements for items (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (i) under Class "A" Documents may be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by the country of the foreign manufacturer, supplier, distributor or contractor

concerned, which documents must be duly acknowledged or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate therein.

- 23.8. The prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative shall certify under oath that each of the documents submitted in satisfaction of the eligibility requirements is an authentic and original copy, or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original, complete, and that all statements and information provided therein are true and correct.
- 23.9. A prospective bidder may be allowed to submit his eligibility requirements electronically in accordance with Section 8.5 of this IRR-A: *Provided, however,* That said prospective bidder shall submit the certification required in the immediately preceding subsection to the BAC at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and opening of the eligibility envelopes.
- 23.10. The entire process of eligibility check for the procurement of infrastructure projects shall not exceed fifteen (15) calendar days.

23.11. *Eligibility Criteria*

23.11.1. For the procurement of goods:

1. The following manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors shall be eligible to participate in the bidding for the supply of goods:
 - a) Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships;
 - b) Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
 - c) Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
 - d) Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, *i.e.*, a group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: *Provided, however,* That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
 - e) Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

However, when the goods sought to be procured are not available from local sources, as provided in this Section, at the prescribed minimum specifications of the appropriate Government authority and/or ABC of the procuring entity, as certified by the head of the procuring entity, or when there is a need to prevent situations that defeat competition or restrain trade, the said procuring entity may invite foreign suppliers, manufacturers and/or distributors to participate in the procurement of the said goods. The GPPB shall promulgate the necessary guidelines for this provision.

2. The value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices using the wholesale consumer price index, completed within

the period specified in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid, and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

For the procurement of goods, a contract shall be considered “similar” to the contract to be bid if it involves goods or related services of the same nature and complexity as those which are the subject of the public bidding concerned.

3. The prospective bidder must present a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid; or must have a NFCC at least equal to the approved budget for the contract to be bid, calculated as follows:

NFCC = [(Current assets minus current liabilities) (K)] minus the value of all outstanding projects under ongoing contracts, including awarded contracts yet to be started.

Where:

K = 10 for a contract duration of one year or less, 15 for a contract duration of more than one year up to two years, and 20 for a contract duration of more than two years.

23.11.2. For the procurement of infrastructure projects:

1. The following persons/entities shall be allowed to participate in the bidding for infrastructure projects:

- a) Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships;
- b) Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
- c) Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
- d) Persons/entities forming themselves into a joint venture, *i.e.*, a group of two (2) or more persons/entities that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: *Provided, however,* That, in accordance with Letter of Instructions No. 630 (LOI 630), Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least seventy-five percent (75%): *Provided, further,* That joint ventures in which Filipino ownership or interest is less than seventy-five percent (75%) may be eligible where the structures to be built require the application of techniques and/or technologies which are not adequately possessed by a person/entity meeting the seventy-five percent (75%) Filipino ownership requirement: *Provided, finally,* That in the latter case, Filipino ownership or interest shall not be less than twenty-five percent (25%). For this purpose, Filipino ownership or interest shall be

based on the contributions of each of the members of the joint venture as specified in their Joint Venture Agreement (JVA); or

e) Cooperatives duly registered with CDA.

2. In accordance with the principles of the Act on the conduct of an open competitive bidding, the persons/entities enumerated in item (1) of this Subsection may participate in a public bidding: *Provided, however,* That he may only engage in the constructing business or individually act in the capacity of a contractor for the project involved if he has been issued a license by the PCAB to so engage or act. For purposes of this IRR-A, the term “contractor” refers to any person, partnership, corporation, or other juridical entity duly licensed by the PCAB.

3. The value of the prospective bidder’s largest single completed contract, adjusted to current prices using the National Statistics Office consumer price indices available at the G-EPS website, and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid: *Provided, however,* That in the case of a contractor under Small A and Small B categories without similar experience on the contract to be bid, he may be allowed to bid if the cost of such contract is not more than fifty percent (50%) of the allowable range of contract cost of his registration. The allowable range of contract cost per PCAB registration of contractor shall be:

Registration Particular	
Category	Allowable Range of Contract Cost (in Million Pesos)
Small A	Up to 0.5
Small B	Up to 3
Medium A	Up to 15
Medium B	Up to 30
Large A	Up to 50
Large B	Less than or above 50

For the procurement of infrastructure projects, a contract shall be considered “similar” to the contract to be bid if it has the same major categories of work, such as bridges and fly-overs.

4. The CPES rating and/or certificate of completion and owner’s acceptance of the contract must be satisfactory.

5. The prospective bidder must present a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid; or must have a NFCC at least equal to the approved budget for the contract to be bid, calculated as follows:

NFCC = [(Current assets minus current liabilities) multiplied by (K)] minus the value of all outstanding works or projects under ongoing contracts, including awarded contracts yet to be started.

Where:

K = 10 for a contract duration of one year or less, 15 for a contract duration of more than one year up to two years, and 20 for a contract duration of more than two years.

- 23.11.3. Only an eligible bidder as defined and determined in accordance with this IRR-A may participate in the bidding.

Section 24. Eligibility Requirements and Short Listing for Consulting Services

24.1. *Definition*

A natural or juridical person, qualified by appropriate education, training and relevant experience to render any or all of the types and fields of consulting services as defined in this IRR-A, shall be considered as a "Consultant," subject to the requirements provided in this IRR-A for eligibility check and post-qualification. A consultant may either be:

1. *A Filipino Consultant.* A Filipino consultant may be an individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation or a joint venture satisfying the definition of a consultant under this IRR-A and the following requirements:

a) Individual –

a.1. He must be a citizen of the Philippines; and

a.2. When the types and fields of consulting services in which he wishes to engage involve professions regulated by the laws of the Philippines, he must be a registered professional authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice those professions and allied professions.

b) Sole Proprietorship –

b.1. The owner of the sole proprietorship must be a citizen of the Philippines;

b.2. The sole proprietorship firm must be registered with and authorized by the Bureau of Domestic Trade; and

b.3. When the types and fields of consulting services in which the sole proprietorship wishes to engage involve professions regulated by laws of the Philippines, the owner and key staff of the sole proprietorship must be registered professionals authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice those professions and allied professions.

c) Partnership –

c.1. At least sixty percent (60%) of the partnership's interest must be owned by citizens of the Philippines;

c.2. The partnership firm must be registered with and authorized by the SEC to engage in the particular type of consulting service(s); and

c.3. When the types and fields of consulting services in which the partnership firm wishes to engage involve professions regulated by laws of the Philippines, all the partners of the professional partnership firm and those who will actually perform the services shall be Filipino citizens

and registered professionals authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice those professions and allied professions.

d) Corporation –

d.1. At least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock must be owned by citizens of the Philippines;

d.2. The corporation must be registered with and authorized by the SEC and whose primary purpose is to engage in the particular type of consulting service(s) involved; and

d.3. When the types and fields of consulting services in which the corporation wishes to engage involve the practice of professions regulated by law, all the stockholders and directors of the corporation and those who will actually perform the services shall be Filipino citizens and registered professionals authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice those professions and allied professions: *Provided, however,* That the relevant laws allow corporations to engage in the said services.

e) Joint Venture –

Joint ventures among Filipino consultants and among Filipino and foreign consultants may be allowed if such results in better quality of consultancy subject to pertinent laws and the relevant provisions of this IRR-A. The joint venture shall be jointly and severally responsible for the obligations and the civil liabilities arising from the consulting services: *Provided, however,* That Filipino ownership or interest thereof shall be at least sixty percent (60%): *Provided, further,* That when the types and fields of consulting services in which the joint venture wishes to engage involve the practice of professions regulated by law, all members of the joint venture, and all the partners or stockholders and directors of each member, as the case may be, as well as all those who will actually perform the services shall be Filipino citizens and registered professionals authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice those professions and allied professions: *Provided, finally,* That, in case of corporations, the relevant laws allow corporations to engage in the said services. For this purpose, Filipino ownership or interest shall be based on the contributions of each of the members of the joint venture as specified in their JVA.

2. *A Foreign Consultant.* A foreign consultant may be an individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation or joint venture satisfying the definition of a consultant under this IRR-A, but not meeting the citizenship, ownership, interest and/or registration/authorization requirements for a Filipino consultant under this IRR-A. To qualify for hiring for consulting services, the foreign consultant must satisfy the following minimum requirements:

a) The foreign consultant must be registered with the SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines; and

b) When the types and fields of consulting services in which the foreign consultant wishes to engage involve the practice of regulated professions, the foreign consultant must be authorized by the appropriate Philippine Government professional regulatory body to

engage in the practice of those professions and allied professions: *Provided, however,* That the limits of such authority shall be strictly observed.

Should a foreign consultant be considered for award, any registration, license or authority required under this provision shall be submitted by the said consultant prior to award of contract.

24.2. *Types of Consulting Services*

The services to be provided by consultants can be divided into six (6) broad categories as follows:

1. Advisory and Review Services;
2. Pre-Investment or Feasibility Studies;
3. Design;
4. Construction Supervision;
5. Management and Related Services; and
6. Other Technical Services or Special Studies.

A detailed definition and description of these services are provided for in Annex "B" of this IRR-A.

24.3. *The Need for Consultants*

The services of consultants may be engaged by any procuring entity for government projects or related activities of such magnitude and/or scope as would require a level of expertise or attention beyond the optimum in-house capability of the procuring entity concerned and consistent with the Government's policy not to compete with the private sector.

24.4. *Independence of Consultants*

To ensure the consultant's professional independence, integrity and objectivity, consultants, as well as key staff working for the consulting entity, who may be directly or indirectly associated with non-consulting firms that may have an interest in or bias towards the project concerned, shall be selected only if they agree to limit their role to that of consultants and will disqualify themselves and their affiliates for bidding for products and services of the same government project.

24.5. *Hiring of Consultants*

24.5.1. Consultants shall be hired on the basis of their proven expertise, experience and capability. Under certain conditions provided herein, cost may be included as a factor in the selection of consultants.

24.5.2. In order to manifest trust and confidence in and promote the development of Filipino consultancy, Filipino consultants shall be hired whenever the services required for the project are within the expertise and capability of Filipino consultants: *Provided, however,* That in the event Filipino consultants do not have the sufficient expertise and capability to render the services required under the project, as determined by the head of the procuring entity, foreign consultants may be hired.

24.5.3. In the hiring of foreign consultants, all pertinent laws and regulations of the Philippines shall be followed.

24.5.4. Technology and knowledge transfer to the procuring entity shall be required in the provision of consulting services, where applicable.

24.6. *Organization of Consultants*

24.6.1. The umbrella organization of consultants recognized by the Government shall be composed of the various organizations of consultants that may be engaged by the Government under this IRR-A and shall accredit its members on the types of services and fields of professions where the members are technically and financially qualified to offer their services. The umbrella organization shall prepare and certify a list of fields and expertise in such fields available with the names of the accredited local consultants which shall be updated annually or as often as necessary and disseminate such list to concerned agencies of the Government. It shall likewise police its members for the development of the industry. The Government may consult and deal with this umbrella organization on matters relating to the industry. The GPPB shall be the appropriate government body that shall recognize the consultants' umbrella organization.

24.6.2. The umbrella organization may submit its files of accredited consultants to the BAC of the procuring entity in accordance with the form prescribed by the BAC which can serve as registration of the consultants under the next succeeding Subsection: *Provided, however*, That each such accredited consultant shall comply with the eligibility requirements provided in this IRR-A. Such qualification statements, together with the list of accredited consultants prepared in accordance with the immediately preceding section, shall guide the BAC in determining the fields where Filipino consultants are already qualified and capable and where foreign consultants may not be required.

