

## ***Section II. Instructions to Bidders***

### **Notes on the Instructions to Bidders**

This Section of the Bidding Documents provides the information necessary for Bidders to prepare responsive bids, in accordance with the requirements of the Procuring Entity. It also provides information on the bid submission, eligibility check, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract.

This Section contains provisions that shall not be changed or modified. Any amendment shall be reflected in Section III. Bid Data Sheet which consists of provisions that supplement, amend, or specify in detail information or requirements included in this Section and which are specific to each procurement.

Matters governing performance of the Contractor, payments under the contract, or those affecting the risks, rights, and obligations of the parties under the contract are not normally included in this Section, but rather under Section IV. General Conditions of Contract (GCC), and/or Section V. Special Conditions of Contract (SCC). If duplication of a subject is inevitable in other sections of the document prepared by the Procuring Entity, prudence must be exercised to avoid contradictions between clauses dealing with the same matter.

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## A. General

### 1) Scope of Bid

1.1 The Procuring Entity named in the **BDS**, invites Bids for the [insert Procurement Project], with Project Identification Number [indicate number].

The Procurement Project (referred to herein as "Project") is for the construction of Works, as described in Section VI (Specifications).

1.2 The winning Bidder will be expected to complete the Works by the intended completion date specified in **SCC** Clause 1.1.

### 2) Source of Funds

The Procuring Entity has a budget or received funds from the Funding Source named in the **BDS**, and in the amount indicated in the **BDS**. It intends to apply part of the funds received for this Project to cover eligible payments under the contract.

### 3) Corrupt, Fraudulent, Collusive, Coercive, and Obstructive Practices

3.1 Unless otherwise specified in the **BDS**, the Procuring Entity, as well as Bidders and Contractors, shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of the contract. In pursuance of this policy, the Procuring Entity:

- a) defines, for purposes of this provision, the following terms under existing laws, rules, and regulations:
  - i) "corrupt practice" means an act by which officials in the public or private sectors improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves, others, or induce others to do so, by misusing the position in which they are placed, and includes the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of anything of value to influence the action of any such official in the procurement process or in contract execution; entering, on behalf of the government, into any contract or transaction manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the same, whether or not the public officer profited or will profit thereby, and similar acts as provided in RA No. 3019.
  - ii) "fraudulent practice" means a misrepresentation of facts for purposes of influencing a procurement process or the execution of a contract to the detriment of the Procuring Entity, which includes collusive practices among Bidders (prior to or after bid submission) designed to establish bid prices at artificial, non-competitive levels and to deprive the Procuring Entity of the benefits of free and open competition.
  - iii) "collusive practices" means a scheme or arrangement between two or more Bidders, with or without the knowledge of the Procuring Entity, designed to establish bid prices at artificial, non-competitive levels.
  - iv) "coercive practices" means harming or threatening to harm, directly or indirectly, persons, or their property to influence their

participation in a procurement process, or affect the execution of a contract;

- v) "obstructive practice" is
  - a) deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering or concealing of evidence material to an administrative proceedings or investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede an administrative proceedings or investigation of the Procuring Entity or any foreign government/foreign or international financing institution relative to allegations of a corrupt, fraudulent, coercive or collusive practice; and/or threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent the latter from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the administrative proceedings or from pursuing such proceedings or investigation; or
  - b) acts intended to materially impede the exercise of the inspection and audit rights of the Procuring Entity or any foreign government/foreign or international financing institution herein.
- b) Undertakes to reject a proposal for award upon *prima facie* determination that the Bidder recommended for award has engaged in any of the prohibited practices mentioned in this Clause for purposes of competing for the contract.

3.2 Further, the Procuring Entity will seek to impose the maximum civil, administrative, and/or criminal penalties available under the applicable laws on individuals and organizations deemed to be involved in any of the practices mentioned in **ITB** Clause 4.

3.3 Furthermore, the Funding Source and the Procuring Entity reserve the right to inspect and audit records and accounts of a Bidder or Contractor in the bidding for and performance of a contract themselves or through independent auditors as reflected in the **GCC** Clause 36.

#### 4) Conflict of Interest

4.1 All Bidders found to have conflicting interests shall be disqualified to participate in the procurement at hand, without prejudice to the imposition of appropriate administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions. A Bidder may be considered to have conflicting interests with another Bidder in any of the events described in paragraphs (a) through (c) and a general conflict of interest in any of the circumstances set out in paragraphs (d) through (f) below:

- a) A Bidder has controlling shareholders or beneficial owners in common with another Bidder;
- b) A Bidder receives or has received any direct or indirect subsidy from any other Bidder;
- c) A bidder has the same legally authorized representative as that of another Bidder for purposes of this Bid;

- d) A bidder has a relationship, directly or through third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to information about or influence on the bid of another Bidder or influence the decisions of the Procuring Entity regarding this bidding process. This may include a firm or an organization that lends, or temporarily seconds, its personnel to firms or organizations that are engaged in consulting services for the preparation related to procurement for or implementation of the project if the personnel would be involved in any capacity on the same project;
  - e) A bidder who participated as a consultant in the preparation of the design or technical specifications of the goods and related services that are the subject of the bid; or
  - f) A bidder who lends, or temporarily seconds, its personnel to firms or organizations which are engaged in consulting services for the preparation related to procurement for or implementation of the project, if the personnel would be involved in any capacity on the same project.
- 4.2 All Bidding Documents shall be accompanied by an Omnibus Sworn Statement of the Bidder that it is not related, by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree, to the HoPE, Procurement Agent (if engaged), the head of the Project Management Office (PMO), the End-User or Implementing Unit or any members of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Technical Working Group (TWG), and BAC Secretariat.<sup>5</sup>
- 4.3 The Bidder shall also disclose the ultimate beneficial ownership of the entity it represents. Failure to comply shall be a ground for the automatic disqualification of the bid in consonance with Section 59 of the IRR. For this reason, relationship to the aforementioned persons within the third civil degree of consanguinity or affinity shall automatically disqualify the Bidder from participating in the procurement of contracts of the Procuring Entity notwithstanding the act of such persons inhibiting themselves from the procurement process. This Clause shall apply to the following persons and affiliates:
- a) In the case of individuals or sole proprietorships, to the Bidders and their spouses;
  - b) In the case of partnerships, to the partnership itself and its partners;
  - c) In the case of cooperatives, to the cooperative itself and members of the board of directors, general manager or chief executive officer;
  - d) In the case of a partnership, joint venture, or consortium, to the entity itself, its members or partners, as well as any person or entity that is a member of a blacklisted partnership, joint venture, or consortium; and
  - e) In the case of corporations, a single stockholder, together with their relatives up to the third civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, and their assignees, holding at least twenty percent (20%) of the shares therein, its chairperson and president, shall be blacklisted after they have been

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<sup>5</sup> Section 81.1 of the IRR.

determined to hold the same controlling interest in a previously blacklisted corporation or in two corporations that have been blacklisted; the corporations of which they are part shall also be blacklisted.

