

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 423, April 30, 2005]

REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 109-A DATED SEPTEMBER 18, 2003 PRESCRIBING THE RULES AND PROCEDURES ON THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ALL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS TO CONFORM WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT"

WHEREAS , the Arroyo Administration is committed to speedy and efficient delivery of quality services to the Filipino people;

WHEREAS , the procurement process must be simplified in order that all branches, departments, agencies, subdivisions, and instrumentalities of the government, including government owned and controlled corporations, and local government units be able to secure the goods and services when needed;

WHEREAS , Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as "the Government Procurement Reform Act", which was enacted into law on January 10, 2003, likewise declared it the policy of the State to promote the ideals of good governance, with a view to transparency, competitiveness, streamlining, accountability and public monitoring in the procurement processes of Government Contracts;

WHEREAS , in line with the government's program of good governance, Executive Order No. 109-A dated September 18, 2003 entitled "Amending Executive Order No. 109 dated May 27, 2002 Prescribing the Rules and Procedures on the Review and Approval of all Government Contracts to Conform with Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as 'the Government Procurement Reform Act Streamlining the Rules And Procedures on The Review and Approval Of All Contracts Of Departments, Bureaus, Offices And Agencies Of The Government, Including Government-Owned Or Controlled Corporations And Their Subsidiaries" was issued to conform with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 which consolidated the procurement processes of Government Contracts, including the procurement of infrastructure projects, goods and consulting services, and lease of goods and real estate, among others;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO , President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1 . Policy Requiring Public Bidding. It is the policy of this Administration that all Government contracts of Government Agencies shall be awarded through open and competitive public bidding, save in exceptional cases provided by law and applicable rules and regulations, as described in SEC. 3 of this Executive Order.

For this purpose, a Government Agency shall refer to the various units of the Government, including a department, bureau, office, instrumentality, government-owned and/or controlled corporation or its subsidiary, or state college or university (SEC. 2[4] of Executive Order No. 292 dated July 25, 1987, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987).

SEC. 2. Approval of Government Contracts Awarded Through Public Bidding. Except for Government contracts required by law to be acted upon and/or approved by the President, the Heads of the Procuring Entities shall have full authority to give final approval and/or to enter into all Government contracts of their respective agencies awarded through public bidding, regardless of the amount involved. Provided, that the Head of the Procuring Entity certifies under oath that the contract has been entered into in faithful compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The Heads of the Procuring Entities may delegate in writing this full authority to give final approval and/or to enter into Government contracts awarded through public bidding, as circumstances may warrant (i.e., decentralization of procurement in a Government Agency), subject to such limitations imposed by the Head of the Procuring Entity concerned (SEC. 5(j), Republic Act No. 9184).

As defined under SEC. 5(j) of Republic Act No. 9184, a Head of the Procuring Entity refers to (i) the head of the agency or his duly authorized official, for national government agencies; or (ii) the governing board or its duly authorized official, for government-owned and/or controlled corporations, among others.

SEC. 3. Exceptions to Public Bidding. SEC.s 48 to 53 of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations provide for exceptional cases where the procurement of infrastructure projects, goods and consulting services may be undertaken through alternative methods of procurement.

SEC. 4. Approval of Government Contracts Entered Into Through Alternative Methods of Procurement.

a. For Government Contracts Involving An Amount Of At Least Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500 Million). – Where the Head of the Procuring Entity has made a determination that a Government contract, including Government contracts required by law to be acted upon and/or approved by the President, involving an amount of at least Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500 Million) falls under any of the exceptions from public bidding described in SEC. 3 hereof, the Head of the Procuring Entity shall, before proceeding with the alternative methods of procurement provided by law and applicable rules and regulations, obtain the following requirements:

i. An opinion from the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) that said Government contract falls within the exceptions from public bidding; and

ii. Approval from the Director-General of NEDA to proceed with a specific alternative method of procurement under the exceptional cases provided by law and applicable rules and regulations.

Except for Government contracts required by law to be acted upon and/or approved by the President, the Heads of the Procuring Entities, after obtaining the foregoing requirements, shall have full authority to give final approval and/or to enter into said Government contracts of their respective agencies, entered into through alternative methods of procurement allowed by law. Provided, that the Head of the Procuring Entity certifies under oath that the contract has been entered into in faithful compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

b. For Government Contracts Involving An Amount Below Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500 Million). – Except for Government contracts required by law to be acted upon and/or approved by the President, the Heads of the Procuring Entities shall likewise

have full authority to give final approval and/or to enter into Government contracts of their respective agencies, entered into through alternative methods of procurement allowed by law. Provided, that the Department Secretary certifies under oath that the contract has been entered into in faithful compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The Heads of the Procuring Entities may delegate in writing this full authority to give final approval and/or to enter into Government contracts involving an amount below Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500 Million) entered into through alternative methods of procurement allowed by law, as circumstances may warrant (i.e., decentralization of procurement in a Government Agency), subject to existing laws and such limitations imposed by the Head of the Procuring Entity concerned (SEC. 5(j), Republic Act No. 9184).

SEC. 5. Authority to Bind the Government. All Government contracts shall require the approval and signature of the respective Heads of the Procuring Entities or their respective duly authorized officials, as the case may be, as required by law, applicable rules and regulations, and by this Executive Order, before said Government contracts shall be considered approved in accordance with law and binding on the government, except as may be otherwise provided in Republic Act No. 9184. For Government contracts required by law to be acted upon and/or approved by the President, SEC. 6 of this Executive Order governs the process by which such Government contracts shall be considered entered into with authority and binding on the Government.

The Heads of the Procuring Entities or their respective duly authorized officials, as the case may be, shall be responsible and accountable for ensuring that all Government contracts they approve and/or enter into are in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations and are consistent with the spending and development priorities of Government.

All Government contracts entered into in violation of the provisions of law, rules and regulations, and of this Executive Order shall be considered contracts entered into without authority and are thus invalid and not binding on the Government.

SEC. 6. Government Contracts Requiring Presidential Action and/or Approval .

a. All Government contracts required by law to be acted upon and/or approved by the President, and any subsequent amendments or supplements thereto, shall not be signed until after the NEDA Board, which is chaired by the President, has favorably acted upon and/or approved the same.

b. All Government contracts required by law to be acted upon and/or approved by the President, and any subsequent amendments or supplements thereto, shall be submitted with complete documentation to NEDA, through its Director-General, within seven (7) days from the approval by the Head of the Procuring Entity concerned or his/its duly authorized official, as the case may be, for NEDA's review and evaluation.

Government contracts submitted hereunder shall be accompanied by a complete execution copy of the contract, related agreements, annexes, other approvals and permits, including a detailed summary of the pertinent laws, rules and regulations governing the processing and award of the contract, and accompanied by the