24.7. *Eligibility Check for the Procurement of Consulting Services*

24.7.1. The determination of eligibility shall be based on the submission of the following documents to the BAC, utilizing the forms prepared by the BAC:

1. Class "A" Documents –

Legal Documents

- a) DTI business name registration or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines, if applicable;
- b) Valid and current Mayor's permit/municipal license, if applicable;
- c) Taxpayer's Identification Number;
- d) Statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the Government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations or LGUs, including non-inclusion in the Consolidated Blacklisting Report issued by the GPPB, once released in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69.4 of this IRR-A;

- e) Other appropriate licenses as may be required by the procuring entity concerned;

Technical Documents

- f) Statement of the prospective bidder of all its ongoing and completed government and private contracts within the period specified in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any. The statement shall include, for each contract, the following:
 - f.1. the name and location of the contract/project;
 - f.2. date of the contract;
 - f.3. type of consulting service;
 - f.4. amount of contract;
 - f.5. contract duration; and
 - f.6. certificate of satisfactory completion issued by the client, in the case of a completed contract.
- g) The types and number of equipment that the consultant owns, has under lease, and/or has under purchase agreements, if any;
- h) If the consultant is a juridical entity, the consultant's statement:
 - h.1. Of the kinds and number of its ownership and key staff, partners or principal officers, as the case may be, as well as their respective curriculum vitae;
 - h.2. That, when the types and fields of consulting services in which the entity wishes to engage involve professions regulated by the laws of the Philippines, the owner and key staff, and all the partners of the professional partnership firm, as the case may be, and those who will actually perform the service, are registered professionals authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice those professions and allied professions, in accordance with the provisions of this IRR-A; and
 - h.3. On the prospective bidder's technical competence, experience and staff capabilities.
- i) If the consultant is an individual, the consultant's statement:
 - i.1. Of his citizenship; and
 - i.2. When the types and fields of consulting services in which he wishes to engage involve professions regulated by the laws of the Philippines, he is a registered professional authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice those professions and allied professions.

Financial Document

- j) The consultant's audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the

immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the consultant's total and current assets and liabilities.

To facilitate eligibility checking, the BAC of a procuring entity may maintain a file of the foregoing Class "A" documents submitted by consultants. When such file is required by the procuring entity, a consultant who wishes to participate in a public bidding for consulting services should maintain this file current and updated at least once a year, or more frequently when needed. A consultant who maintains a current and updated file of his Class "A" documents will be issued a certification by the BAC to that effect, which certification may be submitted to the procuring entity concerned in lieu of the foregoing Class "A" documents.

2. Class "B" Documents -

- a) Valid joint venture agreement, in case of a joint venture; and
- b) Letter authorizing the head of the procuring entity or his duly authorized representative/s to verify any or all of the documents submitted for the eligibility check.

24.8. In the case of foreign consultants, the eligibility requirements for items (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (j) under Class "A" Documents may be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by the foreign consultant's country, which documents must be duly acknowledged or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate therein.

24.9. The consultant or his duly authorized representative shall certify under oath that each of the documents submitted in satisfaction of the eligibility requirements is an authentic and original copy, or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original, complete, and that all statements and information provided therein are true and correct.

24.10. The eligibility envelopes of prospective bidders for procurement of consulting services shall be submitted on or before the deadline specified in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid, and shall be opened before the dates of the pre-bid conference and bid opening to determine eligibility of prospective bidders, who shall then be allowed to acquire or purchase the relevant bidding documents from the procuring entity.

A prospective bidder may be allowed to submit his eligibility requirements electronically in accordance with Section 8.5 of this IRR-A: *Provided, however,* That said prospective bidder shall submit the certification required in the immediately preceding subsection to the BAC at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and opening of the eligibility envelopes.

24.11. Subject to the short listing of consultants as provided in this IRR-A, the determination of eligibility of consultants shall be based on the submission of the above documents to the BAC, utilizing the forms prepared by the BAC.

24.12. Subject to the short listing of consultants as provided in this IRR-A, only an eligible consultant as defined and determined in accordance with this IRR-A may participate in the bidding and subsequently be awarded the contract being bid out if his bid is found to be responsive in accordance with this IRR-A. The BAC shall determine if each consultant is eligible to participate in a bidding by examining each consultant's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of

requirements, using a non-discretionary “pass/fail” criteria, as stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and the Instructions to Bidders, and shall be determined as either “eligible” or “ineligible.” If a consultant submits the specific eligibility document required, he shall be rated “passed” for that particular requirement. In this regard, failure to submit a requirement, or an incomplete or patently insufficient submission, shall be considered “failed” for the particular eligibility requirement concerned. If a consultant is rated “passed” for all the eligibility requirements, he shall be considered eligible to participate in a bidding, and the BAC shall mark the set of eligibility documents of the consultant concerned as “eligible.” If a consultant is rated “failed” in any of the eligibility requirements, he shall be considered ineligible to participate in a bidding, and the BAC shall mark the set of eligibility documents of the consultant concerned as “ineligible.” In either case, the markings shall be countersigned by the BAC chairperson or duly designated authority.

24.13. The BAC shall inform an eligible consultant that he has been found eligible, subject to the short listing of consultants as provided in this IRR-A. On the other hand, the BAC shall inform an ineligible consultant that it has been found ineligible to participate in the bidding, and the grounds for its ineligibility. Those found ineligible have seven (7) calendar days upon written notice or, if present at the time of bid opening, upon verbal notification, within which to file a request for a reconsideration with the BAC: *Provided, however,* That the BAC shall decide on the request for reconsideration within seven (7) calendar days from receipt thereof. The BAC may request a prospective bidder to clarify its eligibility documents, if it is deemed necessary. The BAC shall not be allowed to receive bids of ineligible consultants. If an ineligible consultant signifies his intent to file a motion for reconsideration, the BAC shall hold the eligibility documents of the said ineligible consultant until such time that the motion for reconsideration has been resolved.

24.14. Notwithstanding the eligibility of a consultant and/or inclusion in the short list of consultants, the procuring entity concerned reserves the right to review his qualifications at any stage of the procurement process if it has reasonable grounds to believe that a misrepresentation has been made by the said consultant, or that there has been a change in the consultant’s capability to undertake the project from the time he submitted his eligibility requirements. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility requirements, statements or documents, or any changes in the situation of the consultant which will affect the capability of the consultant to undertake the project so that the consultant fails the preset eligibility criteria, the procuring entity shall consider the said consultant as ineligible and shall disqualify him from submitting a bid or from obtaining an award or contract, in accordance with Rules XXI, XXII, and XXIII of this IRR-A.

24.15. *Short Listing of Prospective Bidders*

24.15.1. With respect to a particular contract for consulting services to be bid, the concerned procuring entity shall only consider for short listing those consultants whose submitted contracts, as stated in the eligibility documents submitted for registration, are similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid, based on the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid.

24.15.2. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have been determined as eligible, and who have submitted their LOI, both in accordance with the provisions of this IRR-A. The number of short list of consultants, which shall be determined in the pre-procurement conference,

shall consist of three (3) to seven (7) consultants, with five (5) as the preferable number. Should less than the required number apply for eligibility and short listing, pass the eligibility check, and/or pass the minimum score required in the short listing, the BAC shall consider the same.

24.15.3. The BAC shall specify in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid the set of criteria and rating system for short listing of consultants to be used for the particular contract to be bid, which shall consider the following, among others:

- a) Applicable experience of the consultant and associates in case of joint ventures, considering both the overall experiences of the firm and the individual experiences of the principal and key staff including the times when employed by other consultants;
- b) Qualification of personnel who may be assigned to the job vis-à-vis extent and complexity of the undertaking; and
- c) Current workload relative to capacity.

24.15.4. The BAC shall recommend the short list of consultants to the head of the procuring entity for consideration and approval. The entire process of eligibility check and short listing shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days.

Section 25. Submission and Receipt of Bids

25.1. Eligible bidders shall submit their bids through their authorized managing officer or their duly authorized representative (i) in the prescribed Bid Form, including its annexes, as specified in the bidding documents, (ii) on or before the specified deadline, and (iii) in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes, the first containing the technical component of the bid, and the second containing the financial component of the bid, with the name of the contract to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters, addressed to the BAC of the agency concerned. The bidder shall mark the two envelopes: "Do not open before (date and time of opening of bids)." Both envelopes shall then be sealed in an outer envelope which shall be addressed to the BAC and shall be marked as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

25.2. Bids submitted after the deadline shall not be accepted by the BAC.

25.3. The first envelope (Technical Proposal) shall contain the following technical information/documents, at the least:

A. For the procurement of goods:

1. The Bid Security as to form, amount and validity period;
2. Authority of the signatory;
3. Production/delivery schedule;
4. Manpower requirements;
5. After-sales service/parts, if applicable;
6. Technical specifications;
7. Commitment from a licensed bank to extend to the bidder a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid: *Provided, however, That if*

- the bidder previously submitted this document as an eligibility requirement, the said previously submitted document shall suffice;
8. Certificate from the bidder under oath of its compliance with existing labor laws and standards, in the case of procurement of services; and
 9. A sworn affidavit of compliance with the Disclosure Provision under Section 47 of the Act in relation to other provisions of R.A. 3019; and
 10. Other documents/materials as stated in the Instructions to Bidders.

B. For the procurement of infrastructure projects:

1. Bid Security as to form, amount and validity period;
2. Authority of the signing official;
3. Construction schedule and S-curve;
4. Manpower schedule;
5. Construction methods;
6. Organizational chart for the contract to be bid;
7. List of contractor's personnel (viz., Project Manager, Project Engineers, Materials Engineers, and Foremen), to be assigned to the contract to be bid, with their complete qualification and experience data;
8. List of contractor's equipment units, which are owned, leased, and/or under purchase agreements, supported by certification of availability of equipment from the equipment lessor/vendor for the duration of the project ;
9. Equipment utilization schedule;
10. Affidavit of site inspection;
11. Commitment from a licensed bank to extend to the bidder a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid: *Provided, however,* That if the bidder previously submitted this document as an eligibility requirement, the said previously submitted document shall suffice;
12. Construction safety and health program of the contractor;
13. Certificate from the bidder under oath of its compliance with existing labor laws and standards;
14. A sworn affidavit of compliance with the Disclosure Provision under Section 47 of the Act in relation to other provisions of R.A. 3019; and
15. Documents/materials to comply with other non-discretionary criteria and requirements as stated in the Instructions to Bidders.

C. For the procurement of consulting services:

1. The Bid Security as to form, amount and validity period;
2. Authority of the signatory;
3. Organizational chart for the contract to be bid;
4. List of completed and on-going projects;
5. Approach, work plan, and schedule: *Provided, however,* That for architectural design, submission of architectural plans and designs shall not be required during the consultant's selection process;
6. List of key personnel to be assigned to the contract to be bid, with their complete qualification and experience data;
7. Certificate from the bidder under oath of its compliance with existing labor laws and standards;
8. A sworn affidavit of compliance with the Disclosure Provision under Section 47 of the Act in relation to other provisions of R.A. 3019; and

9. Other information and/or documents specified in the bidding documents.
- 25.4. The second envelope (Financial Proposal) shall contain the following financial information/documents, at the least:
- A. For the procurement of goods:
 1. Bid prices in the Bill of Quantities in the prescribed Bid Form; and
 2. The recurring and the maintenance costs, if applicable.
 - B. For the procurement of infrastructure projects:
 1. Bid prices in the Bill of Quantities in the prescribed Bid Form;
 2. Detailed estimates including a summary sheet indicating the unit prices of construction materials, labor rates and equipment rentals used in coming up with the bid; and
 3. Cash flow by the quarter and payments schedule.
 - C. For the procurement of consulting services, the information and/or documents to be provided by the bidder shall be specified in the bidding documents.

