

To,

Transparency International Pakistan
4-C, Mezzanine Floor,
Khayaban-e-Iteehad, Phase VII,
Defence Housing Authority, Karachi.
Tel:- 021-35390408, 35311897-8

Sub:- Violation of Punjab Procurement Rules 2014, Complaint received against Tender for Branded Computer, Finger Print Reader for the Various Departments uploaded on the Punjab PPRA websites on 22-11-2018.

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your letter TL18/1112/3A dated 11th December 2018.

Below is the point wise response to the objections.

1. Bank has called bids for more than 2000 desktop computers that worth about Rs. 125,000,000/-. So, financial strength of the prospective applicants matters a lot. Only financially strong firms can execute such big supplies. Bank has mentioned a certain level to gauge the financial strength of the prospective applicants. This is a common practice in bidding process.

Minimum quantity is always mentioned in bidding documents to check availability / acceptability of offered product in relevant market. As heavy investment is involved in this bidding. So, bank requires a tested and quality product and face no problem during warranty period of three years and after.

Since any firm or product might come in as a winner of the tender, an altogether new product will require training of the IT nucleus staff of the Bank. Therefore this clause has been included in RFP.

2. This clause of bid documents read as under "The Bidder should be in the computer hardware manufacturing or sales or supply business such as Desktops, Laptops, Servers & SAN Storages for the last five years on the date of advertisement" meaning is very clear but mis-interpreted by the complainant.

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3. No specific clause is being objected to by the complainant. In order to maintain a level, these has to be some mandatory clauses.
4. Setting of technical criteria is discretion of procuring agency, PPRA denies only the discriminatory or hard to meet criteria.

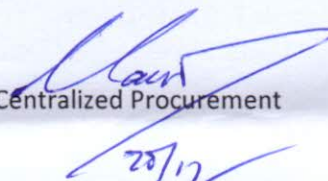
All big brands have many Tier-1 partners in every country including Pakistan. So, this clause cannot be considered as discriminatory or hard to meet.

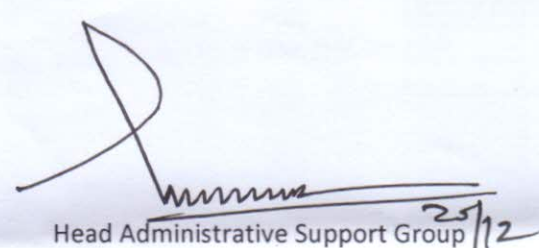
5. As Bank of Punjab network is spread all over Pakistan, after sales services & warranty claims settlements are required on immediate basis on Pan Pakistan basis. So, presence of service centres at various cities is basic requirement for prompt response. As warranty claims can only be settled by principle's authorized offices. So, such requirement is included in bid documents. Please note we are demanding 3 years warranty and BOP have network all over Pakistan. Karachi, Lahore Islamabad/Rawalpindi are major cities of Pakistan.
6. Purpose of the other IT Products in criteria is only to participate those bidders who sell all major IT Products instead of Desktops only. Such experience is included to judge the genuine businesses of this field as bank cannot afford in-experienced vendors.
7. General technical specifications are mentioned in bid documents showing the real product required by the procuring agency. Samples are being asked to match the offered products with required specifications. Waiving off this clause means to allow the offer of a Mehran car against requirement of a GLI level car. Equivalent or higher specification have already been mentioned at page 9 (Technical Specifications).
8. All the technical requirement are generic in nature and many companies working in this field can match these requirements. So, may not be declared as discriminatory.

We, The Bank of Punjab, as a procuring agency always strive hard to keep all the procurement process, Generic, Fair and transparent that brings value to the money. The Bank of Punjab reiterates that we are not focusing on a particular firm or product.

We assure you our best such efforts in future also.

Regards,


Head Centralized Procurement


Head Administrative Support Group



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL-PAKISTAN**

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11th December, 2018

Chairman,
The Bank of Punjab,
Lahore.



Hd. Asst
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14/12

TL18/1112/3A

Sub: Violation of Punjab Procurement Rules 2014, Complaint received against Tender for Branded Computer, Finger Print Reader for the Various Departments Uploaded on the Punjab PPRA Website on 22-11-8.

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan has received a complaint against BOP Tender for Branded Computer, Finger Print Reader regarding mandatory requirements for the tender. The complaint is enclosed for your ready reference and is self-explanatory.

The complainant has raised his objection on certain mandatory requirements that The Bank of Punjab has requested under Vendor Eligibility Criteria.

TIP's observation is that certain mandatory requirements are a violation of Punjab Procurement Rules 2014.

Chairman, The Bank of Punjab is requested to kindly examine the matter raised by the complainant, and if found genuine direct the concerned department to amend the tender mandatory requirements so that it doesn't violate Punjab Procurement Rules 2014.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across the board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption.

With Regards,

Zia Perwez
Justice Zia Perwez
Former Judge of Supreme Court of Pakistan and High Court of Sindh
Trustee- TI-Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Chief Minister, Government of Punjab, Lahore
2. Director General, NAB, Lahore.
3. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Lahore.
4. Registrar, Lahore High Court, Lahore.
5. Managing Director, Punjab PRA, Lahore.

