



**NPM No. 41-2007**

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7 August 2007

**ATTY. WALFREDO J. SUMILANG**  
*BAC Chairman*  
**MUNICIPALITY OF TAYABAS**  
 Province of Quezon

**Re: Printing of an Official Newspaper**

Dear Atty. Sumilang:

We respond to your letter dated 14 September 2006 requesting for an opinion on whether the procurement of printing services for the publication of the official newspaper of the Municipality of Tayabas may be undertaken through the alternative method of shopping under Section 52 (b) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R. A. 9184).

Under Section 52 (b) of the IRR-A of R. A. 9184, the procuring entity may resort to shopping for the procurement of ordinary or regular office supplies not available in the Procurement Service involving an amount not exceeding Two hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php. 250, 000.00), provided that it does not result to splitting of contracts and that at least three (3) price quotations from bona fide suppliers shall be obtained.

As clarified under GPPB Resolution No. 12-2006 dated 14 June 2006, ordinary or regular office supplies, in the context of Section 52 (b) of IRR-A, refer to those supplies, commodities or materials which, depending on the procuring entity's mandate and nature of operations, are necessary in the transaction of its official businesses; and consumed in the day-to-day operations of said procuring entity.

However, office supplies **shall not include services** such as repair and maintenance of equipment and furniture, as well as trucking, hauling, janitorial, security, and related or analogous services. Applying the well-established principle of *ejusdem generis*, where a general word or phrase follows an enumeration of particular and specific words of the same class, the general word or phrase is to be construed to include persons, things, or cases akin to those specifically mentioned (Statutory Construction by Ruben Agpalo – Fifth Edition 2003, Vera vs. Cuevas, 90 SCRA 379, 31 May 1979).

We, thus, believe that, based on the enumeration of what constitutes "related" or "analogous services", printing services should not be considered as ordinary or regular offices supplies and cannot be procured through Shopping.

We hope to have clarified the matter. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Alvarez', written over a horizontal line.

**RUBY U. ALVAREZ**

*Executive Director III*