Section 26. Modification and Withdrawal of Bids

- 26.1. A bidder may modify its bid, provided that this is done before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids. Where a bidder modifies its bid, it shall not be allowed to retrieve its original bid, but shall only be allowed to send another bid equally sealed, properly identified, linked to its original bid and marked as a "modification," thereof, and stamped "received" by the BAC. Bid modifications received after the applicable deadline shall not be considered and shall be returned to the bidder unopened.
- 26.2. A bidder may, through a letter, withdraw its bid before the deadline for the receipt of bids. Withdrawal of bids after the applicable deadline shall be subject to appropriate sanctions as prescribed in this IRR-A. A bidder may also express its intention not to participate in the bidding through a letter which should reach and be stamped received by the BAC before the deadline for the receipt of bids. A bidder that withdraws its bid shall not be permitted to submit another bid, directly or indirectly, for the same contract.

Section 27. Bid Security

- 27.1. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, payable to the procuring entity concerned as a guarantee that the successful bidder shall, within ten (10) calendar days, or less as indicated in the Instructions to Bidders, from receipt of the Notice of Award, enter into contract with the procuring entity and furnish the performance security provided for in Section 39 of the Act and this IRR-A. Failure to enclose the required Bid Security in the form and amount prescribed herein shall automatically disqualify the bid concerned.
- 27.2. The Bid Security shall be in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid, as advertised by the concerned procuring entity, in any of the following forms:

Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184

- a) Cash, certified check, cashier's check/manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank or in the case of a foreign bidder, bonded by a foreign bank;
- b) Irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed or authenticated by a reputable local bank;
- c) Surety bond callable upon demand issued by a reputable surety or insurance company;
- d) Any combination thereof; or
- e) Foreign government guarantee as provided in an executive, bilateral or multilateral agreement, as may be required by the head of the procuring entity concerned.

The required amount of the above forms of security shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 ½%)
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2 ½%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

- 27.3. The required minimum bid security, based on the above schedule, shall be stated in Philippine Pesos in the bidding documents.
- 27.4. No Bid Securities shall be returned to bidders after the opening of bids and before contract signing, except to those that failed to comply with any of the requirements to be submitted in the first bid envelope of the bid, as provided in this IRR-A. Without prejudice to the provisions the Act and this IRR-A on the forfeiture of Bid Securities, Bid Securities shall be returned only after the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid or Highest Rated Responsive Bid, as the case may be, has signed the contract and furnished the Performance Security, but in no case later than the expiration of the Bid Security validity period indicated in the Instructions to Bidders.

Section 28. Bid Validity

Bids and Bid Securities shall be valid for a reasonable period as determined by the head of the procuring entity concerned, and shall be indicated in the bidding documents, but in no case shall exceed one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the opening of bids.

Section 29. Bid Opening

The BAC shall open the bids at the time, date and place specified in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and the bidding documents. The bidders or their duly authorized representatives may attend the opening of bids. All members of the BAC or their duly authorized representatives who are present during bid opening, shall initial every page of the original copies of all bids received and opened. The minutes of the bid opening shall be

made available to the public upon written request and payment of a specified fee to recover cost of materials.

RULE IX – BID EVALUATION

Section 30. Preliminary Examination of Bids

- 30.1. The BAC shall open the first bid envelopes (Technical Proposals) of eligible bidders in public to determine each bidder's compliance with the documents required to be submitted for the first component of the bid, as prescribed in this IRR-A. For this purpose, the BAC shall check the submitted documents of each bidder against a checklist of required documents to ascertain if they are all present in the first bid envelope, using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria, as stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and the Instructions to Bidders. If a bidder submits the required document, it shall be rated "passed" for that particular requirement. In this regard, failure to submit a requirement, or an incomplete or patently insufficient submission, shall be considered "failed" for the particular requirement concerned. In case one or more of the above required documents in the first envelope of a particular bid is missing, incomplete, or patently insufficient, the BAC shall rate the bid concerned as "failed" and immediately return to the bidder concerned its second bid envelope unopened. Otherwise, the BAC shall rate the said first bid envelope as "passed."
- 30.2. Immediately after determining compliance with the requirements in the first envelope, the BAC shall forthwith open the second bid envelope (Financial Proposals) of each remaining eligible bidder whose first bid envelope was rated "passed." The second envelope of each complying bidder shall be opened within the same day, except as provided under Section 33 of this IRR-A. In case one or more of the requirements in the second envelope of a particular bid is missing, incomplete or patently insufficient, and/or if the submitted total bid price exceeds the approved budget for the contract, the BAC shall rate the bid concerned as "failed." Only bids that are determined to contain all the bid requirements for both components shall be rated "passed" and shall immediately be considered for evaluation and comparison.
- 30.3. A bidder determined as "failed" has seven (7) calendar days upon written notice or, if present at the time of bid opening, upon verbal notification, within which to file a request for a reconsideration with the BAC: *Provided, however,* That the request for reconsideration shall not be granted if it is established that the finding of failure is due to the fault of the bidder concerned: *Provided, further,* That the BAC shall decide on the request for reconsideration within seven (7) calendar days from receipt thereof. If a failed bidder signifies his intent to file a motion for reconsideration, in the case of a bidder who fails in the first bid envelopes, the BAC shall hold the second bid envelope of the said failed bidder unopened and duly sealed until such time that the motion for reconsideration has been resolved.
- 30.4. For the procurement of goods where, due to the nature of the requirements of the project, the required technical specifications/requirements of the contract cannot be precisely defined in advance of bidding, or where the problem of technically unequal bids is likely to occur, a two (2)-stage bidding procedure may be employed. In these cases, the procuring entity concerned shall prepare the bidding documents, including the technical specification in the form of performance criteria only. Under this procedure, prospective bidders shall be requested at the first stage to submit their respective Letter of Intent, eligibility

requirements if needed, and initial technical proposals only (no price tenders). The concerned BAC shall then evaluate the technical merits of the proposals received from eligible bidders vis-à-vis the required performance standards. A meeting/discussion shall then be held by the BAC with those eligible bidders whose technical tenders meet the minimum required standards stipulated in the bidding documents for purposes of drawing up the final revised technical specifications/requirements of the contract. Once the final revised technical specifications are completed and duly approved by the concerned BAC, copies of the same shall be issued to all the bidders identified in the first stage who shall then be required to submit their revised technical tenders, including their price proposals in two (2) separate sealed envelopes in accordance with this IRR-A, at a specified deadline, after which time no more bids shall be received. The concerned BAC shall then proceed in accordance with the procedure prescribed in this IRR-A.

- 30.5. For the procurement of consulting services, the detailed implementation of the procedure specified in this Section shall be as provided in Section 33 of this IRR-A.

Section 31. Ceiling for Bid Prices

The approved budget for the contract under bidding shall be the upper limit or ceiling for acceptable bid prices. If a bid price, as evaluated and calculated in accordance with this IRR-A, is higher than the approved budget for the contract under bidding, the bidder submitting the same shall be automatically disqualified. There shall be no lower limit or floor on the amount of the award.

Section 32. Bid Evaluation for the Procurement of Goods and Infrastructure Projects.

- 32.1. For the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, the purpose of bid evaluation is to determine the Lowest Calculated Bid. This bid shall be subject to post-qualification in accordance with Rule X of this IRR-A to determine its responsiveness to the eligibility and bid requirements. If after post-qualification the Lowest Calculated Bid is determined to be post-qualified it shall be considered the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid and the contract shall be awarded to the bidder.
- 32.2. For the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, the Lowest Calculated Bid shall be determined in two steps:
- a) The detailed evaluation of the financial component of the bids, to establish the correct calculated prices of the bids; and
 - b) The ranking of the total bid prices as so calculated from the lowest to the highest. The bid with the lowest price shall be identified as the **Lowest Calculated Bid**.
- 32.3. Members of the BAC, including its staff and personnel, as well as its Secretariat and TWG, are prohibited from making or accepting any kind of communication with any bidder regarding the evaluation of their bids until the issuance of the Notice of Award, unless otherwise allowed in this IRR-A. The entire evaluation process shall be completed in not more than fifteen (15) days for the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects from the deadline for receipt of proposals.

- 32.4. *Detailed Evaluation of Bids for the Procurement of Goods and Infrastructure Projects*
- 32.4.1. To determine the Lowest Calculated Bid for the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, after the preliminary examination of bids, the BAC shall immediately conduct a detailed evaluation of all bids rated “passed,” using a non-discretionary criteria, as stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and the Instructions to Bidders, which shall include a consideration of the following:
- a) The bid must be complete. Unless the Instructions to Bidders specifically allow partial bids, bids not addressing or providing all of the required items in the bidding documents including, where applicable, bill of quantities, shall be considered non-responsive and, thus, automatically disqualified. In this regard, where a required item is provided, but no price is indicated, the same shall be considered as non-responsive, but specifying a “0” (zero) for the said item would mean that it is being offered for free to the Government; and
 - b) Minor arithmetical corrections to consider computational errors, omissions and discounts if allowed, in the bidding documents to enable proper comparison of all eligible bids. Any adjustment shall be calculated in monetary terms to determine the calculated prices.
- 32.4.2. In the evaluation of bids, the BAC shall evaluate all bids on an equal footing to ensure fair and competitive bid evaluation. For this purpose, all bidders shall be required to include the cost of all taxes, such as, but not limited to, value added tax (VAT), income tax, local taxes, and other fiscal levies and duties which shall be itemized in the bid form and reflected in the detailed estimates. Such bids, including said taxes, shall be the basis for bid evaluation and comparison.
- 32.4.3. In case of discrepancies between: (a) bid prices in figures and in words, the latter shall prevail; (b) total prices and unit prices, the latter shall prevail; (c) unit cost in the detailed estimate and unit cost in the bill of quantities, the latter shall prevail.
- 32.4.4. Based on the detailed evaluation of bids, those that comply with the above-mentioned requirements shall be ranked in the ascending order of their total calculated bid prices, as evaluated and corrected for computational errors, discounts and other modifications, to identify the Lowest Calculated Bid. Total calculated bid prices, as evaluated and corrected for computational errors, discounts and other modifications, which exceed the approved budget for the contract shall not be considered.
- 32.5. After all bids have been received, opened, examined, evaluated and ranked, the BAC shall prepare the corresponding Abstract of Bids. All members of the BAC shall sign the Abstract of Bids and attach thereto all the bids with their corresponding Bid Securities and the minutes or proceedings of the bidding. The Abstract of Bids shall contain the following:
- a) Name of the contract and its location, if applicable;
 - b) Time, date and place of bid opening; and
 - c) Names of bidders and their corresponding calculated bid prices arranged from lowest to highest, the amount of Bid Security and the name of the issuing entity.