## 5) Eligible Bidders

- 5.1 Only Bids found to be legally, technically, and financially eligible will be evaluated. For procurement of Infrastructure Projects, the following persons shall be eligible to participate in this bidding:
- a) Duly licensed Filipino citizens or sole proprietorships;
  - b) Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
  - c) Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
  - d) Cooperatives duly organized under the laws of the Philippines; and
  - e) Persons or entities forming themselves into a Joint Venture (JV), i.e., a group of two (2) or more persons or entities that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract; Provided, however, that in accordance with relevant laws, rules, and regulations, Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); Provided, further, that joint ventures in which Filipino ownership or interest is less than sixty percent (60%) may be eligible where the structures to be built require the application of techniques or technologies which are not adequately possessed by a person or entity meeting the sixty percent (60%) Filipino ownership requirement; Provided, furthermore, that in the latter case, Filipino ownership or interest shall not be less than twenty-five percent (25%). For this purpose, Filipino ownership or interest shall be based on the contributions of each of the member of the joint venture as specified in their Joint Venture Agreement (JVA); Provided, finally, that the primary purpose of each member of the joint venture must be similar or related to the requirement of the project to be bid out.
- 5.2 The Procuring Entity may also invite foreign bidders when provided for under any Treaty or International or Executive Agreement as specified in the **BDS**.
- 5.3 In accordance with RA No. 4566 or the "Contractors' License Law" as amended by RA No. 11711 or "An Act Further Amending Republic Act No. 4566", the persons or entities enumerated in Section 52 of the IRR may participate in the procurement of Infrastructure Projects if it has been issued a license by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to engage or act as a contractor.
- 5.4 The Bidder must have completed an SLCC that is similar to the procurement project to be bid, and whose value must be equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, adjusted to current prices using the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) consumer price indices; Provided, that any change to the fifty

percent (50%) requirement may be allowed, subject to the recommendation of the Procuring Entity, which shall be submitted to the GPPB for consideration; Provided, further, that contractors under Small A and Small B categories without similar experience on the procurement project to be bid may be allowed to bid if the cost of such contract is not more than the Allowable Range of Contract Cost of their registration based on the guidelines as prescribed by the PCAB.

For foreign-funded procurement, the GoP and the foreign government, or foreign or international financing institution may agree on another track record requirement, as specified in the **BDS**.

Moreover, a contract shall be considered similar to the procurement project if it has the same major categories of work. The Procuring Entity may clarify in the Bidding Documents what is regarded as major categories of work, guided by the principle of proportionality and Fit-for-Purpose approach.

- 5.5 The SLCC shall be supported by an Owner's Certificate of Final Acceptance issued by the project owner other than the Contractor, or a final rating of at least Satisfactory in the Constructors Performance Evaluation System (CPES), or a similar performance and monitoring system. In the case of contracts with the private sector, an equivalent document shall be submitted.
- 5.6 The computation of a bidder's NFCC must be at least equal to the ABC to be bid, calculated as follows:

NFCC = [(Current assets minus current liabilities) (15)] minus the value of all outstanding or uncompleted portions of the projects under ongoing contracts, including awarded contracts yet to be started, coinciding with the procurement project to be bid; Provided, That a different formula may be adopted subject to the recommendation of the Procuring Entity, which shall be submitted to the GPPB for consideration.

The value of the domestic bidder's current assets and current liabilities shall be based on the latest AFS submitted to the BIR.

For purposes of computing the foreign bidders' NFCC, the value of the current assets and current liabilities shall be based on their latest AFS prepared in accordance with international financial reporting standards.

## **6) Bidder's Responsibilities**

- 6.1 The Bidder or its duly authorized representative shall submit a sworn statement in the form prescribed in Section IX. Philippine Bidding Documents Related Forms as required in **ITB** Clause 12.1(h)(iv).
- 6.2 Before submitting their bids, the Bidders are deemed to be knowledgeable of all existing laws, decrees, ordinances, acts and regulations of the Philippines which may affect this Project in any way.
- 6.3 The Bidder undertook the following responsibilities:
- a) Took steps to carefully examine and ensure full understanding and comprehension of the Bidding Document, its requirements, clauses, and provisions;

- b) Acknowledged all conditions, local or otherwise, affecting the implementation of the contract;
- c) Made an estimate of the facilities available and needed for the contract to be bid, if any;
- d) Complied with its responsibility to inquire or secure Supplemental Bid Bulletin(s);
- e) Ensured that it is not “blacklisted” or barred from bidding by the Government of the Philippines (GoP) or any of its agencies, offices, corporations, or LGUs, including foreign government, or foreign/international financing institutions whose blacklisting rules have been recognized by the GPPB; by itself or by reason of its relation, membership, association, affiliation, or controlling interest with another blacklisted person or entity;
- f) Ensured that each of the documents submitted in satisfaction of the bidding requirements is an authentic copy of the original, complete, and that all statements and information provided therein are true and correct;
- g) Authorized the HoPE or its duly authorized representative/s to verify all the documents submitted;
- h) Ensured that the signatory is the duly authorized representative of the Bidder, and granted full power and authority to do, execute and perform any and all acts necessary to participate, submit the bid, to sign, and execute the ensuing contract, accompanied by the duly notarized Special Power of Attorney, Board or Partnership Resolution, or Secretary’s Certificate, whichever is applicable;
- i) Complied with the disclosure provision under Section 81 and 82 of RA No. 12009 and its IRR in relation to other provisions of RA No. 3019;
- j) Complied with existing labor laws and standards. Moreover, the Bidder undertakes to:
  - i) Ensure the entitlement of workers to wages, hours of work, safety and health and other prevailing conditions of work as established by national laws, rules and regulations; or Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) or arbitration award, if and when applicable.  
  
In case there is a finding by the Procuring Entity or the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) of underpayment or non-payment of workers’ wages and wage-related benefits, the Bidder agrees that the performance security or portion of the contract amount shall be withheld in favor of the complaining workers pursuant to appropriate provisions of RA No. 12009, without prejudice to the institution of appropriate actions under the Labor Code, as amended, and other social legislations;
  - ii) Comply with Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHS) and correct deficiencies, if any.

