

"Conscience is God present in man".

~ Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

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Editor's Note

PPRA was designed to hold rules, regulations and their advocacy top on the agenda for that is where the void of integrity in public procurement can be filled along with fulfilling the role of public procurement regulatory authority by interpreting, reiterating, underlining and highlighting the provisions of PPRA rules. Our sincere acknowledgement is due to all those who complied with our epistles not forgetting the ones who found them nagging.

William Kunstler's quote "This is New York, and there is no law against being annoying" is not a bad copy paste. We are in the serious business of raising transparency and integrity levels in the government, our polite requests have made a dent in the wide body of non-compliance. PPRA's toil is getting acknowledged simply from one measure that it has gained unprecedented importance in the public life of the country in this dispensation of democracy.

We will not gloat over our performance over the last nine months on wide sensitization of PPRA rules and regulations in the public and private sectors, that capacity building became sustainable, PPRA would now be able to meet almost 70% of its expenses, for establishment of a National Institute of Procurement, for this cost-free Gazette that comes out without a break every month, first Annual Report since 2002 and on and on.

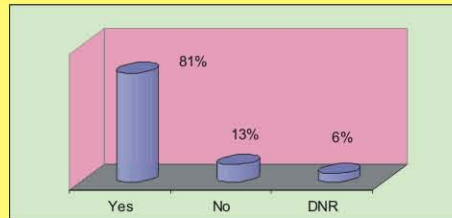
An umbrage-free reading and "necessary action" on our references in supreme public interest and understanding the concept of new regulatory arrangement is requested.

Impact Evaluation Survey-PPRA (findings part III): Grievances Redressal:

Grievance redressal is one of the most critical areas and an important function of PPRA. The effective and efficient grievances redressal would raise the level of confidence of the private sector/suppliers in PPRA. It is a reality that the aggrieved party always wants speedy justice; same is

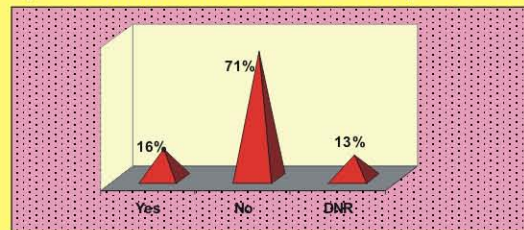
true for complainants who approach PPRA regarding their dispute with procuring agencies. In the survey the complainants were asked; how efficient was the PPRA in responding their complaints? It is encouraging that PPRA efforts in respect of swift processing of complaints have been largely recognized by the bidders and 81% of the complainants said that they got swift and timely response from the Authority.

Graph 1: Satisfaction of Complainants over Grievance



However, the effectiveness of Rule 48 has been perceived by the bidders differently and majority of the bidders remains unsatisfied as only 16% are satisfied with the dispute resolution mechanism under Rule 48 and majority of the bidders want more powers with PPRA in order to resolve disputes effectively (Graph 2).

Graph 2: Satisfaction over PP Rules/Dispute Resolution



The other respondents were also asked about the effectiveness of grievance redressal mechanism. Nearly 56% respondents from trainees' category and 40% of international organizations have shown their satisfaction over the prevailing system of grievances redressal. The respondents also suggested more punitive powers or strict audit detailed suggestions/comments are placed at

(To be continued)

"Every era has a currency that buys souls. In some the currency is pride; in others it is hope, in still others it is a holy cause. There are of course times when hard cash will buy souls, and the remarkable thing is that such times are marked by civility, tolerance, and the smooth working of everyday life."

