

New "Procurement Manual" to ensure transparency in CDGK procurement Process

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To ensure transparency in procurement of services, works, goods and equipment in City District Government Karachi's departments, new "Procurement Manual " has been finalised.

Procurement Manual prepared by City District Government Karachi (CDGK) in collaboration with Transparency International Pakistan (TIP) aimed at comply with the requirements of Transparent Public Procurement based on Principals laid down in the National Anti Corruption Strategy (NACS). NACS, approved by federal cabinet in 2002 and its implementation mechanism was approved by President Gen.

Pervez Musharraf in Oct. 2002 has "Integrity pact" as its integral part. It is worth mentioning CDGK and TIP signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement "integral pact" for transparent procurement last year. The copy of procurement manual made available to PPI on Monday states that objective of manual is to ensure all activities and decision of public offices in transparent way and projects and works implemented, services provided or taken and good & materials supplied without giving or taking any kind of benefit financial or otherwise. According to report "procurement is of huge concern to stakeholders, who highlighted weaknesses as being particularly vital in allowing procurement to be the breeding ground for corruption".

"Integrity pact would be part of all contracts allowed by CDGK, it mentions adding that it is established fact that misuse of discretionary powers and discriminatory evaluation procedures can be only prevented by a transparent procurement process and with the participation of civil society. It states that all procurement would be allotted to competent firm with the best quality of works, goods and services but at the same time, consideration must be given to obtain lowest prices for the stipulated and acceptable quality of goods and services. "Through introduction of Transparency International's integrity pact in all CDGK's contract of over five million, citizen monitoring committees will become integral part of procurement process, a key factor for check and balance in the award of contract and in the implementation of phase of project, it observes. It says that timely and transparent contract implementation, a key success, will only be achieved by making available on CDGK's web site all tender notices, evaluation reports, award decisions contract, monthly progress report and variation orders for external scrutiny. "Tender opening process would be held in the presence of

members of evaluation committee comprising concerned officials of CDGK and representatives of civil society," it maintains. Whereas all-important decisions would be made public and information on all-important activities including auditor's report should be made easily accessible to all citizens.

CDGK would periodically make public the source of income and revenue for which TI Pakistan would provide its expert services in this regard under procurement manual. Besides CDGK to inform local public about the activities it is carrying out, it adds. However officials in CDGK were not optimistic, when contacted, for elimination of corruption in procurement procedure through this new initiative. An official of CDGK commenting on procurement manual observed that it is only paper work as it is very hard to curb corruption in the procurement process. "It is an eye wash to satisfy itself by taking such kind of steps only on papers as corruption is too deep rooted to be eliminated by such steps," he added.

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