In case of imminent danger, injury or death of the worker, the Bidder undertakes to suspend contract implementation pending clearance to resume from the DOLE Regional Office, in compliance with the Work Stoppage Order; and

- iii) Inform the workers of their conditions of work, labor clauses under the contract specifying wages, hours of work and other benefits under prevailing national laws, rules and regulations; or CBA or arbitration award, if and when applicable, through posting in two (2) conspicuous places in the establishment's premises.
- k) Ensured that it did not give or pay, directly or indirectly, any commission, amount, fee, or any form of consideration, pecuniary or otherwise, to any person or official, personnel or representative of the government in relation to any procurement project or activity;
- l) Examined all instructions, forms, terms, and specifications in the Bidding Documents;
- m) Determined and complied with all matters pertaining to the contract to be bid, including but not limited to: (i) the location and the nature of the contract, project, or work; (ii) climatic conditions; (iii) transportation facilities; (iv) nature and condition of the terrain, geological conditions at the site communication facilities, requirements, location and availability of construction aggregates and other materials, labor, water, electric power and access roads; and (v) other factors that may affect the cost, duration and execution or implementation of the contract, project, or work; and
- n) Ensured that all information in the Bidding Documents, including bid or supplemental bid bulletin(s) issued, are correct and consistent. The Procuring Entity shall not assume any responsibility regarding erroneous interpretations or conclusions by the prospective or eligible Bidder out of the data furnished by the Procuring Entity.

Failure to observe any of the above responsibilities shall be at the risk of the Bidder concerned;

6.4 The Bidder, by the act of submitting its bid, shall be deemed to have inspected the site, determined the general characteristics of the contract works and the conditions for this Project and examine all instructions, forms, terms, and project requirements in the Bidding Documents.

6.5 Further, the Bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its bid, and the Procuring Entity shall in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

In case of failure of bidding, the Bidding Documents fee may be applied in the re-bidding for the same Project.

6.6 Furthermore, the Bidder should be aware that the Procuring Entity will accept bids only from those that have paid the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents at the office indicated in the Invitation to Bid.

**7) Origin of Goods and Services**

Unless otherwise indicated in the **BDS**, there is no restriction on the origin of Goods, or Contracting of Works or Services other than those prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

**8) Subcontracts**

8.1 Unless otherwise specified in the **BDS**, the Bidder may subcontract portions of the Works to an extent as may be approved by the HoPE and as stated in the **BDS**. However, the subcontracted portion shall not exceed fifty (50%), or a different percentage of the ABC, on a per project basis, as approved by the GPPB.

8.2 Subcontracting of any portion of the Project shall not relieve the Bidder from any liability or obligation that may arise from the contract.

8.3 Subcontractors must meet the eligibility criteria as stated in the **BDS** and shall submit the same eligibility documents as the general contractor. Failure of a subcontractor to meet the eligibility criteria does not affect the eligibility of the general contractor for the procurement project. In such case, the portion intended to be subcontracted to the ineligible subcontractor shall be assumed by the general contractor.

8.4 Subcontracting arrangement, if allowed, including the time of submission of the eligibility documents of the subcontractor, shall be disclosed in the **BDS**.

**B. Contents of Bidding Documents**

**9) Pre-Bid Conference**

9.1 If so specified in the **BDS**, a pre-bid conference shall be held either at the Procuring Entity's physical address and/or online through videoconferencing, webcasting, or similar technology, or a combination thereof, on the date indicated therein, to clarify and address the Bidders' questions on the technical and financial components of this Project.

9.2 The pre-bid conference shall be held at least twelve (12) calendar days before the deadline for the submission of and receipt of bids, but not earlier than seven (7) calendar days from the posting of the invitation to bid and other bidding documents on the PhilGEPS website.

9.3 Bidders are highly encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference to fully understand the Procuring Entity's requirements. While non-attendance of the Bidder will in no way prejudice its bid, the Bidder is deemed to know any changes and/or amendments to the Bidding Documents, as may be provided in the Supplemental Bid Bulletin.

The proceedings of the pre-bid conference shall be recorded, and the corresponding minutes shall be prepared not later than five (5) calendar days after the pre-bid conference. The minutes shall be made available to prospective Bidders not later than five (5) days upon written request.

- 9.4 Decisions of the BAC amending any provision of the Bidding Documents shall be issued in writing through a Supplemental Bid Bulletin at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.

## **10) Clarification and Amendment of Bidding Documents**

- 10.1 Prospective bidders may request for clarification(s) on and/or interpretation of any part of the Bidding Documents. Such a request must be in writing and submitted to the BAC of the Procuring Entity at the address or electronic mail indicated in the **BDS** or through the electronic bidding facility of PhilGEPS, as may be applicable, at least ten (10) calendar days before the deadline set for the submission and receipt of Bids.
- 10.2 The BAC shall respond to the said request by issuing a Supplemental Bid Bulletin duly signed by the BAC Chairperson. It shall be made available to all those who have properly secured the Bidding Documents, at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of Bids.
- 10.3 Supplemental Bid Bulletins may also be issued upon the Procuring Entity's initiative for purposes of clarifying or modifying any provision of the Bidding Documents not later than seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of Bids. Any modification to the Bidding Documents shall be identified as an amendment.
- 10.4 Any Supplemental Bid Bulletin issued by the BAC shall also be posted on the PhilGEPS website, in any conspicuous place in the premises of the Procuring Entity, and on the website or social media platforms of the Procuring Entity, if available, or such other channels as may be authorized by the GPPB. It shall be the responsibility of all prospective bidders, including those who have properly secured the Bidding Documents, to inquire and secure Supplemental Bid Bulletins that may be issued by the BAC. However, Bidders who have submitted bids before the issuance of the Supplemental Bid Bulletin must be accordingly informed by the BAC, and be allowed to modify or withdraw their bids prior to the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids in accordance with ITB Clause 21.

## **C. Preparation of Bids**

### **11) Language of Bids**

The eligibility requirements or statements, the bids, and all other documents to be submitted to the BAC must be in English. If the eligibility requirements or statements, the bids, and all other documents submitted to the BAC are in foreign language other than English, it must be accompanied by a translation of the documents in English. The documents shall be translated by the relevant foreign government agency, the foreign government agency authorized to translate documents, or a registered translator in the foreign bidder's country. The Bidder shall cause the authentication of the translated documents and shall be authenticated by the appropriate Philippine foreign service establishment or post or the equivalent office having jurisdiction over the foreign bidder's affairs in the Philippines. However, for Contracting Parties to the Apostille Convention, the documents shall be authenticated through an apostille by the Competent Authority, as defined in Section 20.2.9.2 of the IRR, except for countries identified by the DFA that will still require legalization (red ribbon) by the relevant Embassy or Consulate. The English translation shall govern, for purposes of interpretation of the bid.

## 12) Documents Comprising the Bid: Technical and Financial Components

12.1 The first bid envelope shall contain the following technical documents, including the eligibility documents:

- a) PhilGEPS Certificate of Registration (Platinum Membership) in accordance with Section 20 of the IRR;
- b) PCAB License and Registration, in case of Joint Venture (JV);
- c) Statement of all its ongoing government and private contracts, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any, whether similar or not similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid;
- d) Statement of the Bidder's SLCC, in accordance with **ITB** Clause 5.5.

