



NO: SO(T)ITD/3-103/2012  
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT

Karachi dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2013

SPPRA INWARD DIARY

No: 10119  
Dated: 23/4/13

To,

Syed Adil Gilani,  
Advisor,  
Transparency International,  
5-C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Khayban-e-Ittehad, Phase-VII,  
Defence Housing Authority,  
Karachi.

SUBJECT:- COMPLAINT AGAINST VIOLATION OF SINDH PUBLIC  
PROCUREMENT RULES, 2010 IN PRE-QUALIFICATION OF  
CONSULTANT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY OF CENTRALIZED DATA  
CENTRE

I am directed to refer to your letter number nil dated 16-4-2013 on the subject noted above and to state that after receiving the same Worthy Secretary Information Technology Department called a meeting of the Technical Committee of this project at the earliest which had already been constituted by the IT Department under the provision of SPPRA Rule 67 to discuss the contents of your letter. The Committee has concluded that observations mentioned in your letter are due to lack of information.

2. It is pertinent to mention here that till now not a single complain has been lodged with IT Department from amongst the twelve (12) bidders who submitted their EOIs or anybody else from outside in this context. Subsequently, this department called a Pre-Bid meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013, even in that meeting neither any participant raised this issue nor did the complainant come forward to lodge a formal complain adopting due course of law. The Department would very much willing to address genuine concern of bidders provided they lodge a formal complaint in order to resolve the issue. The Department would like to bring to your kind notice the factual position which is submitted as under:-

- i. It will be in the fitness of things to mention at the onset that the EOI has been published for only shortlisting suitable companies for preparing Feasibility Report for establishing the Data Center, not the Data Center itself. It may be noted here that several IT based Projects have been deployed in various Departments of Sindh Government along with their project based Data Centers, Servers and other necessary hardware equipment. IT Department itself has deployed many such projects in various departments for example Sindh Police, Civil Hospital Karachi, Advocate General Sindh etcetera which are working in isolation at the stakeholder end. Now Information Technology Department, Government of Sindh through approved ADP scheme "Data Center for Government of Sindh PC-II (Feasibility study of Centralized Data Center)" intends to establish a state-of-the-art Centralized and Integrated Data Center for the entire Sindh Government in accordance with standard parameters having the

latest/advance technology. The project will be deployed in the light of The Feasibility Report which will be submitted by the consultant after thorough study and research of needs of all Departments of Government of Sindh; therefore, companies displaying a vision of developing such an advanced level Data Center will be short listed for preparing the feasibility report. IT Department, however, has not limited the competition to only those companies that have developed Tier 3 / Tier 4 Level Data Center. Other companies, provided they have a clear vision for preparing such a feasibility report, are eligible to participate in the EOI process. It is also stated that Tier 3 level Data Centers have already been established and deployed in the some private and semi-private organizations in Pakistan by local/domestic companies. So it is unjustified to allege that only foreign companies can establish this Data Center for Government of Sindh. It may be highlighted that planning a Data Center below the level of Tier-3 / Tier-4 will be alike wasting of public money and will raise of issue of sustainability as the technology is advancing rapidly throughout the globe.

- ii. It is further clarified that Information Technology Department, Government of Sindh has only published Expression of Interest (EOI) not NIT; therefore bid security is not required at this stage. Since the Consultant will only be presenting feasibility report according to our requirements, the binding for International bidding process is not needed as local/domestic firms have the expertise to participate in this process.
- iii. Moreover, it is also stated that only the EOI of participating firms was opened on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and Technical Evaluation of the proposals has not started yet, therefore allegation of favoritism to any vendor is unjustified and invalid.

3. I.T. Department, Government of Sindh has always complied with the SPPRA Rules, 2010 in all respect for the process of EOI and NIT as and when invited. It seems as if this complain has been lodged because of some personal grudge in order to stop Information Technology Department from embarking upon this project of such an important nature. Information Technology Department would like to request your good office to advise the complainant to contact Information Technology Department and communicate their grievances through proper channel. However, since this EOI Process has been called into question by an organization of the caliber of Transparency International, the competent authority, in the Public interest has decided to cancel the EOI and will soon re-issue a new EOI after clearing out any ambiguity which may be present in the last EOI.

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SECTION OFFICER (GENERAL)  
FOR SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF SINDH

A copy is forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. Hon'able Chief Justice, Sindh High Court, Karachi
2. The Chief Secretary Sindh, Karachi
3. The Managing Director, SPPRA, Karachi.
4. PS to Secretary IT Dept., Govt. of Sindh

  
SECTION OFFICER (GENERAL)  
FOR SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF SINDH