Section 33. Bid Evaluation of Short Listed Bidders for Consulting Services

- 33.1. For the procurement of consulting services, the purpose of bid evaluation is to determine the Highest Rated Bid. This bid shall be subject to post-qualification in accordance with Rule X of this IRR-A to determine its responsiveness to the eligibility and bid requirements. Once the Highest Rated Bid is determined and post-qualified the contract shall then be awarded to the bidder with the **Highest Rated Responsive Bid**.
- 33.2. For the procurement of consulting services, the Highest Rated Bid shall be determined in two steps:
- a) The detailed evaluation of the bids of the short listed bidders using numerical ratings based on either the quality-based evaluation/selection procedure or the quality-cost based evaluation/selection procedure; and
 - b) The ranking of the bidders based on the numerical ratings from the highest to the lowest. The bid with the highest rating shall be identified as the **Highest Rated Bid**.
- 33.3. *Detailed Evaluation Procedure for the Procurement of Consulting Services*
- 33.3.1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 29 of this IRR-A, as a general policy, the head of the procuring entity shall have the option as to the evaluation procedure to be adopted for consultants, which shall either be quality-based or quality-cost based, as well as the manner by which the actual evaluation of proposals shall be conducted. The consultant evaluation procedure adopted shall be stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and the bidding documents.
- 33.3.2. For the evaluation of proposals, numerical ratings shall be used. In order to eliminate bias in evaluating the technical proposals, it is recommended that the highest and lowest scores given by the BAC members for each consultant for each criterion shall not be considered in determining the average scores of the consultants, except when the evaluation is conducted in a collegial manner.
- 33.3.3. After the bids have been submitted to the BAC and during the evaluation period, bidders that have submitted their bids are prohibited from making any kind of communication with any BAC member, including its staff and personnel, as well as its Secretariat and TWG, regarding matters connected to their bids until the approval by the head of the agency of the ranking of short listed bidders. Likewise, members of the BAC, including its staff and personnel, as well as its Secretariat and TWG, are prohibited from making any kind of communication with any bidder regarding the evaluation of their bids until the approval by the head of the procuring entity of the ranking of short listed bidders. The entire evaluation process, including the submission of the results thereof to the head of the agency for approval, shall be completed in not more than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the deadline for receipt of proposals. The proposal with the highest rank shall be identified as the Highest Rated Bid.
- 33.3.4. The technical proposals of consultants shall be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a) Quality of personnel to be assigned to the project which covers suitability of key staff to perform the duties of the particular assignments and general qualifications and competence including education and training of the key staff;
- b) Experience and capability of the consultant which include records of previous engagement and quality of performance in similar and in other projects; relationship with previous and current clients; and, overall work commitments, geographical distribution of current/impending projects and attention to be given by the consultant. The experience of the consultant to the project shall consider both the overall experiences of the firm and the individual experiences of the principal and key staff including the times when employed by other consultants; and
- c) Plan of approach and methodology with emphasis on the clarity, feasibility, innovativeness and comprehensiveness of the plan approach, and the quality of interpretation of project problems, risks, and suggested solutions.

The BAC shall assign numerical weights to each of the above criteria which shall be indicated in the bid documents.

For complex or unique undertakings, such as those involving new concepts/technology or financial advisory services, participating short listed consultants may be required, at the option of the agency concerned, to make an oral presentation to be presented by each consultant, or its nominated Project Manager or head, in case of consultant firms, within fifteen (15) calendar days after the deadline for submission of technical proposals.

- 33.3.5. The head of the procuring entity shall approve or disapprove the recommendations of the BAC within two (2) calendar days after receipt of the results of the evaluation from the BAC.
- 33.3.6. All participating short listed consultants shall be furnished the results (ranking and total scores only) of the evaluation after the approval by the head of the agency of the ranking. Said results shall also be posted in the G-EPS and the website of the agency, whenever available, for a period of not less than two (2) weeks to inform the GPPB and the umbrella organization of consultants of the results.

33.4. *Quality-Based Evaluation Procedure*

- 33.4.1. For the quality-based evaluation procedure, a two-stage procedure shall be adopted whereby each consultant shall be required to submit his technical and financial proposals simultaneously in separate sealed envelopes, and the evaluation of consultants shall be made based only on the technical proposals without consideration of the estimated cost or financial terms of the services. The BAC shall rank the consultants in descending order based on the numerical ratings of their technical proposals subject to Section 33.3 of this IRR-A and identify the Highest Rated Bid.
- 33.4.2. After approval by the head of the procuring entity, of the Highest Rated Bid, the BAC shall within seven (7) calendar days notify and invite the consultant with the Highest Rated Bid for negotiation. The financial proposal of the consultant with the Highest Rated Bid shall then be opened by the BAC in

the presence of the consultant concerned for the purpose of conducting negotiations with the said consultant. In the letter of notification, the BAC shall inform the consultant of the issues in the technical proposal the BAC may wish to clarify during negotiations. When the negotiation with the first in rank consultant fails, the financial proposal of the second in rank consultant shall be opened for negotiations, and so on; 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 approved budget for the contract as stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid.

33.4.3. Basically, negotiations shall cover the following:

- a) Discussion and clarification of the TOR and Scope of Services;
- b) Discussion and finalization of the methodology and work program proposed by the consultant;
- c) Consideration of appropriateness of qualifications and pertinent compensation, number of man-months and the personnel to be assigned to the job, taking note of over-qualified personnel to be commensurate with the compensation of personnel with the appropriate qualifications, number of man-months and schedule of activities (manning schedule);
- d) Discussion on the services, facilities and data, if any, to be provided by procuring entity concerned;
- e) Discussion on the financial proposal submitted by the consultant; and
- f) Provisions of the contract.

33.4.4. Except for meritorious reasons, negotiations with any one consultant shall be completed within fourteen (14) calendar days.

33.5. *Quality-Cost Based Evaluation Procedure*

For the quality-cost based evaluation procedure, each consultant shall be required to submit his technical and financial proposals simultaneously in separate sealed envelopes, and the technical proposal together with the financial proposal shall be considered in the evaluation of consultants. The technical proposals shall be evaluated first and only the financial proposals of the consultants who meet the minimum technical rating shall be opened. For this purpose, it is hereby clarified that, in the case of a Quality-Cost Based Evaluation, as distinguished from a Quality-Based Evaluation, the financial proposals of the consultants who meet the minimum technical rating shall be opened during bid opening and not during negotiations. Furthermore, the financial and technical proposals shall be given corresponding weights with the financial proposal given a weight of fifteen percent (15%) up to a maximum of forty percent (40%). This shall be indicated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and the bidding documents. The exact weight shall be approved by the head of the procuring entity upon the recommendation of the BAC. The weight of the technical criteria shall be adjusted accordingly such that their total weight in percent together with the weight given to the financial proposal shall add to one hundred percent (100%). The BAC shall rank the consultants in descending order based on the combined numerical ratings of

their technical and financial proposals and identify the Highest Rated Bid: *Provided, however,* That subsequent negotiations in accordance with Section 33.4.3 of this IRR-A shall still be undertaken with the first in rank consultant, except for item (e) thereof. Except for meritorious reasons, negotiations with any one consultant shall be completed within fourteen (14) calendar days. Total calculated bid prices, as evaluated and corrected for minor arithmetical corrections, such as computational errors, which exceed the approved budget for the contract shall not be considered.

- 33.6. There should be no replacement of key personnel before the awarding of contract, except for justifiable reason, such as, among others, delay in the evaluation process due to the fault of the Government. The procuring entity shall immediately consider negotiation with the next ranked consultant if unjustifiable replacement of personnel by the first ranked firm is made. Once the contract has been awarded, no replacement shall be allowed until after fifty percent (50%) of the personnel's man-months have been served, except for justifiable reasons. Violators will be fined an amount equal to the refund of the replaced personnel's basic rate, which should be at least fifty percent (50%) of the total basic rate for the duration of the engagement.

RULE X – POST-QUALIFICATION

Section 34. Objective and Process of Post-Qualification

- 34.1. Within seven (7) calendar days from the determination of Lowest Calculated Bid or the Highest Rated Bid, as the case may be, the BAC shall conduct and accomplish a post-qualification of the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid/Highest Rated Bid, to determine whether the bidder concerned complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions for eligibility, the bidding of the contract, as specified in the bidding documents, in which case the said bidder's bid shall be considered and declared as the "**Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid**" for the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, or the "**Highest Rated Responsive Bid**" for the procurement of consulting services. In exceptional cases, the seven (7) calendar day period may be extended by the GPPB.
- 34.2. The post-qualification shall verify, validate and ascertain all statements made and documents submitted by the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid/Highest Rated Bid, using non-discretionary criteria, as stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and the Instructions to Bidders. These criteria shall consider, but shall not be limited to, the following:
- a) **Legal Requirements.** To verify, validate and ascertain licenses and agreements submitted by the bidder and the fact that he is not included in any Government "blacklist." For this purpose, the GPPB shall maintain a consolidated file of all manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors and consultants "blacklisted" by the Government or any of its procuring entities.
 - b) **Technical Requirements.** To determine compliance of the goods, infrastructure projects or consulting services offered with the requirements of the contract and bidding documents, including, where applicable: (i) verification and validation of the bidder's stated competence and experience, and the competence and experience of the bidder's key personnel to be assigned to the project, for the procurement

of infrastructure projects and consulting services; (ii) verification of availability and commitment, and/or inspection and testing, of equipment units to be owned or leased by the bidder, as well as checking the performance of the bidder in its ongoing government and private contracts (if any of these on-going contracts shows a reported negative slippage of at least fifteen percent (15%), or substandard quality of work as per contract plans and specifications, or unsatisfactory performance of his obligations as per contract terms and conditions, at the time of inspection, and if the BAC verifies any of these deficiencies to be due to the contractor's fault or negligence, the agency shall disqualify the contractor from the award), for the procurement of infrastructure projects; (iii) verification and/or inspection and testing of the goods/product, after-sales and/or maintenance capabilities, in applicable cases, for the procurement of goods; and (iv) ascertainment of the sufficiency of the Bid Security as to type, amount, form and wording, and validity period.

- c) Financial Requirements. To verify, validate and ascertain the bid price proposal of the bidder and, whenever applicable, the required bank commitment to provide a credit line to the bidder in the amount specified and over the period stipulated in the Instructions to Bidders, to ensure that the bidder can sustain the operating cash flow of the transaction. For the procurement of infrastructure projects, this shall cover as well, the bidder's stated net worth and liquid assets, net working capital, the value of all outstanding or unfinished works under ongoing contracts including awarded contracts yet to be started, and the bidder's NFCC, whenever applicable.

- 34.3. If the BAC determines that the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid/Highest Rated Bid passes all the criteria for post-qualification, it shall declare the said bidder as the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid or Highest Rated Responsive Bid, as the case may be, and the head of the procuring entity concerned shall award the contract to the said bidder.
- 34.4. If, however, the BAC determines that the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid/Highest Rated Bid fails the criteria for post-qualification, it shall immediately notify the said bidder in writing of its post-disqualification and the grounds for it. The post-disqualified bidder shall have seven (7) calendar days from receipt of the said notification to request from the BAC, if it so wishes, a reconsideration of this decision. The BAC shall evaluate the request for reconsideration, if any, using the same non-discretionary criteria, and shall issue its final determination of the said request within seven (7) calendar days from receipt thereof.
- 34.5. For the procurement of goods and infrastructure projects, immediately after the BAC has notified the first bidder of its post-disqualification, and notwithstanding any pending request for reconsideration thereof, the BAC shall initiate and complete the same post-qualification process on the bidder with the second Lowest Calculated Bid. If the second bidder passes the post-qualification, and provided that the request for reconsideration of the first bidder has been denied, the second bidder shall be post-qualified as the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, and the head of the procuring entity concerned shall award the contract to it.
- 34.6. For the procurement of consulting services, immediately after the BAC has notified the first bidder of its post-disqualification, and notwithstanding any pending request for reconsideration thereof, the BAC shall initiate and complete the negotiation and post-qualification process on the bidder with the second

Highest Rated Bid. If the negotiations with the second bidder are successful, and it passes the post-qualification, and provided that the request for reconsideration of the first bidder has been denied, the second bidder shall be post-qualified as the bidder with the Highest Rated Responsive Bid, and the head of the procuring entity concerned shall award the contract to it. In the case of the quality-based evaluation procedure, the sealed financial envelopes of the unsuccessful bidders shall be returned by the BAC unopened and duly sealed only when the consultant with the Highest Rated Responsive Bid has signed the contract and furnished the Performance Security.