The SLCC shall be supported by an Owner's Certificate of Final Acceptance issued by the project owner other than the Contractor, or a final rating of at least satisfactory in the CPES, or a similar performance and monitoring system. In case of contracts with the private sector, an equivalent document shall be submitted;

- e) NFCC computation in accordance with **ITB** Clause 5.6;
- f) Joint Venture Agreement (JVA), if applicable;
- g) Bid Security in the prescribed form and amount in accordance with **ITB** Clause 16, and validity period under **ITB** Clause 15;
- h) Project Requirements, which shall include the following:
  - i) Organizational chart of the personnel to be deployed for the procurement project to be bid;
  - ii) List of Contractor's personnel (e.g., Project Manager, Project Engineers, Materials Engineers, and Foremen), to be assigned to the procurement project to be bid, with their complete qualifications and experience data. These personnel must meet the required minimum years of experience set in the **BDS**;
  - iii) List of Contractor's major equipment units which are owned, leased, or under purchase agreements, supported by proof of ownership or certification of availability of equipment from the equipment lessor or vendor for the duration of the project, as the case may be, which must meet the minimum requirements for the contract set in the **BDS**; and
  - iv) Omnibus Sworn Statement in accordance with Section 54.3 of the IRR.

12.2 The second bid envelope shall contain the Financial Bid Form, which includes the bid prices and the bill of quantities, in accordance with **ITB** Clauses 13.1.

- 12.3 Whenever necessary, modifications may be made to the foregoing provisions specifically for major and specialized procurement to suit the particular needs of the Procuring Entity, subject to the approval of the GPPB.
- 12.4 All bids that exceed the ABC shall not be accepted. Unless otherwise indicated in the **BDS**, for foreign-funded procurement, the ABC shall be applied as the ceiling to bid prices provided the following conditions are met:
- a) Bidding Documents are obtainable free of charge on a freely accessible website. If payment of Bidding Documents is required by the Procuring Entity, payment could be made upon the submission of bids.
  - b) The Procuring Entity has procedures in place to ensure that the ABC is based on recent estimates made by the engineer or the responsible unit of the Procuring Entity and that the estimates are based on adequate detailed engineering and reflect the quality, supervision and risk, and inflationary factors, as well as prevailing market prices, associated with the types of works or goods to be procured.
  - c) The Procuring Entity has trained cost estimators on estimating prices and analyzing bid variances. In the case of Infrastructure Projects, the Procuring Entity must also have trained quantity surveyors.
  - d) The Procuring Entity has established a system to monitor and report bid prices relative to ABC and engineer's or Procuring Entity's estimate.
  - e) The Procuring Entity has established a monitoring and evaluation system for contract implementation to provide feedback on actual total costs of goods and works.

However, the GoP and the foreign government, or foreign or international financing institutions may agree to waive the foregoing conditions.

### **13) Bid Prices**

- 13.1 The contract shall be for the whole Works, as described in the Bidding Documents, based on the priced Bill of Quantities submitted by the Bidder.
- 13.2 The Bidder shall fill in rates and prices for all items of the Works described in the Bill of Quantities. In case partial bids are allowed in the ITB, bids not addressing or providing all of the required items in the Bidding Documents including, where applicable, the Bill of Quantities, shall be considered non-responsive and shall be automatically disqualified. In this regard, where a required item is provided, but no price is indicated, the same shall be considered as non-responsive, but specifying a zero (0) or a dash (-) for the said item would mean that it is being offered for free to the Government, except those required by law or regulations to be provided for.
- 13.3 For the given scope of work in the contract as awarded, all bid prices shall be considered as fixed prices, and therefore not subject to price escalation during contract implementation, except under extraordinary circumstances as specified in GCC Clause 45.

#### 14) Bid Currencies

- 14.1 All bid prices shall be quoted in Philippine Peso unless otherwise provided in the **BDS**. However, for purposes of bid evaluation, bids denominated in foreign currencies shall be converted to Philippine currency based on the exchange rate as published in the BSP Daily Reference Exchange Rate Bulletin on the day of the bid opening.<sup>6</sup>
- 14.2 If so allowed in accordance with **ITB** Clause 14.1, the Procuring Entity, for purposes of bid evaluation and comparing the bid prices, will convert the currencies in which the bid price is expressed to Philippine Peso at the foreign exchange rates.
- 14.3 Unless otherwise specified in the **BDS**, payment of the contract price shall be made in Philippine Peso.

#### 15) Bid Validity

- 15.1 Bids shall remain valid for the period specified in the **BDS** which shall not exceed one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the opening of bids.
- 15.2 Should it become necessary to extend the validity of the bids and the bid securities beyond one hundred twenty (120) calendar days, the Procuring Entity concerned shall request in writing all those who submitted bids for such extension before the expiration date therefor. Bidders, however, shall have the right to refuse to grant such extension without forfeiting their Bid Security.

#### 16) Bid Security

- 16.1 The Bidder, at its option, shall submit a Bid Security in the form and amount as stated in the **BDS**, which may include the following:

<b>Form of Bid Security</b>	<b>Amount of Bid Security (Not less than the required Percentage of the ABC)</b>
(a) Cash or cashier's/manager's check issued by a bank.  <i>For biddings conducted by LGUs, the Cashier's or Manager's check may be issued by other banks certified by the BSP as authorized to issue such financial instrument.</i>	Two percent (2%)
(b) Bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a bank; Provided, however, that it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a local bank, if issued by a foreign bank.	Five percent (5%)

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<sup>6</sup> RA No. 8183 or "An Act to Assure Uniform Value to Philippine Coin and Currency."

<i>For biddings conducted by LGUs, the Bank Draft/ Guarantee, or irrevocable letter of credit may be issued by other banks certified by the BSP as authorized to issue such financial instrument.</i>	
(c) Surety bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the Insurance on as authorized to issue such security.	Five percent (5%)
(d) Bid Securing Declaration	Not Applicable

The Bid Security shall be denominated in Philippine Peso and posted in favor of the Procuring Entity.

