



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT  
**GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICY BOARD**  
Technical Support Office

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January 5, 2004

**Hon. Governor Erico B. Aumentado**  
Chairman  
Regional Development Council  
Central Visayas Region

Dear Gov. Aumentado:

This refers to your letter dated October 8, 2003 addressed to Honorable Emilia T. Boncodin, Secretary of Budget and Management, informing the Government Procurement Policy Board of Resolution No. 73 Series of 2003, of the Central Visayas Regional Development Council (RDC) requesting the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to expedite the promulgation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 governing foreign funded procurement activities. This matter was forwarded to our office for appropriate action. In this regard, we wish to inform the Honorable Chairman and the members of the Central Visayas RDC that the GPPB is currently conducting discussions with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), particularly the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), as part of the efforts to harmonize the Philippines' procurement procedures with the procurement guidelines of these IFIs for National Competitive Biddings. You will note that harmonizing these procurement procedures would be advantageous to all implementing agencies, whether national or local as it would mean having to refer to one set of guidelines. As such, this harmonization effort may well be considered as a central first step in finally drafting the IRR for foreign funded procurement activities, better referred to as IRR-B.

Pending the issuance of IRR-B, all natural and local agencies of the Government that are undertaking foreign assisted projects are justified in applying the relevant procurement guidelines of the IFI concerned, if any. This is in line with Section 4 of RA 9184 which provides in part that "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."

With regard to your request for an update of the Government Electronic Procurement System (GEPS), we wish to inform you that the GEPS has successfully launched the operation of Phase I of the project consisted of three features, namely: a) the Electronic Bulletin Board; b) Registry of Manufacturers, Suppliers, Distributors, Contractors and Consultants; and c) the Electronic Catalogue. The said features had been fully operational since December 2000. On the other hand, the Phase II of the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) Project consisted of the: a) Electronic Payment; b) Virtual Store; and c) Electronic Bid Submission is scheduled for implementation on 2004.

We truly appreciate your enthusiasm and cooperation in pursuing procurement reform in our country. Rest assured that our office is doing its best to expedite its promulgation, we will just inform your good office of any further update on the matter as soon as we can.

Very truly yours,

  
~~ESTANISLAO C. GRANADOS JR.~~  
Executive Director IV  
Procurement Service

Copy furnished:

Secretary Emilia T. Boncodin  
Department of Budget and Management