



National Database and  
Registration Authority  
Ministry of Interior  
Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat  
G-5/2 Islamabad, Pakistan  
Tel: +92-51-90391210  
Fax: +92 -51-9207296  
NADRA/PMO/58

Aug 27, 2012

To: Syed Adil Gillani  
Advisor  
Transparency International Pakistan

Copy to: Chairman Public Accounts Committee, Islamabad  
Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad  
Chairman, NAB, Islamabad  
Auditor General, Islamabad  
Managing Director, PPRA, Islamabad

Subject: **News report about the outsourcing of NADRA records blaming Minister of Interior, who was personally involved in facilitating the deal, for being reckless with the outsourcing of the data of millions of Pakistanis**

Dear Sir,

Please refer to our earlier letter No. NADRA/PMO/58 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2012 replying to your letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012. In continuation of our afore-referred earlier letter, we further invite your attention to the following:-

1. In 2009, through public advertisements in leading newspapers (Dawn and The News International), NADRA invited Expression of Interest (EOI) for operations relating to Issuance of Smart National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistan (NICOP) and Pakistan Origin Cards (POC) in the United Kingdom and Europe ("**the Project**"). A total of five (05) companies submitted Expressions of Interest, all of whom were shortlisted for submission of response to the Request for Proposal. To ensure that all selected companies had an opportunity to submit their respective Bids, the date for submission thereof was extended by a period of two (02) weeks and all companies who had submitted Expression of Interest were duly informed.



2. Thereafter, after thorough evaluation and due scrutiny, the Bid submitted by International Identity Services (IIS) was found adequate and, hence, the Contract for the Project was awarded to IIS.
3. You have observed that IIS failed to meet the qualification criteria set forth by the Pakistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority. In this regard, it is pointed out that IIS was established as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) company by its sponsors, namely, Howard Denton International (HDI). Therefore, NADRA thoroughly evaluated the credentials of Howard Denton International and when satisfied that it met the requisite criteria, the Project was awarded to IIS.
4. You have further observed that NADRA has failed to provide a copy of the Contract of the Project to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). By way of clarification, it is submitted that NADRA is fully alive to its legal obligation under the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999. However, since the monetary value of the Contract was not expressed as a lump sum figure being merely projections dependent on different variables, NADRA is continuously assessing the financials of the Contract and as it is reasonably found/ascertained that the Contract's value shall in all likelihood exceed Rs.50,000,000/- (Rupees Fifty Million only), a copy of the Contract will certainly be forthwith shared with NAB. It may, however, be added that no financial transaction has been carried out till date and NADRA has not paid any amount to IIS under the Contract.
5. The observation in your letter regarding the purported involvement of an Indian national, Mr. Asish Patel, is not correctly conceived. As per IIS, the said Mr. Patel does not work for it, but for a company which was hired by IIS to develop the latter's website. Mr. Patel is a British national who neither possesses nor has previously possessed an Indian passport and has also statedly never travelled to India.
6. Moreover, it is emphasized that NADRA gave a detailed presentation regarding the Project to all stakeholders, including the country's premier security/intelligence agency. Security clearance for the Project has been duly procured from *inter alia* the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).
7. It has been observed in your letter that the Minister of Interior was involved in facilitating the award of the Project to IIS. Suffice it to say that NADRA is a credible



organization of international repute and standing and the Project was awarded after an open competitive bidding process through the well-recognized processes of duly publicized EOI and RFP as explained above.

8. Lastly, it is worthy to mention that at no stage whatsoever was the security, confidentiality or integrity of data of overseas Pakistanis ever going to be compromised or handed over to any other party, including IIS. NADRA's software being used for the Project does not allow storage of data on any system apart from its own database, which is housed at Islamabad. The very moment a system operator enters/punches the data, the same is irretrievable on that system and can then only be accessed at the National Data Warehouse. However, even though the secrecy and safety of the data was fool-proof, NADRA, considering satisfaction of the people to be of utmost importance, signed an Addendum to the Contract in June, 2012 whereby it was *inter alia* agreed that the system operators entering data would be NADRA employees and no employee of the IIS would render such services.

We trust the foregoing adequately responds to the queries raised in your letter. You may please also note that under the directions of incumbent Chairman NADRA, who recently assumed his office, NADRA is also reviewing the feasibility and extent of NADRA itself undertaking the outsourced activities.

Yours sincerely,

**Tahir Akram**  
Deputy Chairman NADRA