- 16.2 The Bid Security should be valid for the period specified in the **BDS**. Any bid not accompanied by an acceptable Bid Security shall be considered as non-responsive and rejected by the Procuring Entity.
- 16.3 In no case shall the Bid Security be returned later than the expiration of the bid validity period indicated in the Bidding Documents, unless it has been extended in accordance with Section 57.2 of the IRR. In case the bidder is required to extend its bid validity, the bidder may, at its discretion, substitute a Bid Securing Declaration for the extended period as a replacement of its Bid Security; Provided, that the option to substitute is indicated in the **BDS**.
- 16.4 Upon signing and execution of the contract, pursuant to **ITB** Clause 29, and the posting of the performance security pursuant to **ITB** Clause 30, the Bid Security of the successful Bidder's Bid Security will be discharged, but in no case later than its validity period as indicated in **ITB** Clause 15.
- 16.5 The Bid Security may be forfeited based on any of the following grounds, as provided under Rule VIII, X, XI, and XXI of the IRR:
- a) If a Bidder:
    - i) With the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid (LCRB), Most Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid (MEARB), Most Advantageous Responsive Bid (MARB), Single Calculated and Responsive Bid (SCRB), Single Economically Advantageous Responsive Bid (SEARB), or Single Advantageous Responsive Bid (SARB) withdraws, fails, refuses or is unable to: (i) submit the documents required under Section 66.5 of the IRR; (ii) enter into contract with the Procuring Entity; or (iii) post the required performance security within the period stipulated in the IRR and in accordance with **ITB** Clause 30;
    - ii) Causes the delay, without justifiable cause, of the screening for eligibility, opening of bids, evaluation and post evaluation of Bids, and awarding of contracts;

- iii) Refuses to clarify or validate in writing its bid during post-qualification within a period of seven (7) calendar days from receipt of the request for clarification;
- iv) Withdraws a bid, or refuses to accept an award, or refuses or fails to enter into contract with the Procuring Entity without justifiable cause, after the approval of the HoPE for having been the declared LCRB or MEARB, as the case may be;
- v) Refuses or fails to furnish performance security within the prescribed time;
- vi) Commits of three (3) or more of any of the acts imposed with suspension, as provided under Section 99 of the IRR;
- vii) Uses force, fraudulent machinations, coercion, undue influence or pressure on any member of the BAC or any officer or employee of the Procuring Entity to take a particular action for its own favor or gain, or to the advantage of a particular bidder;
- viii) Colludes with one (1) or more bidders and submitting different bids as if they were bona fide, when they knew that one or more of them was so much higher than the other that it could not be honestly accepted and that the contract will surely be awarded to the pre-arranged lowest bid;
- ix) Maliciously submits different bids through two (2) or more persons, corporations, partnerships, or any other business entity in which it has interest, to create the appearance of competition that does not in fact exist so as to be declared as the winning bidder;
- x) Enters into an agreement with other bidder/s which call upon one to refrain from bidding for procurement contracts, or which call for withdrawal of bids already submitted, or which are otherwise intended to secure an undue advantage to any of the bidders;
- xi) Fails to faithfully disclose its relationship, regardless of the time of its discovery, with the HoPE, members of the BAC, the TWG, and the BAC Secretariat, the head of the PMO or the End-User or Implementing Unit, and the project consultants of the Procuring Entity, or of the procurement agent, whichever is applicable, by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree pursuant to Section 81 of the IRR;
- xii) Submits beneficial ownership information containing false entries;
- xiii) Allows the use of one's name or uses the name of another for purposes of public bidding;
- xiv) Submits eligibility requirements and bids containing false information or falsified documents or the concealment of such

information that will materially alter the outcome of eligibility screening or any stage of the procurement;

- xv) Accesses the contents of any Bid submitted to the Procuring Entity before the opening of bids, without authorization;
  - xvi) Has any documented attempt to unduly influence the outcome of the bidding;
  - xv) Employs schemes which stifle or suppress any procurement activity; or
  - xvi) Commits a third offense imposed with blacklisting under the Act by the same Procuring Entity, or a combination of three (3) violations imposed with blacklisting by the Procuring Entity and other Procuring Entities, as posted on the GPPB portal;
- b) If a Winning Bidder:
- i) Conducts poor performance or unsatisfactory quality and/or progress of work. Poor performance shall be as follows:
    - i.i) Negative slippage of fifteen percent (15%) and above within the critical path of the project due entirely to the fault or negligence of the winning bidder; or
    - i.ii) Non-compliance of the materials and workmanship with the approved specifications arising from the fault or negligence of the winning bidder.
  - ii) In case it is determined prima facie that the winning bidder has engaged, before or during the implementation of the contract, in the following unlawful deeds and behaviors relative to contract acquisition and implementation:
    - ii.i) Corrupt, fraudulent, collusive and coercive practices;
    - ii.ii) Drawing up or using forged documents; or
    - ii.iii) Using adulterated materials, means or methods, or engaging in production contrary to rules of science or trade.
  - iii) Assigns or subcontracts the contract or any part thereof or substituting key personnel named in the proposal without prior written approval by the Procuring Entity;
  - iv) Willfully or deliberately abandons or does not perform the project or contract by the winning bidder resulting in substantial breach thereof without lawful and/or just cause;
  - v) Has its contract terminated due to its default or unlawful acts; or
  - vi) Fails to comply with the provision on warranty that requires to repair any noted defect or damage to the Infrastructure Project

due to the use of materials of inferior quality within ninety (90) calendar days from the issuance of the order by the HoPE to undertake such repairs.

**17) Format and Signing of Bids**

- 17.1 Bidders shall submit their bids through their duly authorized representative using the appropriate forms provided in Section IX. Philippine Bidding Documents Related Forms on or before the deadline specified in the **ITB** Clause 19 in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes which shall be submitted simultaneously, whether through manual or online submission. The first shall contain the technical component of the bid, including the eligibility requirements under **ITB** Clause 12, and the second shall contain the financial component of the bid.
- 17.2 Forms as mentioned in **ITB** Clause 17.1 must be completed without any alterations to their format. No substitute form shall be accepted.
- 17.3 Each and every page of the Bid Form, including the Bill of Quantities, under Section IX hereof, shall be signed by the duly authorized representative/s of the Bidder. Failure to do so shall be a ground for the rejection of the bid.
- 17.4 Any insertions, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialed by the duly authorized representative/s of the Bidder.

**18) Sealing and Marking of Bids**

- 18.1 Bidders shall enclose their technical documents described in **ITB** Clause 12 in one sealed envelope marked "TECHNICAL COMPONENT," and the financial component in another sealed envelope marked "FINANCIAL COMPONENT," sealing them all in an outer envelope marked "BID."
- 18.2 The Bid shall be typed or written in ink and shall be signed by the Bidder or its duly authorized representative/s.
- 18.3 All envelopes shall:
  - a) contain the name of the contract to be bid in capital letters;
  - b) bear the name and address of the Bidder in capital letters;
  - c) be addressed to the Procuring Entity's BAC in accordance with **ITB** Clause 18.1;
  - d) bear the specific identification of this bidding process indicated in the **ITB** Clause 1.1; and
  - e) bear a warning "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE..." the date and time for the opening of bids, in accordance with **ITB** Clause 19.
- 18.4 For manually submitted bid envelopes that are not properly sealed and marked, as required in the Bidding Documents, the same shall be accepted; Provided, That the bidder or its duly authorized representative shall acknowledge such condition of the bid as submitted. On the other hand, unsealed or unmarked

bid envelopes, or bids that cannot be opened or corrupted in case of online submission, shall be rejected.

The BAC shall assume no responsibility for misplaced or lost contents of the improperly sealed or marked bid, or for its premature opening.

