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TL2024/0827/1A

August 27, 2024

Section Officer (General), Government of the Punjab, Food Department, Lahore.

<u>Subject: Violation of Punjab Procurement Rules 2014, Section Officer (General), Government of the Punjab, Food Department's Tender Notice for Procurement of Various Items</u>

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to your tender notice appeared in daily 'Nai Baat' Newspaper on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2024. The said advertisement is in violation of Punjab Procurement Rules 2014, Rule No. 14 'Response Time'.

In the tender notice, the submission and opening dates of bids is given on 04.09.2024, where it does not fulfill the fifteen days of response time, and is two (2) 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.

Section Officer (General), Government of the Punjab, Food Department 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.

Regards,

Advocate Daniyai 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"