- 34.7. If the second bidder, however, fails the post-qualification, the procedure for post-qualification shall be repeated for the bidder with the next Lowest Calculated Bid/Highest Rated Bid, and so on until the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid or Highest Rated Responsive Bid, as the case may be, is determined for award.

Section 35. Failure of Bidding

35.1. The BAC shall declare the bidding a failure and conduct a re-bidding with re-advertisement and/or posting, as provided for in Section 21 of the Act and this IRR-A, after a re-evaluation of the terms, conditions and specifications of the first bidding, when:

- a) No prospective bidder submits an LOI or no bids are received;
- b) All prospective bidders are declared ineligible;
- c) All bids fail to comply with all the bid requirements or fail post-qualification, or, in the case of consulting services, there is no successful negotiation; or
- d) The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid/Highest Rated Responsive Bid refuses, without justifiable cause to accept the award of contract, and no award is made in accordance with Section 40 of the Act and this IRR-A.

35.2. The BAC shall modify the terms, conditions and specifications in the first bidding documents, when necessary, to change the scope of work or to adjust the procuring entity's cost estimates or specifications. However, the ABC shall be maintained. All bidders who have initially responded to the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and have been declared eligible in the first bidding shall be allowed to submit new bids. The BAC shall observe the same process and set the new periods according to the same rules followed during the first bidding.

35.3. Should there occur a second failure of bidding, the procuring entity concerned may enter into a negotiated procurement, as provided for in Section 53 of the Act and this IRR-A.

Section 36. Single Calculated/Rated and Responsive Bid Submission

A single calculated/rated and responsive bid shall be considered for award if it falls under any of the following circumstances:

- a) If after advertisement, only one prospective bidder submits an LOI and/or applies for eligibility check, in accordance with the provisions of this IRR-A, and it meets the eligibility requirements or criteria, after which it submits a bid which is found to be responsive to the bidding requirements;

- b) If after advertisement, more than one prospective bidder submits an LOI and/or applies for eligibility check, in accordance with the provisions of this IRR-A, but only one bidder meets the eligibility requirements or criteria, after which it submits a bid which is found to be responsive to the bidding requirements; or
- c) If after the eligibility check, more than one bidder meets the eligibility requirements, but only one bidder submits a bid, and its bid is found to be responsive to the bidding requirements.

In all instances, the procuring entity shall ensure that the ABC reflects the most advantageous prevailing price for the Government.

RULE XI – AWARD, IMPLEMENTATION AND TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT

Section 37. Notice and Execution of Award

37.1. Award of contract shall be made to the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid or the Highest Rated Responsive Bid, as the case may be, at its submitted bid price or its calculated bid price, whichever is lower. In the case of quality-based procurement of consulting services, the award shall be based on the negotiated price or the submitted price, whichever is lower. In the case of Single Calculated/Rated Responsive Bid, as provided for in Section 36 of the Act and this IRR-A, the bidder with the Single Calculated /Rated Responsive Bid shall be awarded the contract.

37.2. Contract Award

37.2.1. Within a period not exceeding fifteen (15) calendar days from the determination and declaration by the BAC of the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid or Highest Rated Responsive Bid, 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 or Highest Rated Responsive Bid. In the case of GOCCs and GFIs, the period provided herein shall be thirty (30) calendar days. Within the same period provided herein, the BAC shall notify all losing bidders of its decision.

37.2.2. Contract award shall be made within the bid validity period. Should it become necessary to extend the validity of the bids and, if applicable, the bid securities, the procuring entity concerned shall request in writing all those who submitted bids for such extension before the expiration date therefor. Bidders, however, shall have the right to refuse to grant such extension without forfeiting their bid security.

37.2.3. The following documents shall form part of the contract:

- a) Contract Agreement;
- b) Conditions of Contract;
- c) Drawings/Plans, if applicable;
- d) Specifications, if applicable;
- e) Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid;

- f) Bidding Documents;
- g) Addenda and/or Supplemental/Bid Bulletins, if any;
- h) Bid form including all the documents/statements contained in the winning bidder's two bidding envelopes, as annexes;
- i) Eligibility requirements, documents and/or statements;
- i) Performance Security;
- k) Credit Line issued by a licensed bank in accordance with the provisions of this IRR-A, if applicable;
- l) Notice of Award of Contract and winning bidder's "Conforme" thereto; and
- m) Other contract documents that may be required by existing laws and/or the procuring entity concerned.

37.2.4. To facilitate the approval of the contract by the head of the procuring entity, the following supporting documents shall be submitted:

- a) Duly approved program of work or delivery schedule, and Cost Estimates;
- b) Certificate of availability of funds;
- c) Abstract of Bids;
- d) Resolution of the BAC or duly designated procurement office recommending Award;
- e) Approval of award by appropriate government approving authority; and
- f) Other pertinent documents that may be required by existing laws and/or the procuring entity concerned.

37.3. *Contract Signing*

The winning bidder or its duly authorized representative shall formally enter into contract with the procuring entity concerned, and submit all documentary requirements to perfect the contract, within ten (10) calendar days from receipt by the winning bidder of the Notice of Award.

37.4. *Approval of Contract*

When further approval of higher authority is required, the approving authority for the contract, or his duly authorized representative, shall be given a maximum of twenty (20) calendar days from receipt thereof, together with all documentary requirements to perfect the said contract, to approve or disapprove it. In the case of GOCCs, the concerned board, or its duly authorized representative, shall act on the approval of the contract within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt thereof together with all documentary requirements to perfect the said contract.

37.5. *Notice to Proceed*

The concerned procuring entity shall then issue the Notice to Proceed together with a copy or copies of the approved contract to the successful bidder within seven (7) calendar days from the date of approval of the contract by the appropriate government approving authority. All notices called for by the terms of the contract shall be effective only at the time of receipt thereof by the successful bidder. If an effectivity date is provided in the Notice to Proceed by the procuring entity concerned, all notices called for by the terms of the approved contract shall be effective only from such effectivity date.

Section 38. Period of Action on Procurement Activities

- 38.1. 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 concerned. The estimated periods for action on specific procurement activities are provided for in Annex "C" of this IRR-A. In case the deadline for each activity falls on a non-working day (*i.e.* Saturday and Sunday), legal holiday, or special non-working holiday, the deadline shall be the next working day.
- 38.2. If no action on the contract is taken by the head of the procuring entity within the periods specified in Section 37.4 of this IRR-A, the contract concerned shall be deemed approved: *Provided, however,* That where further approval by the Office of the President is required, the contract shall not be deemed approved unless and until the Office of the President gives actual approval to the contract concerned.

Section 39. Performance Security

- 39.1. To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of its obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, it shall post a Performance Security upon the signing of the contract. The Performance Security may be in any of the following forms:
- a) Cash, certified check, cashier's/manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank or in the case of a foreign winning bidder, bonded by a foreign bank;
 - b) Irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed or authenticated by a reputable local bank;
 - c) Surety bond callable upon demand issued by any reputable surety or insurance company;
 - d) A combination of the foregoing; or
 - e) A foreign government guarantee as provided in an executive, bilateral or multilateral agreement, as may be required by the head of the procuring entity concerned.

The required amount of the above forms of security shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Total Contract Price
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	Five percent (5%)
2. Bank guarantee	Ten percent (10%)
3. Surety bond	Thirty percent (30%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

- 39.2. The Performance Security shall be posted in favor of the procuring entity concerned, and shall be forfeited in favor of the procuring entity in the event it is

established that the winning bidder is in default in any of its obligations under the contract.

- 39.3. In the execution of the Performance Security, the following conditions shall be complied with:
- a) It shall be executed in the form prescribed by the procuring entity concerned in the Instructions to Bidders;
 - b) It shall at least be co-terminus with the final completion of the contract; and
 - c) For the procurement of infrastructure projects, the following provisions shall form part of the Performance Security: "The right to institute action on the penal bond pursuant to Act No. 3688 of any individual firm, partnership, corporation and association supplying the contractor with labor and materials for the prosecution of the work is hereby acknowledged and confirmed."
- 39.4. Subject to the conditions of the contract, the Performance Security may be released by the procuring entity concerned after the issuance of the Certificate of Acceptance of the goods, in the case of procurement of goods or consulting services, provided that there are no claims filed against the contract awardee or the surety company; or, in the case of procurement of infrastructure projects, after the issuance of the Certificate of Completion of the contract, provided that there are no claims for labor and materials filed against the contractor or the surety company.
- 39.5. The winning bidder shall post an additional performance security following the schedule above to cover any cumulative increase of more than ten percent (10%) over the original value of the contract as a result of amendments to order or change orders, extra work orders and supplemental agreements, as the case may be. The winning bidder shall cause the extension of the validity of the Performance Security to cover approved contract time extensions.
- 39.6. In case of a reduction in the contract value, or, in the case of procurement of infrastructure projects, for partially completed works under the contract which are usable and accepted by the Government, and the use of which in the judgment of the implementing agency or the procuring entity will not affect the structural integrity of the entire project, the said agency or procuring entity shall allow a proportional reduction in the original Performance Security, provided that any such reduction is more than ten percent (10%) and that the aggregate of such reductions is not more than fifty percent (50%) of the original Performance Security.

Section 40. Failure to Enter into Contract and Post Performance Security

- 40.1. If the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid or Highest Rated Responsive Bid, as the case may be, or the bidder with the Single Calculated/Rated Responsive Bid, fails, refuses or is unable to make good its bid by entering into a contract with the procuring entity or post the required Performance Security within the period stipulated in the bidding documents, the bid security shall be forfeited and the appropriate sanctions provided in this IRR-A and existing laws shall be imposed, except where such failure, refusal or inability is through no fault of the said bidder.

- 40.2. In the case of the failure, refusal or inability of the bidder with the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid or Highest Rated and Responsive Bid, as the case may be, to enter into contract and post the required Performance Security, as provided in this Section, the BAC shall disqualify the said bidder, and shall initiate and complete the post-qualification process on the bidder with the second Lowest Calculated Bid/Highest Rated Bid: *Provided, however,* That in the case of consulting services, the second Highest Rated Bid has successfully undergone the negotiation stage in accordance with Section 33.4 of this IRR-A. This procedure shall be repeated until the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid or Highest Rated and Responsive Bid, as the case may be, is determined for award. However, if no bidder passes post-qualification, the BAC shall declare the bidding a failure and conduct a re-bidding with re-advertisement. Should there occur another failure of bidding after the conduct of the contract's re-bidding, the procuring entity concerned may enter into a negotiated procurement.
- 40.3. In the case of failure, refusal or inability of the bidder with the Single Calculated/Rated Responsive Bid to enter into contract and post the required Performance Security, as provided in this Section, the BAC shall disqualify the said bidder, and shall declare the bidding a failure and conduct a re-bidding with re-advertisement and/or posting, as provided for in Sections 21 and 25 of this IRR-A. Should there occur another failure of bidding after the conduct of the contract's re-bidding, the procuring entity concerned may enter into a negotiated procurement.

Section 41. Reservation Clause

- 41.1. The 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 party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition;
 - b) If the BAC is found to have failed in following the prescribed bidding procedures; or
 - c) For any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the Government as follows: (i) if the physical and economic conditions have significantly changed so as to render the project no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the head of the procuring entity; (ii) if the project is no longer necessary as determined by the head of the procuring entity; and (iii) if the source of funds for the project has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the procuring entity.