## **D. Submission and Opening of Bids**

### **19) Deadline for Submission of Bids**

Bids must be received by the Procuring Entity's BAC at the address indicated in the **Invitation to Bid**, or through the e-bidding facility of the PhilGEPS, on or before the date and time indicated in the **BDS**.

### **20) Late Bids**

Bids, including the eligibility requirements, submitted after the deadline shall be rejected by the BAC. The BAC shall record in the Minutes of the Meeting the submission and opening of bids, the Bidder's name, its representative, and the time the late bid was submitted.

### **21) Modification and Withdrawal of Bids**

21.1 Bidders may modify their bids before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.

a) For manual submission and receipt of bids, the Bidders shall not be allowed to retrieve their original bid, but shall only be allowed to submit the bid modification by sending another bid, equally sealed, properly identified, linked to its original bid, and marked as a "modification," thereof, and stamped "received" by the BAC. Bid modifications received after the applicable deadline shall not be considered and shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

b) For online submission of bids, the Bidders shall not be allowed to retrieve their original Bid, but shall only be allowed to submit the bid modification, send another Bid equally secured, properly identified labelled as a "modification" of the one previously submitted. The time indicated in the latest bid receipt page generated shall be the official time of submission. Bids modification submitted after the applicable deadline shall not be accepted.

21.2 Bidders may withdraw their bids in writing before the deadline for submission and receipt of bids. Withdrawal of bids after the applicable deadline shall be subject to appropriate sanctions as prescribed in the IRR.

Bidders may also express their intention not to participate in the bidding in writing, which should be received by the BAC before the deadline for submission and receipt of bids. Bidders that withdraw their bids shall no longer be allowed to submit another bid for the same contract, directly or indirectly.

21.3 No bid may be modified after the deadline for submission and receipt of bids. Further, no bid may be withdrawn in the interval between the deadline for submission and receipt of bids, and the expiration of bid validity specified by the Bidder in the Financial Bid Form. Withdrawal of bid during this interval shall

result in the forfeiture of the Bidder's Bid Security pursuant to **ITB** Clause 16.5, and the imposition of administrative sanctions as prescribed by RA No. 12009 and without prejudice to the imposition of civil and criminal sanctions as provided under applicable laws.

Alternative Bids shall be rejected. For this purpose, Alternative Bid shall pertain to an offer made by a bidder in addition or as a substitute to its original bid, which may be included as part of its original bid or submitted separately. A bid with options shall likewise be considered an Alternative Bid regardless of whether said bid proposal is contained in a single envelope or submitted in two (2) or more separate bid envelopes.

Bidders shall submit offers that comply with the requirements of the Bidding Documents, including the basic technical design as indicated in the drawings and specifications. Unless there is a value engineering clause in the **BDS**, alternative bids shall not be accepted.

Each Bidder shall submit only one Bid, either individually or as a partner in a JV. A Bidder who submits or participates in more than one bid (other than as a subcontractor if a subcontractor is permitted to participate in more than one bid) will cause all the proposals with the Bidder's participation to be disqualified. This shall be without prejudice to any applicable criminal, civil and administrative penalties that may be imposed upon the persons and entities concerned.

## **22) Opening and Preliminary Examination of Bids**

- 22.1 The BAC shall open the bids in public, immediately after the deadline for submission and receipt of bids, as specified in the **BDS**. In case the Bids cannot be opened as scheduled due to justifiable reasons, the BAC shall take custody of the submitted Bids and reschedule the opening of Bids on the next working day or at the soonest possible time, through the issuance of a Notice of Postponement to be posted on the PhilGEPS website and the website of the Procuring Entity concerned.
- 22.2 The manner of opening of the bids for Infrastructure Projects shall depend on the award criterion to be adopted, as follows:
  - a) For LCRB and MEARB, the BAC shall open the technical and financial proposals on the same day; and
  - b) For MARB, only the technical proposals shall be opened while the financial proposals shall remain unopened and shall be kept securely by the BAC until the specified time of their opening as indicated in the **BDS**. Only the financial proposals of the bidders who have met the highest technical score for MAB shall be opened.
- 22.3 The Procuring Entity shall prepare the minutes of the proceedings of the bid opening that shall include, as a minimum: (a) names of Bidders, their bid price (per lot, if applicable, and/or including discount, if any), bid security, findings of preliminary examination, and whether there is a withdrawal or modification; and (b) attendance sheet. The BAC members shall sign the abstract of bids as read.
- 22.4 The Bidders or their duly authorized representatives may attend the opening of bids. The BAC shall ensure the integrity, security, and confidentiality of all

submitted bids. The Abstract of bids, as read, and the minutes of the bid opening shall be made available to the public, upon written request and payment of a specified fee to recover the cost of materials.

- 22.5 To ensure transparency and accurate representation of the bid submission, the BAC Secretariat shall notify in writing all bidders whose bids it has received through mail at its PhilGEPS-registered physical address or official e-mail address. The said notice shall be issued within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the bid opening.

## **E. Evaluation and Comparison of Bids**

### **23) Process to be Confidential**

- 23.1 Members of the BAC, its staff and personnel, Secretariat, and TWG, as well as Observers, are prohibited from making or accepting any communication with any bidder regarding the evaluation of their bids until the issuance of the Notice of Award, unless otherwise allowed in the case of **ITB** Clause 24.
- 23.2 Any effort by a Bidder to influence the Procuring Entity in the Procuring Entity's decision in respect of bid evaluation, bid comparison or contract award will result in the rejection of the bid.

### **24) Clarification of Bids**

To assist in the evaluation, comparison, and post-qualification of the bids, the Procuring Entity may ask in writing any Bidder for a clarification of its bid. All responses to requests for clarification shall be in writing. Any clarification submitted by a Bidder in respect to its bid that is not in response to the request of the Procuring Entity shall not be considered.

### **25) Detailed Evaluation and Comparison of Bids**

- 25.1 The Procuring Entity's evaluation of bids shall be based on the bid price quoted in the Bid Form, which includes the Bill of Quantities.
- 25.2 The Procuring Entity will undertake the detailed evaluation and comparison of the bids which have passed the opening and preliminary examination of bids, pursuant to **ITB** Clause 22, to determine the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB), Most Economically Advantageous Bid (MEAB), and Most Advantageous Bid (MAB).
- 25.3 The award criterion shall be determined as follows:
- a) For LCB:
    - i) The detailed evaluation of the financial component of the bids, to establish the correct calculated prices of the bids; and
    - ii) The ranking of the total bid prices as so calculated from the lowest to highest, where the bid with the lowest price shall be identified as the LCB.
  - b) For MEAB, the BAC shall evaluate the quality and price proposals to determine the MEAB using the following steps:

- i) The quality proposal together with the price proposal shall be considered in the evaluation of bids. The quality proposals shall be evaluated first using the criteria in the **BDS**. The price proposals of the bids that meet the minimum quality score shall then be opened.
- ii) The price and quality proposals shall be given corresponding weights with the price proposal given a minimum weight of fifteen percent (15%) up to a maximum of forty percent (40%). The weight of the quality criteria shall be adjusted accordingly such that their total weight in percent together with the weight given to the price proposal shall be equal to one hundred percent (100%).
- iii) To further promote green public procurement, the sustainability of materials or structures with green specifications shall be given greater weight in the evaluation of bids. As approved by the BAC, the exact weights shall be indicated in the **BDS**. The BAC shall rank the bidders in descending order based on the combined numerical ratings of their quality and price proposals. The bidder with the best overall score using the quality-price ratio shall be referred to as the MEAB.
- iv) The HoPE shall approve or disapprove the recommendations of the BAC within two (2) calendar days after receipt of the results of the evaluation from the BAC.

