TRADING CORPORATION OF PAKISTAN (PVT) LIMITED
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

No. TCP/REOD/PPRA/25 **August 1, 2025**

Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar,
Trustee / Legal Advisor,
Transparency International Pakistan,
Karachi

Subject: **VILATION OF PPRA RULES—TCP TENDER FOR HIRING THE SERVICES OFLABOUR CONTRACTOR FOR HANDLING OF BAGGED CARGO AT TCP'S GODOWNS.**

This is with reference to your letter bearing reference number TL/2025/0722/3A, dated July 22, 2025, as well as the telephonic conversation held with Mr. Kashif Ali, Executive Director, Transparency International Pakistan.

2. In the aforementioned correspondence, Transparency International Pakistan (TIP) has raised an objection on a tender issued by the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), referenced as TCP/REOD/Lab.Cont/Sugar/2025, which was published in the Daily *'Dunya'* newspaper on July 18, 2025. TIP has stated that the tender stipulates July 25, 2025, as the deadline for submission and opening of bids, thereby allowing a response period of only seven (07) days, therefore, the tender in question appears to be in violation of Rule No. 13 of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004, which requires a mandatory response time of 15 days.

3. It is hereby clarified that the said tender dated July 18, 2025, for the *'Hiring of Labour Contractor for Handling of Bagged Cargo at TCP Godowns Located in Pipri, Landhi, and Korangi'* was duly published by TCP under Rule 42(d)(iii) of the Public Procurement Rules 2004, which pertains to procurement in cases of urgency, where the normal timelines cannot be met.

4. It may be noted that in accordance with the mandate, operational framework, and functional responsibilities of the TCP, it has been, and shall continue to be, entrusted by the Government of Pakistan with the task of importing essential commodities. These import initiatives form an integral part of the Government's strategic interventions aimed at ensuring price stability in the domestic market, addressing supply shortages, and curbing undue price volatility. It must be highlighted here that TCP has been recently entrusted by the Government of Pakistan with the critical responsibility of importing and maintaining a strategic national reserve of sugar, with the required quantity ranging between 300,000 to 500,000 metric tons (MT). In compliance with the decision of the Federal Cabinet, the consignment of sugar is anticipated to begin arriving in Pakistan as early as the first week of August 2025. TCP is required to undertake immediate and comprehensive logistical arrangements for both the importation and secure storage of the commodity (sugar) within its designated godowns. The assignment is substantial in scale and bound by tight deadlines, necessitating immediate and subsequent action at multiple levels.

5. In view of this pressing time constraint, it was not possible to procure the services of the labour contractor under normal timelines provided under Rule 13 of the Public Procurement Rules 2004. Therefore, the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) was left with no viable alternative but to invoke Rule 42(d)(iii) of the PPA Rules, 2004. This recourse was taken in order to ensure the continuity of essential operational activities and to prevent any disruption in the handling and storage processes at the key warehousing sites.

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6. Accordingly, it was explicitly stated in writing in both the advertisement and the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) that the procurement process was being conducted under Rule 42(d)(iii) of the Public Procurement Rules 2004, which pertains to procurement in cases of urgency. Furthermore, this information was also clearly communicated in the official correspondence sent to the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) for the given purpose for uploading the tender notice on the PPRA website (copy of the email attached).

7. In view of the foregoing explanation and pursuant to the telephonic conversation held with Mr. Kashif Ali, Executive Director of Transparency International Pakistan, the undersigned expresses the hope that the explanation provided addresses the concerns raised by Transparency International Pakistan. It is further requested that Transparency International Pakistan may kindly furnish a written response to this communication acknowledging the same.

Ali Raza Altaf
Dy. General Manager (REOD)

Copy for information to:-

1. Managing Director, PPRA, Islamabad.
2. Chairman Prime Minister Inspection Commission (PMIC), Islamabad.