

"Authority, Power or Wealth do not change a man, they only reveal him".

~ Hazrat Ali ibn abi Talib (RAA)

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# Public Procurement Regulatory Authority

Cabinet Division Islamabad

## BOARD... MATTERS

We at PPRA nurse a wish that Board had enough time at their disposal to connect with the concept of a regulatory body and the freedom it must be guaranteed to make it work for transparency, competition, fairness, level playing field for all stake holders including the civil society in matters of public procurement. The bent of mind of minions, yours truly included, is vividly seen cast in iron for it refuses to take what comes with a regulatory entity which is not a ministry, its sub-office, an attached department or a public corporation. More than double the number of PPRA Board are paid from the public exchequer; six of them are anointed and are in the business of running ministries full in power and complete in compliance. They deem a regulatory body as their attached department, fiefdom or an arm of the ministry which is readily available for twisting internationally accepted norms. Sad.

This has to be understood by those who are mistaken that they have graduated to celestial positions by virtue of all other reasons that are not relevant in progressive societies.

The collusion of minions lorded over by a 'sort of' higher minion, more often than not, road rolls rules to meet a wish or suit a whim. This takes place invariably in the physical meeting of the Board with a specific agenda at hand. In the matters sent in circulation, individual application of mind and requirements of competition and transparency are met as holy tenets. Private members are found disinterested in showing resistance to mowing of ethics and rules causing injury to our procurement credibility as a country amongst the comity of civilized nations built with labor of love. Their disinterest, a civil society organization contends, comes from their "interest" if they do not watch the public interest.

This no doubt is a serious issue particularly when PPRA is rated A+ amongst organizations seen working under a democratic dispensation by the multi-lateral and donor

agencies. Road blocks of whim and self interest in the way of PPRA must be removed; archaic and misplaced notions of administrative control and authority must now evaporate.

## SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF PPRA GAZETTE

With this June issue we complete 24 monthly publications of PPRA Gazette. During last two years its circulation has jumped from just a few hundred to thousands. We circulate amongst all federal government offices, public /private universities, international organizations, procuring agencies, private sector companies and the trainees at NIP. Its online version is also available for readers abroad. We request our esteemed readers to continue providing us their valuable feedback for further improvement.

## CAPACITY BUILDING AT NIP: (May 18-19, 2011)

An exclusive training program for SMEDA, Lahore was held on May 18-19, 2011 at National Institute of Procurement (NIP), Islamabad, 22 officers representing more than 20 projects of SMEDA all over Pakistan participated in the training program and found the workshop highly interactive and beneficial. Mr. Bakhtiar Khan, General Manager SMEDA was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his concluding speech the Chief Guest Mr. Bakhtiar Khan reiterated that compliance of public procurement rules 2004 in letter and spirit is essential for transparent and quality public procurements.



"Scientific progress makes moral progress a necessity; for if man's power is increased, the checks that restrain him from abusing it must be strengthened."

~ Madame de Stael

"Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness."

~George Washington



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## PUBLICATION OF TENDERS:

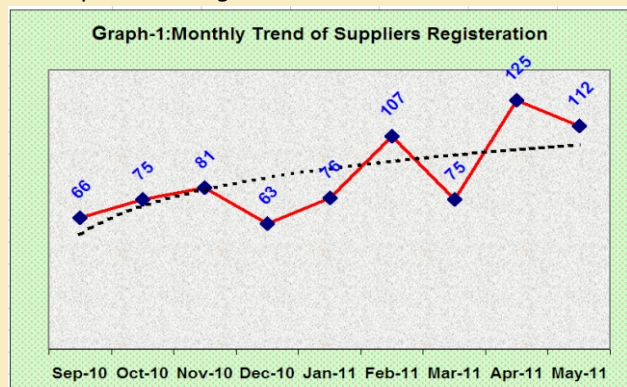
After recording a negative trend in the published tenders from July to October the signs of recovery are visible since November 2010 onwards. The month-wise details of tenders uploaded are shown in the table below:

Months	Tenders Uploaded		Growth
	2009-10	2010-11	
July	1435	1331	-7.2
August	1466	1270	-13.4
September	1515	1229	-18.9
October	1903	1595	-16.2
November	1343	1474	9.8
December	1434	1700	18.5
January	1657	1935	16.8
February	1276	1810	41.8
March	1633	2222	36.1
April	1843	2300	24.8
May	1953	2300	17.8
July-May	17458	19166	9.8

## E-PROCUREMENT: AN UPDATE ON FREE SUPPLIER REGISTRATION [www.ppra.com.pk](http://www.ppra.com.pk)

PPRA initiated the free Suppliers Registration System in September 2010, as a basic step towards e-procurement. A link is available for the suppliers at PPRA website home page where suppliers can get registered after filling online registration form. A unique number is assigned to the newly registered supplier upon request. Business details are also available for the general public in registered supplier's link. Nevertheless, we may remind esteemed suppliers that some of the registrants are not supplying NTN and STN while registering. PPRA has also introduced supplier login portal where a supplier can update/modify business details after logging in to a secure system. The same is saved upon request and readily made available on the registered suppliers section. PPRA also aims at providing online bidding facility to the registered suppliers. The response from

suppliers is highly encouraging and to date 780 suppliers have been registered with PPRA. Following graph shows monthly trend of registration.



## COMPLAINTS:

During the month of May 2011, a total 66 complaints were received against various procuring agencies. This number is higher by 29% than the complaints received (51) in the month of May 2010.

## AROUND THE GLOBE: LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ON PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND BATTLING CORRUPTION April 23-May 14, 2011:

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds and administers the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), one of its premier professional exchange programs. The IVLP is designed to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through carefully designed visits that reflect the participants' professional interests.

On behalf of US State Department, US Ambassador in Pakistan Mr. Cameron Munter extended an invitation to Mr. Khalid Mahmood Lodhi, Director, PPRA as part of a Pakistani delegation comprising journalists, NGOs, law enforcement officials, to participate in U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs' International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP). The IVLP program on "Promoting Transparency in Government and Fighting Corruption" was scheduled from April 23rd, 2011 to 14th May, 2011.

The program focused on efforts on the US federal, state, and local levels to expose and curb corruption by public officials and provided an opportunity to the participants to gain insight of U.S.A battling corruption issues. Participants visited Illinois (Chicago), Washington (Seattle) and Georgia (Atlanta), The program highlighted the following:

- OpenTheGovernment.org: The role of the NGO community in promoting transparency and openness in government
- International Center for Journalists: Open and free media; the ICT's work with journalists from Pakistan
- White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP): The Open Government Initiative
- Government Accountability Office (GAO): The role of the Government Accountability Office in ensuring transparent and ethical governance
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Acquisition and Assistance: Government procurement procedures; ensuring fairness and transparency in contracting
- United States Department of the Treasury: Monitoring, tracking, preventing financial crimes; partnerships in fighting financial crimes
- World Bank, Institutional Integrity Group: Combating corruption, transparency in procurement
- United States Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General: The role of the Inspector General in preventing fraud and corruption; promoting transparency in federal law enforcement
- U.S. Office of the Special Counsel (OSG): Overview of the OSG and how it enforces the Whistleblower Protection Act
- United States Office of Government Ethics: The role of this office in ensuring ethical behavior among government workers; oversight and enforcement
- United States Department of State, Representatives of the Pakistan Desk and Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor: Current U.S. relations with Pakistan; U.S. foreign policy and corruption concerns in the region; transparency in the Executive Branch
- Transparency International-USA: The role of the Transparency International in promoting transparency in governance and human rights.