The quality component shall be assessed on the basis of criteria with corresponding numerical weights indicated in the **BDS**, which may include qualitative, environmental, or social aspects linked to the subject matter of the contract. These may include any or a combination of the following:

- a) Quality and technical merit, including technical competence and a credible track record;
- b) Aesthetic and functional design and characteristics;
- c) Approach and methodology;
- d) Accessibility;
- e) Tools and equipment;
- f) Social, environmental, economic, and innovative characteristics;
- g) Organization, qualification, and experience of employees or staff assigned to perform the contract;
- h) Ongoing contracts and work commitments; or
- i) Other relevant criteria in relation to the subject Infrastructure Projects to be procured.

c) For MAB

- i) The BAC shall evaluate the quality proposals to determine the MAB using the quality components. The quality components shall be

assessed on the basis of the criteria with corresponding numerical weights indicated in the **BDS** to determine the bidder with the highest technical rating.

- ii) The second bid envelope of the bidder obtaining the highest technical rating shall be opened. If the financial proposal is equal to or lower than the ABC, the bid shall be accepted and determined as the MAB; otherwise, the same shall be rejected and the bidder will be disqualified.

25.4 In order to eliminate bias in evaluating the quality proposals, it is recommended that the highest and lowest scores for each bidder for each criterion shall not be considered in determining the average scores of the bidders, except when the evaluation is conducted in a collegial manner.

25.5 The BAC shall immediately conduct a detailed evaluation of all bids using non-discretionary criteria in considering the following:

- a) Completeness of the bid. Unless the **BDS** allows partial bids, bids not addressing or providing all of the required items in the BDS shall be considered non-responsive and, thus, automatically disqualified.

However, when no price or a zero (0) or a dash (-) is indicated in a required item in the bid form, the same shall be construed that it is being offered for free to the Government, except those required by law or regulations to be provided for; and

- b) Arithmetical corrections. The BAC shall consider computational errors and omissions to enable proper comparison of all eligible bids. It may also consider bid correction if expressly allowed in the **BDS**. Any adjustment shall be calculated in monetary terms to determine the calculated prices.

25.6 Based on the detailed evaluation of bids, those that comply with the above-mentioned requirements shall be ranked in the ascending order of their total calculated bid prices, as evaluated and corrected for computational errors, discounts and other modifications, to identify the LCB, MEAB, or MAB. Total calculated bid prices, as evaluated and corrected for computational errors, discounts and other modifications, which exceed the ABC shall not be considered, unless otherwise indicated in the **BDS**.

25.7 The BAC shall evaluate all bids on an equal footing to ensure fair and competitive bid comparison. For this purpose, all bidders shall be required to include in their bids the cost of all taxes, such as, but not limited to, value-added tax (VAT), income tax, local taxes, and other fiscal levies and duties. Such bids, including said taxes, shall be the basis for the bid evaluation and comparison.

25.8 If so indicated pursuant to **ITB** Clause 1.1, bids may be submitted for individual lots, or for any combination thereof, provided that all bids and combinations of bids shall be received by the same deadline and opened and evaluated simultaneously so as to determine the bid or combination of bids offering the lowest calculated cost to the Procuring Entity. Bid prices quoted shall correspond to all of the requirements specified for each lot. Bid Security as required by **ITB** Clause 16 shall be submitted for each contract (lot) separately. The basis for evaluation of lots is specified in **BDS** Clause 25.5 (a).

## 26) Post - Qualification

- 26.1 The BAC shall determine to its satisfaction whether the Bidder that is evaluated as having submitted the LCB, MEAB, or MAB, as the case may be, complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions specified in **ITB** Clauses 5 and 12. The Bidder, within a non-extendible period of five (5) calendar days from receipt of notice from the BAC that it submitted the LCB, MEAB, or MAB, shall submit all the eligibility documents supporting its PhilGEPS Certificate of Registration (Platinum Membership), its latest income and business tax returns filed for the preceding quarter which should not be earlier than two (2) quarters from the date of submission and receipt of bid, and other appropriate licenses and permits required by law and stated in the **BDS**.
- 26.2 Failure to submit any of the post-qualification requirements on time, or a finding against the veracity thereof, shall disqualify the Bidder for award; Provided, That in the event that a finding against the veracity of any of the documents submitted is made, it shall cause the forfeiture of the Bid Security.
- 26.3 The determination shall be based upon an examination of the documentary evidence of the Bidder's qualifications submitted pursuant to **ITB** Clause 12, as well as other information as the Procuring Entity deems necessary and appropriate, using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion, which shall be completed within a period of twelve (12) calendar days.
- 26.4 If the BAC determines that the bidder with the LCB, MEAB, or MAB passes all the criteria for post-qualification, it shall declare the said bid as the LCRB, MEARB, MARB, SCB, SEAB, or Single Advantageous Bid (SAB) and recommend to the HoPE the award of contract to the said bidder at its submitted bid price or its calculated bid price, whichever is lower or, in the case of quality-based evaluation procedure, submitted bid price or its negotiated price, whichever is lower.
- If, however, the BAC determines that the bidder with the LCB, MEAB, MAB, SCB, SEAB, or SAB fails to meet the post-qualification criteria, it shall immediately notify the Bidder in writing of its post-disqualification and the grounds for such determination.<sup>7</sup>
- 26.5 Immediately after the BAC has notified the first bidder of its post-disqualification, and notwithstanding any pending request for reconsideration thereof, the BAC shall initiate and complete the same post-qualification process on the bidder with the second LCB, MEAB, or MAB. If the second bidder passes the post-qualification and provided that the request for reconsideration of the first bidder has been denied, the second bidder shall be post-qualified as the bidder with the LCB, MEAB, or MAB.
- 26.6 If the second bidder, however, fails the post-qualification, the procedure for post-qualification shall be repeated for the bidder with the next LCB, MEAB, or MAB and so on, until the LCRB, MEARB, or MARB, as the case may be, is determined for award, subject to the procedure of Notice and Execution of Award.

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<sup>7</sup> Sec 63.5 of the IRR.

