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May 27, 2025

Executive Engineer, Highway Division, Sialkot. TL2025/0527/1A

<u>Subject: Violation of Punjab Procurement Rules 2014, Executive Engineer, Highway Division,</u> Sialkot's Tender Notice for Procurement for Various Rehabilitation Works

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to your tender notice appeared in daily 'Dunya' Newspaper on 23 May, 2025. The said advertisement is in violation of Punjab Procurement Rules 2014, Rule No. 14 'Response Time'.

In the tender notice, the submission and opening date of bid is given on 03-06-2025, where it does not fulfill the fifteen days of response time, and is three (3) days less. It is a violation of Punjab Procurement Rules 2014, Rule 14. The Rule is quoted below for your reference;

14. Response time.— (1) The procuring agency may decide the response time for receipt of bids or proposals (including proposals for prequalification) from the date of publication of an advertisement or notice keeping in view the complexity of the procurement, availability and urgency but, in no circumstances, the response time shall be less than fifteen days for national competitive bidding and thirty days for international competitive bidding from the date of publication of advertisement or notice.

Executive Engineer, Highway Division, Sialkot is requested to rectify the given mistake and issue corrigendum in accordance with Punjab Procurement Rules 2014 to avoid mis-procurement under Rule 69.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across the board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption, and achieve against Zero tolerance against corruption.

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Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar, Trustee Legal Advisor

Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

- 1. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Lahore.
- 2. Managing Director, Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority, Lahore.



Note:

This is to clarify that Transparency International Pakistan is not a complainant, it acts as a whistleblower and operate under Article 19-A, of the Constitution of Pakistan which gives the right to public to know how government is being run by public officers. Article 19-A makes the right to access of information pertaining to a public authority a fundamental right, and a three member bench in case of Mukhtar Ahmad Ali vs the Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the landmark judgment on 16 October 2023, in CP No. 3532/2023, has declared that

"What previously may have been on a need-to-know basis Article 19A of the Constitution has transformed it to a right-to-know, and the Access to information is no longer a discretion granted through occasional benevolence, but is now a fundamental right available with every Pakistani which right may be invoked under Article 19A of the Constitution"