Section 42. Contract Implementation and Termination

- 42.1. The contract implementation guidelines for the procurement of goods, supplies and materials are provided for in Annex "D" of this IRR-A.
- 42.2. The contract implementation guidelines for the procurement of infrastructure projects are provided for in Annex "E" of this IRR-A.

- 42.3. The contract implementation guidelines for the procurement of consulting services are provided for in Annex “F” of this IRR-A.
- 42.4. No incentive bonus, in whatever form or for whatever purpose, shall be allowed.
- 42.5. No procuring entity shall be allowed to issue a letter of credit in favor of a Philippine entity or to any of the latter’s foreign manufacturers or suppliers, with respect to any procurement.

RULE XII – DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PROCUREMENT

Section 43. Procurement of Domestic and Foreign Goods

Consistent with the Government’s obligations under international treaties or agreements, goods may be obtained from domestic or foreign sources: *Provided, however,* That the procurement thereof shall be open only to eligible suppliers, manufacturers and distributors: *Provided, further,* That, in the interest of availability, efficiency and timely delivery of goods, the procuring entity may give preference to the purchase of domestically-produced and manufactured goods, supplies and materials that meet the specified or desired quality, in accordance with provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 138.

RULE XIII – BIDDING OF PROVINCIAL PROJECTS

Section 44. Bidding of Provincial Projects

Priority programs and infrastructure projects funded out of the annual GAA which are intended for implementation within the province shall be subject to the same public bidding and to the procurement processes prescribed in this IRR-A. For purposes of this Section, Engineering District infrastructure projects and priority programs fully funded by the Government and identified in consultation with the concerned members of Congress, shall constitute “provincial projects” and shall be governed by this Section and Section 45 of this IRR-A.

Section 45. Provincial Bidders

- 45.1. Within five (5) years from the effectivity of the Act, a contractor who participates in the bidding of provincial priority programs and infrastructure projects as defined in Section 44 of this IRR-A, whose principal office is within the same province, and who submits the lowest bid among the provincial bidders which is higher than the Lowest Calculated Bid made by a contractor with principal office outside the said province, shall be given forty-eight (48) hours from receipt of written advice from the BAC to match in writing the Lowest Calculated Bid. Matching shall be made through appropriate adjustments in his unit bid prices without changing the Scope of Work and work items prescribed by the procuring entity in the bidding documents. Should the said provincial bidder fail to match the Lowest Calculated Bid within the specified period, the contract shall be awarded to the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid. If the provincial bidder is able to match the submitted Lowest Calculated Bid within the specified period, he shall be awarded the contract provided he passes the post-qualification. *Provided, however,* That this Section shall not apply to contracts the coverage of which includes more than one province: *Provided, further,* That this Section shall not cover the procurement of consulting services: *Provided, finally,* That this Section shall not apply to projects located within Metro Manila.

- 45.2. The release of funds for said projects shall be published in a local newspaper with the widest circulation and posted at any conspicuous place reserved for the purpose in the premises of the procuring entity and posted continuously in the website of DBM and the G-EPS during the same period for the advertisement and posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid under Section 21 of this IRR-A.

**RULE XIV – LEASE OF COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATIONS,
INFORMATION AND OTHER EQUIPMENT**

Section 46. Lease Contracts

The lease of construction and office equipment, including computers, communication and information technology equipment are subject to the same public bidding and to the processes prescribed under this IRR-A. Lease may also cover lease purchases or lease-to-own and similar variations.

RULE XV – DISCLOSURE OF RELATIONS

Section 47. Disclosure of Relations

In addition to the proposed contents of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid as mentioned under Section 21 of this IRR-A, all bids shall be accompanied by a sworn affidavit of the bidder that it is not related to the head of the procuring entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree. Failure to comply with the aforementioned provision shall be a ground for the automatic disqualification of the bid in consonance with Section 30 of this IRR-A. For this reason, relation to the head of the procuring entity within the third civil degree of consanguinity or affinity shall automatically disqualify the bidder from participating in the procurement of contracts of the procuring entity. On the part of the procuring entity, this provision shall also apply to any of its officers or employees having direct access to information that may substantially affect the result of the bidding, such as, but not limited to, the members of the BAC, the members of the TWG, the BAC Secretariat, the members of the PMO, and the designers of the project. On the part of the bidder, this provision shall apply to the following persons:

- a) If the bidder is an individual or a sole proprietorship, to the bidder himself;
- b) If the bidder is a partnership, to all its officers and members;
- c) If the bidder is a corporation, to all its officers, directors, and controlling stockholders; and
- d) If the bidder is a joint venture, the provisions of items (a), (b) or (c) of this Section shall correspondingly apply to each of the members of the said joint venture, as may be appropriate.

RULE XVI – ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF PROCUREMENT

Section 48. Alternative Methods

- 48.1. Subject to the prior approval of the head of the procuring entity or his duly authorized representative, and whenever justified by the conditions provided in this Act, the procuring entity may, in order to promote economy and efficiency, resort to any of the alternative methods of procurement provided in this Rule. In

all instances, the procuring entity shall ensure that the most advantageous price for the Government is obtained.

- 48.2. In accordance with Section 10 of this IRR-A, as a general rule, the procuring entities shall adopt public bidding as the general mode of procurement and shall see to it that the procurement program allows sufficient lead time for such public bidding. Alternative methods shall be resorted to only in the highly exceptional cases provided for in this Rule.

Section 49. Limited Source Bidding

Limited Source Bidding, otherwise known as selective bidding, is a method of procurement of goods and consulting services, that involves direct invitation to bid by the concerned procuring entity from a set of pre-selected suppliers or consultants with known experience and proven capability on the requirements of the particular contract. The pre-selected suppliers or consultants shall be those appearing in a list maintained by the relevant Government authority that has expertise in the type of procurement concerned, which list should have been submitted to, and maintained updated with, the GPPB. The BAC of the concerned procuring entity shall directly send to the pre-selected bidders the invitation to bid, which shall already indicate the relevant information required to enable the bidders to prepare their bids as prescribed under the pertinent provisions of this IRR-A. Limited source bidding may be employed by concerned procuring entities under any of the following conditions:

- a) Procurement of highly specialized types of goods (e.g. sophisticated defense equipment, complex air navigation systems, coal) and consulting services where only a few suppliers or consultants are known to be available, such that resorting to the public bidding method will not likely result in any additional suppliers or consultants participating in the bidding; or
- b) Procurement of major plant components where it is deemed advantageous to limit the bidding to known qualified bidders in order to maintain uniform quality and performance of the plant as a whole.

Section 50. Direct Contracting

Direct Contracting or single source procurement is a method of procurement of goods that does not require elaborate bidding documents. The supplier is simply asked to submit a price quotation or a pro-forma invoice together with the conditions of sale. The offer may be accepted immediately or after some negotiations. Direct contracting may be resorted to by concerned procuring entities under any of the following conditions:

- a) Procurement of items 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 plant 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 its 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.

Section 51. Repeat Order

Repeat Order, when provided for in the APP, is a method of procurement of goods from the previous winning bidder, whenever there is a need to replenish goods procured under a contract previously awarded through Competitive Bidding. Repeat orders from the previous winning bidder may be resorted to by procuring entities only in cases where the procured item is clearly superior to the other bids not only in terms of the price quoted but also in terms of equipment reliability, availability of spare parts, after-sales service and delivery period, among others. Repeat orders shall likewise be subject to the following conditions:

- a) Contract prices of the repeat order must be the same as or lower than those in the original contract, provided that such prices are still the most advantageous to the Government after price verification;
- b) The repeat order will not result in splitting of contracts, requisitions or purchase orders, as provided for in Section 54.1 of this IRR-A;
- c) Except in cases duly approved by the GPPB, 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
- d) The repeat order shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the quantity of each item in the original contract.

Section 52. Shopping

Shopping is a method of procurement of goods whereby the procuring entity simply 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. This method of procurement shall be employed only in any of the following cases:

- a) When there is an unforeseen contingency requiring immediate purchase: *Provided, however,* That the amount shall not exceed fifty thousand pesos (P50,000); or
- b) Procurement of ordinary or regular office supplies and equipment not available in the Procurement Service involving an amount not exceeding two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000): *Provided, however,* That the procurement does not result in splitting of contracts, as provided in Section 54.1 of this IRR-A: *Provided, further,* 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 increase or decrease the said amount in order to reflect changes in economic conditions and for other justifiable reasons.

Section 53. Negotiated Procurement

Negotiated Procurement is a method of procurement of goods, infrastructure projects and consulting services, whereby the procuring entity directly negotiates a contract with a technically, legally and financially capable supplier, contractor or consultant only in the following cases:

- a) Where there has been failure of public bidding for the second time as provided in Section 35 of the Act and this IRR-A;

- 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. In the case of infrastructure projects, the procuring entity has the option to undertake the project through negotiated procurement or by administration or, in high security risk areas, through the AFP;
- 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 on-going infrastructure project: *Provided, however,* That (i) the original contract is the result of a Competitive Bidding; (ii) the subject contract to be negotiated has similar or related scopes of work; (iii) it is within the contracting capacity of the contractor; (iv) the contractor uses the same prices or lower unit prices as in the original contract less mobilization cost; (v) the amount involved does not exceed the amount of the ongoing project; and (vi) 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) Purchases of goods from another agency of the Government, such as the PS-DBM, which is tasked with a centralized procurement of commonly used Goods for the government in accordance with Letters of Instruction No. 755 and Executive Order No. 359, series of 1989. Further, in order to hasten project implementation, agencies which may not have the proficiency or capability to undertake a particular procurement, as determined by the head of the procuring entity concerned, may request other agencies to undertake such procurement for them, or at their option, recruit and hire consultants or procurement agents to assist them directly and/or train their staff in the management of the procurement function;
- 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, where 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 the procuring entity, but in no case shall exceed the term of the latter; or
- g) Upon prior approval by the President of the Philippines, and when the procurement involves major defense equipment for use by the AFP and the Secretary of National Defense has determined that the interests of the country shall be protected by negotiating directly with an agency or instrumentality of another country with which the Philippines has entered into a defense cooperation agreement or otherwise maintains diplomatic relations: *Provided, however,* That the performance by the supplier of its obligations under the procurement contract shall be covered by a foreign government guarantee of the source country covering one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

Section 54. Terms and Conditions for the use of Alternative Methods

- 54.1. Splitting of Government Contracts is not allowed. Splitting of Government Contracts means the division or breaking up of Government 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 law and this IRR-A, especially the necessity of public bidding and the requirements for the alternative methods of procurement.
- 54.2. In addition to the specific terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions on the application of each of the alternative methods specified in Sections 48 to 53 of this IRR-A, the following shall also apply:
- a) For item (a) of Section 49, all the suppliers or consultants appearing in the list specified in the same section shall be invited.
 - b) For items (a) and (b) of Section 53, in the case of goods and infrastructure projects, the procuring entity shall draw up a list of at least three (3) suppliers or contractors which will be invited to submit bids. The procedures for the conduct of public bidding shall be observed, and the lowest calculated and responsive bid shall be considered for award. Moreover, the provisions of Section 21.2.4 of this IRR-A shall be observed.
 - c) In the case of infrastructure projects, bona fide contractors licensed with the CIAP whose eligibility documents are on file with the procuring entity concerned or the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Contractors' Registry, as the case may be, and who have been classified under the type of contract/project where the subject contract falls are eligible to be invited for negotiation. Other contractors not previously deemed eligible may also apply for eligibility.

All procuring entities shall maintain a registry of contractors, suppliers and consultants as basis for drawing up the short list and/or selecting the contractors, suppliers and consultants for negotiations.