- 26.7 Within a period not exceeding ten (10) calendar days from the determination by the BAC of the LCRB, MEARB, MARB, SCRB, SEARB, or SARB and the recommendation to award the contract, the HoPE or its duly authorized representative shall approve or disapprove the said recommendation.
- 26.8 In case of approval, the HoPE or its duly authorized representative shall immediately issue the Notice of Award to the bidder with the LCRB, MEARB, MARB, SCRB, SEARB, or SARB, as the case may be.

In the event that the approving authority shall disapprove the resolution on the award of the contract, such disapproval shall be based only on valid, reasonable, and justifiable grounds as enumerated under Section 70 of the IRR to be expressed in writing. A copy of the decision disapproving the resolution shall be furnished to the BAC and the bidder.

## 27) Reservation Clause

- 27.1 Notwithstanding the eligibility or post-qualification of a bidder and without incurring any liability, the HoPE or its duly authorized representative at any stage of the procurement, reserves the right to review its qualifications, reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract in the following situations:
- a) If it has reasonable grounds to believe that a misrepresentation has been made by the said bidder; or
  - b) If it has reasonable grounds to believe that there has been a change in the bidder's capability to undertake the project from the time it submitted its eligibility requirements.

Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility and bidding requirements, statements or documents, or any changes in the situation of the Bidder which will adversely affect its capability to undertake the Project so that it no longer meets the prescribed eligibility or bid evaluation criteria, the Procuring Entity shall consider the said Bidder as ineligible and disqualify it from participating further in the bidding process or being awarded the contract.

- 27.2 Based on the following grounds, the HoPE or its duly authorized representative reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a Failure of Bidding at any time prior to the contract award, or not to award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability, and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding:
- a) If there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the Procuring Entity, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition or influences or tends to influence the bidding process;
  - b) If the BAC is found to have failed in complying with the applicable law or in following the prescribed bidding procedures; or

- c) If there are any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government, in instances where (i) the physical and economic conditions have significantly changed so as to render the project no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the HoPE; (ii) the Project is no longer necessary as determined by the HoPE; and (iii) the source of funds for the Project has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the Procuring Entity.

## **F. Award of Contract**

### **28) Contract Award**

- 28.1 Subject to **ITB** Clause 26, the HoPE or its duly authorized representative shall award the contract to the Bidder whose bid has been determined to be the LCRB, MEARB, MARB, SCRIB, SEARB, or SARB, as the case may be.
- 28.2 Prior to the expiration of the period of bid validity, the Procuring Entity shall notify the winning Bidder in writing that its bid has been accepted, through a Notice of Award duly received by the Bidder or its representative personally or by registered mail or electronically, receipt of which must be confirmed in writing within two (2) days by the Bidder with the LCRB, MEARB, MARB, SCRIB, SEARB, or SARB, as applicable, and submitted personally or sent by registered mail or electronically to the Procuring Entity.
- 28.3 Within ten (10) calendar days from receipt by the winning bidder of the Notice of Award, the following conditions should be complied with before the contract may be awarded:
  - a) Submission of the following documents:
    - i) Valid JVA, if applicable;
    - ii) The SEC Certificate of Registration of the foreign corporation, if applicable; or
    - iii) Valid PCAB license and registration for the type and cost of the Project for foreign bidders when the Treaty or International or Executive Agreement expressly allows submission of such license and registration as a pre-condition to the Notice of Award.
  - b) Posting of the performance security in accordance with **ITB** Clause 30; and
  - c) Signing of the contract as provided in **ITB** Clause 29.

## 29) Signing of the Contract

- 29.1 Within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the Notice of Award, the winning Bidder shall post the required performance security, sign and date the contract, and return it to the Procuring Entity.
- 29.2 The Procuring Entity shall enter into a contract with the successful Bidder within the same ten (10) calendar day period provided that all the documentary requirements are complied with.
- 29.3 The following documents shall form part of the contract:
- a) Contract Agreement;
  - b) Bidding Documents;
  - c) Winning Bidder's bid, including the technical and financial proposals, and all other documents/statements submitted (e.g., Bidder's response to request for clarifications on the bid), including corrections to the bid, if any, resulting from the Procuring Entity's bid evaluation;
  - d) Performance Security;
  - e) Notice of Award of Contract; and
  - f) Other contract documents that may be required by existing laws and/or specified in the **BDS**.

## 30) Performance Security

- 30.1 To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of its obligations under the contract, it shall post a performance security prior to the signing of the contract. Furthermore, the successful bidder shall be required to update the performance security posted before to the issuance of a variation order, if any.
- 30.2 Sectors enumerated under Section 76.1<sup>8</sup> of the IRR may be allowed to post Performance Securing Declaration (PSD) as specified in the **BDS**.
- 30.3 The performance security shall be in a form selected by the Procuring Entity in the amount indicated in the **BDS**, which shall not be less than the percentage of the total contract price in accordance with the following price schedule:

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<sup>8</sup> Section 76.1. *The GPPB, once data is available from relevant agencies, shall maintain a registry of entities belonging to the following sectors:*

a) Farmers as certified by the Department of Agriculture (DA);  
b) Fisherfolk as certified by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);  
c) Persons with disabilities as certified by the National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA) pursuant to RA No. 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, as amended;  
d) Solo parents as certified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); e) Microenterprises and social enterprises as certified by the MSMED Council;  
f) Startups, spin-offs, and other forms of entity involved in science, technology, and innovation activities as certified by the DTI, DICT, NIC or the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), as may be applicable;  
g) Cooperatives duly registered with the CDA pursuant to RA No. 6938, otherwise known as the Cooperative Code of the Philippines, as amended; and  
h) Other relevant sectors as may be determined by the GPPB to ensure inclusivity and diversity in the procurement process.

Form of Performance Security	Amount of Performance Security (Not less than the Percentage of the Total Contract Price)
a) Cash or Cashier's or Manager's check issued by a bank.  <i>For biddings conducted by LGUs, the cashier's or manager's check may be issued by other banks certified by the BSP as authorized to issue such financial instrument.</i>	Ten percent (10%)
b) Bank draft or guarantee or irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a local bank. If issued by a foreign bank, it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a local bank.	
c) Surety bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the IC as authorized to issue such security.	Thirty Percent (30%)

30.4 The performance security shall be denominated in Philippine Peso and posted in favor of the Procuring Entity, which shall be forfeited in the event it is established that the winning bidder is in default in any of its obligations under the contract.

**31) Notice to Proceed**

The Procuring Entity shall issue the Notice to Proceed to the winning Bidder not later than three (3) calendar days from the date of approval of the contract by the appropriate signatories. All notices called for by the terms of the contract shall be effective only at the time of receipt thereof by the successful Bidder.

**32) Protest Mechanism**

Decisions of the BAC in all stages of procurement may be protested to the HoPE in accordance with Section 83 of the IRR.