~ Eric Hoffer



PPRA

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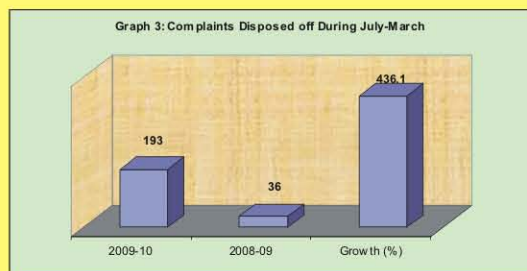
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Capacity Building Program at NIP (PPRA):

During the month of March two training sessions were held in National Institute of Procurement (PPRA). Overall 40 officers of 25 procuring agencies have availed the training facility, which include SBP, NBP, PAEC, BOI, EPZA, KPT, IBA, PAC, PCSIR, SME Bank, PIA, FATA Secretariat and GEPCO etc. The National Institute of Procurement due to cost effective and proactive training programs is not only fulfilling the two pronged purpose of bridging the gap between the supplier and the procuring agencies but it is also serving as a catalyst in mitigating the dearth of procurement knowledge in the federal government.

Grievance Redressal:

The comparison with last fiscal year indicates a significant rise in the complaints sent to PPRA by the bidders, which is evident from Graph 3. Likewise the procuring agencies, albeit slowly but has started responding in positive fashion. Couple of months ago PPRA had requested the procuring agencies to form grievance redressal committees to speedup the dispute resolution. Up to now more than 100 procuring agencies have formed the grievance redressal committees. For the convenience of stakeholders and transparency the committees have been uploaded on PPRA website.



The Rules Corner

Public Procurement Rule No. 18. Disqualification of Supplier and Contractor

The procuring agency shall disqualify a supplier or contractor if it finds, at any time, that the information submitted by him concerning his qualification as supplier or contractor was false and materially inaccurate or incomplete.

Around the Globe - University of Turin, Italy

About the program

The international Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO) in partnership with the University of Turin (Faculties of Law and Economics) offers this **Master of Science (MSc)** in Public Procurement Management for Sustainable Development that explores the legislative, regulatory, organizational and managerial foundations of a modern Public Procurement System. The program is designed as a blended learning opportunity that combines policy / theory prescription with applied assignments and research work. It provides participants with direct access to expertise from academia, international organizations, think tanks and the private sector.

Over the past decades sound public procurement managements has become a key milestone of good governance and national progress. Its significance for social and economic development is reflected in the fact that it constitutes a sizeable proportion of the national economy (15 to 30 percent of national GDP). It is a valuable instrument of "pro-social equity" policies and has historically been used by governments to encourage a more equitable economic growth.

Public procurement is therefore no longer a simple routine clerical function conducted within an isolated department of a ministry Today's procurement professionals have to deal with increasingly dynamic markets and rapidly evolving technologies, purchasing tools and techniques. In addition to traditional regulatory obligations, procurement practitioners also have to demonstrate their governments' adherence to international agreements on human rights, labour and the environment as well as mitigation of corruption. Reconciling the tension between sustainability objectives and the framework of international trade agreements, while respecting the broader obligations of best value for money, transparency and accountability, requires an array of new competences in procurement.

The overall objective of this Master's program is to help bridge the current deficit in qualified human resources and to enable procurement professionals to cope with the challenges of regulating, executing and monitoring public procurement in an economic and socially responsive manner.

Participants learn:

- Wide spectrum of knowledge and skills covering internationally accepted principles governing sound public procurement systems.
- Legal instruments and institutional arrangements essential for successful discharge of functions of a modern procurement system.
- Economic theory, tools and accounting standards relevant to public procurement.
- Management of the procurement process for goods, works and services (including innovative contracting modalities like public private partnerships and e-procurement).
- Risk management in procurement operations, control and reporting techniques in procurement operations.
- Design of systems for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption in public procurement.

NIP Session 2-3 March, 2010



PPRA Goings on:

- MD PPRA made a presentation to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Federal Cabinet on functions, activities and performance of PPRA. A consolidated report for 2002-2008 on PPRA activities and performance was also presented before the Cabinet as required under Section 17 of PPRA Ordinance.
- PPRA organized a day's workshop on "PP Rules and Procedures" at auditorium of Ministry of Population Welfare, at their special request. Senior 35 officers of the ministry participated in the workshop which was found to be very useful by the participants for creating awareness and clarity about compliance of PP Rules.