Eligible contractor(s) for the project under consideration shall be furnished copies of the instructions to offerers, plans, specifications, proposal book form, and other tender documents for their use in submitting their quotation and other information called for in the format. The contractors shall submit, simultaneously with their quotation, the bid security as stipulated above. Negotiation may be made in ascending order starting from the lowest complying offerer.

- d) For item (b) of Section 53 of the Act and this IRR-A, the negotiation shall be made with a previous supplier, contractor or consultant of good standing of the procuring entity concerned, or a supplier, contractor or consultant of good standing situated within the vicinity where the calamity or emergency occurred. Moreover, while the procurement activity would still have to be posted in accordance with the provisions of Section 21.2.4 of this IRR-A, the period for posting required therein may be waived by the procuring entity concerned.
- e) For item (c) of Section 53 of the Act and this IRR-A, the contract may be negotiated starting with the second lowest calculated bidder for the project under consideration at the bidder's original bid price. If

negotiation fails, then negotiation shall be done with the third lowest calculated bidder at his original price. If the negotiation fails again, a short list of at least three (3) eligible contractors shall be invited to submit their bids, and negotiation shall be made starting with the lowest bidder. Authority to negotiate contracts for projects under these exceptional cases shall be subject to prior approval by the heads of the procuring entities concerned, within their respective limits of approving authority.

- f) With respect to item (d) of Section 53 of the Act and this IRR-A, the terms “adjacent” and “contiguous” shall be considered synonymous and shall mean that the projects concerned shall be in actual physical contact with each other.
- g) With respect to item (e) of Section 53 of the Act and this IRR-A, a direct negotiation may be made with the Government agency concerned: *Provided, however,* That the procurement of common-use goods and supplies shall be undertaken through the PS-DBM.
- h) With respect to item (a) of Section 52 of the Act and this IRR-A while the procurement activity would still have to be posted in accordance with the provisions of Section 21.2.3 of this IRR-A, the period for posting required therein may be waived by the procuring entity concerned.

RULE XVII – PROTEST MECHANISM

Section 55. *Protests on Decisions of the BAC.*

- 55.1. Decisions of the BAC with respect to the conduct of bidding may be protested in writing to the head of the procuring entity: *Provided, however,* That a prior motion for reconsideration should have been filed by the party concerned within the reglementary periods specified in this IRR-A, and the same has been resolved. The protest must be filed within seven (7) calendar days from receipt by the party concerned of the resolution of the BAC denying its motion for reconsideration. A protest may be made by filing a verified position paper with the head of the procuring entity concerned, accompanied by the payment of a non-refundable protest fee. The non-refundable protest fee shall be in an amount equivalent to no less than one percent (1%) of the ABC.
- 55.2. The verified position paper shall contain the following information:
 - a) The name of bidder;
 - b) The office address of the bidder;
 - c) The name of project/contract;
 - d) The implementing office/agency or procuring entity;
 - e) A brief statement of facts;
 - f) The issue to be resolved; and
 - g) Such other matters and information pertinent and relevant to the proper resolution of the protest.

The position paper is verified by an affidavit that the affiant has read and understood the contents thereof and that the allegations therein are true and correct of his personal knowledge or based on authentic records. An unverified position paper shall be considered unsigned, produces no legal effect, and results to the outright dismissal of the protest.

Section 56. Resolution of Protests

The protests shall be resolved strictly on the basis of records of the BAC. The head of the procuring entity shall resolve the protest within seven (7) calendar days from receipt thereof. 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 concerned 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.

Section 57. Non-interruption of the Bidding Process

In no case shall any protest taken from any decision treated in this Rule stay or delay the bidding process: *Provided, however,* That protests must first be resolved before any award is made.

Section 58. Resort to Regular Courts; Certiorari

- 58.1. Court action may be resorted to only after the protests contemplated in this Rule shall have been completed, *i.e.* resolved by the head of the procuring entity with finality. 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 the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 58.2. This provision is without prejudice to any law conferring on the Supreme Court the sole jurisdiction to issue temporary restraining orders and injunctions relating to Infrastructure Projects of Government.
- 58.3. The head of the BAC Secretariat of the procuring entity concerned shall ensure that the GPPB shall be furnished a copy of the cases filed in accordance with this Section.

RULE XVIII – SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Section 59. Arbitration

Any and all disputes arising from the implementation of a contract covered by the Act and this IRR-A shall be submitted to arbitration in the Philippines according to the provisions of Republic Act No. 876, otherwise known as the "Arbitration Law": *Provided, however,* That, disputes that are within the competence of the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission to resolve shall be referred thereto. The process of arbitration shall be incorporated as a provision in the contract that will be executed pursuant to the provisions of the Act and this IRR-A: *Provided, further,* That, by mutual agreement, the parties may agree in writing to resort to other alternative modes of dispute resolution.

Section 60. Appeals

The arbitral award and any decision rendered in accordance with the foregoing Section shall be appealable by way of a petition for review to the Court of Appeals. The petition shall raise pure questions of law and shall be governed by the Rules of Court.

RULE XIX – CONTRACT PRICES AND WARRANTIES

Section 61. Contract Prices

- 61.1. 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. All contracts shall be denominated and payable in Philippine currency, and this shall be stated in the bidding documents: *Provided, however,* That should the procuring entity receive bids denominated in foreign currency, the same shall be converted to Philippine currency based on the exchange rate prevailing on the day of the bid opening.
- 61.2. Any request for price escalation under extraordinary circumstances shall be submitted by the concerned entity to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) with the endorsement of the procuring entity. The burden of proving the occurrence of extraordinary circumstances that will allow for price escalation shall rest with the entity requesting for such escalation. NEDA shall only respond to such request after receiving the proof and the necessary documentation.
- 61.3. For purposes of this Section, “extraordinary circumstances” shall refer to events that may be determined by the NEDA in accordance with the Civil Code of the Philippines, and upon the recommendation of the procuring entity concerned.

Section 62. Warranty

- 62.1. For the procurement of goods, in order to assure that manufacturing defects shall be corrected by the supplier, manufacturer, or distributor, as the case may be, a warranty shall be required from the contract awardee for a minimum period of three (3) months, in the case of supplies, and one (1) year, in the case of equipment, after performance of the contract. The obligation for the warranty shall be covered by either retention money in an amount equivalent to at least ten percent (10%) of every progress payment, or a special bank guarantee equivalent to at least ten percent (10%) of the total contract price. The said amounts shall only be released after the lapse of the warranty period: *Provided, however,* That the goods supplied are free from patent and latent defects and all the conditions imposed under the contract have been fully met.
- 62.2. For the procurement of infrastructure projects, the contractor shall assume full responsibility for the contract work from the time project construction commenced up to final acceptance by the government and shall be held responsible for any damage or destruction of the 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, GSIS or surety bond callable on demand, in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Warranty	Minimum Amount in % of Total Contract Price
1. Cash deposit, cash bond or letter of credit	Five percent (5%)
2. Bank guarantee	Ten percent (10%)
3. Surety bond	Thirty percent (30%)

The warranty security shall be stated in Philippine Pesos, shall remain effective during the applicable warranty period provided in Section 62.2.2 hereof, and shall be returned only after the lapse of the said warranty period.

- 62.2.1. The defects liability period for infrastructure projects shall be one year from project completion up to final acceptance by the Government. During this period, the contractor shall undertake the repair works, at his own expense, of any 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 government in his favor shall be offset to recover the costs.

- 62.2.2. After final acceptance of the project by the Government, the contractor shall be held responsible for structural defects and/or failure of the completed project within the following warranty periods from final acceptance, except those occasioned by *force majeure* and those caused by other parties:

- a) Permanent Structures: Fifteen (15) years

Buildings of types 4 (steel, iron, concrete, or masonry construction with walls, ceilings, and permanent partitions of incombustible fire resistance) and 5 (steel, iron, concrete, or masonry construction), steel and concrete bridges, flyovers, concrete aircraft movement areas, ports, dams, diversion tunnels, causeways, wharves, piers, dikes, filtration and treatment plants, sewerage systems, power plants, transmission and communication towers, railway system, and other similar structures;

- b) Semi -Permanent Structures: Five (5) years

Buildings of types 1 (wooden), 2 (wood with 1 hour fire resistance), and 3 (masonry and wood construction), concrete roads, asphalt roads, river control, drainage, irrigation and drainage canals, municipal ports and river landing, deep wells, rock causeway, pedestrian overpass, and other similar structures;and

- c) Other Structures: Two (2) years

Bailey and wooden bridges, shallow wells, spring developments, and other similar structures.

- 62.2.3. In cases where structural defects and/or failures arise during the warranty period, the following persons/parties shall be held liable:

- a) Contractor – Where structural defects and/or failures arise due to faults attributable to improper construction use of inferior quality/substandard materials, and any violation of the contract plans & specifications, the contractor shall be held liable;

- b) Consultants – Where structural defects and/or failures arise due to faulty and/or inadequate design and specifications as well as construction supervision, then the consultant who prepared the design or undertook construction supervision for the project shall be held liable;
- c) Procuring Entity’s Representatives/Project Manager/Construction Managers and Supervisors – The project owner’s representative(s), project manager, construction manager, and supervisor(s) shall be held liable in cases where the structural defects/failures are due to his/their willful intervention in altering the designs and other specifications; negligence or omission in not approving or acting on proposed changes to noted defects or deficiencies in the design and/or specifications; and the use of substandard construction materials in the project;
- d) Third Parties - Third Parties shall be held liable in cases where structural defects/failures are caused by work undertaken by them such as leaking pipes, diggings/excavations, underground cables and electrical wires, underground tunnel, mining shaft and the like, in which case the applicable warranty to such structure should be levied to third parties for their construction or restoration works.
- e) Users - In cases where structural defects/failures are due to abuse/misuse by the end user of the constructed facility and/or non-compliance by a user with the technical design limits and/or intended purpose of the same, then the user concerned shall be held liable.

For purposes of this section, the term “Structural Defects” shall mean major faults/flaws/deficiencies in one or more key structural elements of the project which may lead to structural failure of the completed elements or structure. The term “Structural Failures” is defined as an occurrence where one or more key structural elements in an infrastructure facility fails or collapses, thereby rendering the facility or part thereof incapable of withstanding the design loads, and/or endangering the safety of the users or the general public.

- 62.2.4. In case of structural defects/failure occurring during the applicable warranty period provided in Section 62.2.2 hereof, the Government shall undertake the necessary restoration or reconstruction works and shall be entitled to full reimbursement by the parties found to be liable, of expenses incurred therein upon demand, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate administrative, civil, and/or criminal charges against the responsible persons as well as the forfeiture of warranty securities posted in favor of the Government.

RULE XX – THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICY BOARD

Section 63. Organization and Functions

- 63.1. The Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), as established in Section 63 of the Act, shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
 - a) To protect national interest in all matters affecting public procurement, having due regard to the country’s regional and international obligations;

- b) To formulate and amend public procurement policies, rules and regulations, and amend, whenever necessary, this IRR-A;
- c) To prepare a generic procurement manual and the standard bidding forms for procurement;
- d) To ensure the proper implementation by procuring entities of the Act, this IRR-A and all other relevant rules and regulations pertaining to public procurement;
- e) To establish a sustainable training program to develop the capacity of Government procurement officers and employees, and to ensure the conduct of regular procurement training programs by and for procuring entities;
- f) To conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the Act and recommend any amendments thereto, as may be necessary.

The GPPB shall be under the administrative supervision of the DBM for general oversight and for budgeting purposes.

63.2. *The GPPB Technical Support Office*

The GPPB shall create a Technical Support Office (TSO) which shall provide support in the performance of its duties and responsibilities specified in the Act and this IRR-A.

The GPPB shall determine the TSO's organizational structure and staffing, subject to DBM approval. The TSO shall be headed by an Executive Director of good moral character, unquestionable integrity and known probity.

