

Government Procurement Practices in the Philippine National Line Agencies

Anna Bella D. Siriban-Manalang^{*1} and Edgar Doña²

^{1,2}De La Salle University, Manila 1104, Philippines

¹manalanga@dlsu.edu.ph, ²donae@dlsu.edu.ph

Abstract

The most significant achievements in procurement reform emanates from the passage of the GPRA which institutionalizes transparency and streamlines functions of various government instrumentalities in procurement. These efforts call for the active participation of Civil Societies, the inclusion of Local Government Units in the coverage of the law, and the creation of a Government Procurement Policy Board to oversee the pursuit of procurement reforms.

Current efforts attempt to utilize advances in technology through the introduction of Government Electronic Procurement System which involves the establishment of a central government procurement web site as the main source of information, particularly for invitations and notice of awards. While significant advances were realized in government procurement process during the last five years, there are some issues that continue to surface. These are full development of the E-Procurement as a system, information dissemination, capacity building and policy and implementation gaps.

The Focused Group Discussions are designed to characterize the current state of procurement processes in terms of relevance (appropriateness of current procurement guidelines in curbing corruption), efficiency (transformation of collective actions into results) and effectiveness (contribution of procurement guidelines to the attainment of the government's goals against corruption). The predominant problems highlighted by the participants are those pertaining to Implementation Guidelines of the new procurement law, where about 14 different problem areas are identified. Both evaluators and bidders identified difficulties ranging from lack of clarity to questionable need for certain elements in the existing process. All of these are identified in the FGDs as possible roots of corruption.