63.3. The TSO shall provide research, technical and administrative support to the GPPB, including:

- a) Research based procurement policy recommendations and rule-drafting;
- b) Development and updating of generic procurement manuals and standard bidding forms;
- c) Management and conduct of training on procurement systems and procedures;
- d) Evaluation of the effectiveness of the government procurement system and recommendation of improvements in systems and procedures;
- e) Monitoring the compliance to the Act and assisting procuring entities improve their compliance;
- f) Monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the G-EPS; and
- g) Secretariat support.

63.4. In addition to the powers granted under the Act and this IRR-A, the GPPB shall absorb all the powers, functions and responsibilities of the Procurement Policy Board created under Executive Order No. 359, series of 1989. All functions

related to procurement policy-making of the Infrastructure Committee of the NEDA Board are transferred to the GPPB.

Section 64. Membership

The GPPB shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, as Chairman, the Director-General of NEDA, as Alternate Chairman, with the following as Members; the Secretaries of the Departments of Public Works and Highways, Finance, Trade and Industry, Health, National Defense, Education, Interior and Local Government, Science and Technology, Transportation and Communications, and Energy, or their duly authorized representatives and a representative from the private sector to be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the GPPB. The GPPB may invite a representative from the COA to serve as a resource person.

RULE XXI – PENAL CLAUSE

Section 65. Offenses and Penalties

65.1. Without prejudice to the provisions of R.A. 3019 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.
2. 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 this IRR-A.
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 action which favors, or tends to favor a particular bidder.
4. Splitting of contracts which exceed procedural purchase limits to avoid competitive bidding or to circumvent the limits of approving or procurement authority.
5. Abuse by the head of the procuring entity of his power to reject any and all bids as mentioned under Section 41 of the Act and this IRR-A, with manifest preference to any bidder who is closely related to him in accordance with Section 47 of the Act and this IRR-A.

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.

65.2. Private individuals who commit any of the following acts, and any public officer who conspires with them, shall upon conviction, suffer the penalty of

imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than fifteen (15) years:

1. When two or more bidders agree and submit different bids as bona fide, bidders, all the while knowing that the bid(s) of one or more of them was so much higher than the other that the latter 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 an 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 calls upon one or more of them to refrain from bidding for procurement contracts, or which requires one or more of them to withdraw Bids already submitted, in order to secure an undue advantage to any one of them.
4. When a bidder, by himself or in connivance with others, employs 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 public officer persons involved shall also suffer the penalty of temporary or perpetual disqualification from public office and the private individual shall be permanently disqualified from transacting business with the Government.

65.3. Private individuals who commit any of the following acts, and any public officer conspiring with them, shall upon conviction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than fifteen (15) years:

1. Submitting 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. Submitting 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. Participating 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. Withdrawing a Bid, after it shall have qualified as the Lowest Calculated Bid/Highest Rated 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 delaying the submission of requirements such as, but not limited to, performance security, preparatory to the final award of the contract.

- 65.4. It is understood that the above penalties and offenses shall cover all types of procurement whether done manually or electronically.
- 65.5. When the bidder is a juridical entity, criminal liability and the accessory penalties shall be imposed on its directors, officers or employees who actually commit any of the foregoing acts. If a person previously held liable or found guilty under the provisions of the Act and this IRR-A has a controlling interest in a prospective bidder-entity the said bidder-entity shall be disqualified to participate in any procurement activity being conducted by the Government.

Section 66. Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction over the offenses defined under this Rule shall belong to the appropriate courts, according to laws existing at the time of the commission of the offenses.

RULE XXII – CIVIL LIABILITY

Section 67. Civil Liability in Case of Conviction

Without prejudice to administrative sanctions that may be imposed in proper cases, a conviction under the Act and this IRR-A or R.A. 3019 shall carry with it civil liability, which may either consist of restitution for the damage done or the forfeiture in favor of the government of any unwarranted benefit derived from the act or acts in question or both, at the discretion of the courts.

Section 68. Liquidated Damages

All contracts executed in accordance with the Act and this IRR-A shall contain a provision on liquidated damages which shall be payable in case of breach thereof. For the procurement of goods and consulting services, the amount of the liquidated damages shall be at least equal to one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the cost of the unperformed portion for every day of delay. For the procurement of infrastructure projects, the amount of the liquidated damages shall be in accordance with Annex "E." Once the cumulative amount of liquidated damages reaches ten percent (10%) of the amount of the contract, the procuring entity shall rescind the contract, without prejudice to other courses of action and remedies open to it.

RULE XXIII – ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

Section 69. Imposition of Administrative Penalties

- 69.1. In addition to the provisions of Rules XXI and XXII of this IRR-A, the head of the procuring entity, subject to the authority delegated to the BAC, if any, shall impose on bidders or prospective bidders, the administrative penalty of suspension for one (1) year for the first offense, and suspension of two (2) years for the second offense from participating in the public bidding process, as well as disqualification from further participating in the public bidding being undertaken by the procuring entity concerned, where applicable, for the following violations:
1. Submission of eligibility requirements containing false information or falsified documents.
 2. Submission of Bids that contain false information or falsified 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 or Highest Rated 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, such as an eligible contractor not buying bid documents, and contractors habitually withdrawing from bidding or submitting letters of non-participation for at least three (3) times within a year, except for valid reasons.
- 69.2. 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.
- 69.3. The head of the procuring entity may delegate to the BAC the authority to impose the aforementioned administrative penalties.
- 69.4. The procedures for the blacklisting of manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors, or consultants for Government projects shall be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the GPPB. Pending the issuance of the guidelines by the GPPB, all existing blacklisting guidelines and reports of the Government or any of its procuring entity shall continue to remain in force.

Section 70. Preventive Suspension

The head of the procuring entity may preventively suspend any member of the Technical Working Group 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 Rules XXI and XXII of this IRR-A or for dishonesty as defined by the Civil Service Laws. For uniformed personnel of the AFP, the substantive and procedural due process under its justice system shall be applied. In all cases, due process as mandated by the Constitution and Civil Service laws, rules and regulations, shall be strictly observed.

Section 71. Lifting of Suspension and Removal of Administrative Disabilities

Lifting of preventive suspension pending 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, Subtitle A (Civil Service Commission), Title I, Book V of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987.

**RULE XXIV – LEGAL ASSISTANCE
AND INDEMNIFICATION OF BAC MEMBERS**

Section 72. Private Legal Assistance

All the members of the BAC 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 lawful performance of their official functions and duties as BAC members. The lawyer's fee shall be part of the indemnification package for the BAC members, subject to the provisions of Section 73 of the Act and this IRR-A. For purposes of this IRR-A, the BAC members shall be understood to include its support staff, such as the members of the TWG and the BAC Secretariat.

Section 73. Indemnification of BAC Members

- 73.1. The GPPB shall establish an equitable indemnification package for public officials providing services in and for the BAC, which may be in the form of free legal assistance, liability insurance, and other forms of protection and indemnification for all reasonable fees, costs, and expenses incurred by such persons in connection with any administrative, civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding to which they may be, or have been made, a party by reason of the lawful performance of their official functions and duties, unless they are finally adjudged in such action or proceeding to be liable for gross negligence or misconduct or grave abuse of discretion, or otherwise held liable or guilty of the complaints or charges.
- 73.2. 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 or grave abuse of discretion in the performance of their functions and duties.
- 73.3. The members of the BAC and its support staff, such as the members of the TWG and the BAC Secretariat, shall also be entitled to medical assistance for injuries incurred in the performance of their functions.

RULE XXV – FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 74. Amendment

- 74.1. As the need arises, this IRR-A may be recommended for amendment by the GPPB jointly with the members of the Oversight Committee, subject to Section 74 of the Act, for approval by the President of the Philippines.
- 74.2. Any amendment to this IRR-A shall be applicable to all procurement activities, the advertisement or invitation of which were issued after the effectivity of the said amendment.

Section 75. Repealing Clause

The Act repeals E.O. 40, entitled "Consolidating Procurement Rules and Procedures for All National Government Agencies, Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations and/or Government Financial Institutions, and Requiring the Use of the Government Electronic Procurement System;" Executive Order No. 262, series of 2000, entitled "Amending Executive Order No. 302, series of 1996, entitled "Providing Policies, Guidelines, Rules and Regulations for the Procurement of Goods/ Supplies by the National Government" and Sec. Three (3) of Executive order No. 201, series of 2000, entitled "Providing Additional Policies and Guidelines in the Procurement of Goods/Supplies by the National Government;" Executive Order No. 302, series of 1996, entitled "Providing Policies, Guidelines, Rules and Regulations for the Procurement of Goods/Supplies by the National Government" and Presidential Decree No. 1594 (P.D. 1594), dated June 11, 1978, entitled "Prescribing Policies, Guidelines, Rules and Regulations for Government Infrastructure Contracts;" and the relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 7898 dated February 23, 1995, entitled "An Act Providing for the Modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and for Other Purposes." This law amends Title Six, Book Two of Republic Act No. 7160 (R.A. 7160), otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," and, in furtherance thereto, Chapter Five, Title One, Book One of the same law; the relevant provisions of Executive Order No. 164, series of 1987, entitled "Providing Additional Guidelines in the Processing and Approval of Contracts of the National Government." Any other law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, proclamation, charter, rule or regulation and/or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of the Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 76. Separability Clause

If any provision in this IRR-A, or application of such provision to any circumstance, is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 77. Transitory Clause

In all procurement activities, if the advertisement or invitation for bids was issued prior to the effectivity of the Act, the provisions of E.O. 40 and its IRR, P.D. 1594 and its IRR, R.A. 7160 and its IRR, or other applicable laws, as the case may be, shall govern.

In cases where the advertisements or invitations for bids were issued after the effectivity of the Act but before the effectivity of this IRR-A, procuring entities may continue adopting the procurement procedures, rules and regulations provided in E.O. 40 and its IRR, P.D. 1594 and its IRR, R.A. 7160 and its IRR, or other applicable laws, as the case may be.

Section 78. Effectivity Clause

This IRR-A shall take effect fifteen (15) calendar days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general nationwide circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, this ____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

**GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICY
BOARD:**

**JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE:**

HON. EMILIA T. BONCODIN
Chairperson, GPPB
Secretary, DBM

HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Chairman, Senate Committee
Senator

HON. ROMULO L. NERI
Alternate Chairperson, GPPB
Director General, NEDA

HON. ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.
Chairman, House Committee
Congressman

HON. EDILBERTO C. DE JESUS
Member, GPPB
Secretary, DepEd

HON. JUAN M. FLAVIER
Member, Senate Committee
Senator

HON. VICENTE S. PEREZ, JR.
Member, GPPB
Secretary, DOE

HON. LOREN LEGARDA-LEVISTE
Member, Senate Committee
Senator

HON. JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Member, GPPB
Secretary, DOF

HON. PLARIDEL M. ABAYA
Member, House Committee
Congressman

HON. MANUEL M. DAYRIT
Member, GPPB
Secretary, DOH

HON. ROLEX T. SUPLICO
Member, House Committee
Congressman

HON. JOSE D. LINA, JR.
Member, GPPB
Secretary, DILG

HON. ANGELO T. REYES

Member, GPPB
Secretary, DND

HON. FLORANTE M. SORIQUEZ

Member, GPPB
Secretary, DPWH

HON. ESTRELLA F. ALABASTRO

Member, GPPB
Secretary, DOST

HON. MANUEL A. ROXAS

Member, GPPB
Secretary, DTI

HON. LEANDRO R. MENDOZA

Member, GPPB
Secretary, DOTC

Approved:

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines