

**THE KARNATAKA TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS
ACT, 1999
(KARNATAKA ACT NO. 29 OF 2000)**

(As amended by Act No. 21 of 2001)

*(First published in the Karnataka Gazette, on the Thirteenth day of
December, 2000)*

(Received the assent of the Governor on the tenth day of December, 2000)

An Act to provide for ensuring transparency in public procurement of goods and services by streamlining the procedure in inviting, processing and acceptance of tenders by procurement entities, and for matters related thereto.

Whereas, it is expedient in public interest to render the process of procurement of goods and services by procurement entities transparent by streamlining the procedure in inviting, processing and acceptance of tenders.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Fifty-first year of the Republic of India as follows-

CHAPTER I

1. Short title and commencement- (1) This Act may be called the ¹**[Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999]**.

(2) ²[It shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the Fourth day of October, 2000].

2. Definitions- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

(a) "**Construction works**" means putting up, demolishing, repairs or renovation of buildings, roads, bridges or other structures including fabrication of steel structures and all other civil works;

(b) "**Goods**" means machinery, motor vehicles, equipment, furniture, articles of stationery, textiles raw materials, drugs, scientific instruments, chemicals food grains, oil and oilseeds or other commodity require for consumption, use or distribution by a procurement entity in discharge of its public duties;

(c) "**Government**" means the State Government;

¹is substituted by **[Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Act, 2003]** in Karnataka Act No. 4 of 2003 dt. 27.3.2003

²is substituted by [It shall come into force at once] in Karnataka Act No. 4 of 2003 dt. 27.3.2003

- (d) "**Procurement Entity**" means any Government Department, a State Government Undertaking, Local Authority or Board, Body or Corporation established by or under any law and owned or controlled by the Government, and any other body or authority owned or controlled by the Government and as may be specified by it;
- (e) "**Public Procurement**" or "**Procurement**" means purchase of goods, obtaining of services or undertaking of construction works by the procurement entities;
- (f) "**Services**" means the action of serving, attending upon, helping or benefiting a procurement entity in the course of discharging its public duties and includes construction works;
- (g) "**Specified goods or services**" means the goods or services as the case may be specified in a tender and identified in the contract resulting from acceptance of a tender on account of a procurement entity;
- (h) "**Tender**" means the formal offer made for supply of goods or services in response to an invitation for tender published in a Tender Bulletin;
- (i) "**Tender Accepting Authority**" means an officer or a Committee appointed to accept tenders and a "**Tender Inviting Authority**" means an officer or a Committee appointed to invite tenders, under Section 9;
- (j) "**Tender Bulletin**" means a bulletin published for the State as a whole or for any district or districts within the State containing the details of invitation, processing and acceptance of Tenders;
- (k) "**Tender Bulletin Officer**" means a State Tender Bulletin Officer or a Tender Bulletin Officer referred to in Section 7;
- (l) "**Tender Document**" means the set of papers detailing the schedule of works, calendar of events, requirement of goods and services, technical specifications, procurement criteria and such other particulars as may be prescribed for evaluation and comparison of tenders.

3. Provisions not to apply to certain projects- The provisions of this Act in so far as they are inconsistent with the procedure specified in respect of the Projects funded by International Financial Agencies or Projects covered under International Agreements, shall not apply to procurement of goods or services for such project.

4. Exceptions to applicability- The provisions of Chapter II shall not apply to Procurement of goods and services-

- (a) During the period of natural calamity or emergency declared by the Government;
- (b) Where the goods or services are available from a single source or where a particular supplier or contractor has exclusive rights in respect of the goods or services or construction work and no reasonable alternatives or substitutes exist.

Provided that for the purpose of this clause there shall be a committee of three experts consisting of one technical representative of the procuring entity one technical representative of the Government organization dealing with similar procurement and one representative from a reputed Academic or Research Institution or Non-Commercial Institution having expertise in such line to examine and declare that the goods or services are available from a single source;

- (c) Where the procuring entity having procured goods, services or technology from a supplier or contractor determines that additional supplies must be procured from the same supplier or contractor for reasons of standardization and compatibility with the existing goods service or technology;
- (d) Where the goods or services are procured from certain Departments of Government, public sector undertakings, statutory boards and such other institutions specified by the Government and such goods are manufactured or services are provided by them, for a period not exceeding ³[two years] from the date of commencement of this Act;

³is substituted by [three years] in Karnataka Act No. 4 of 2003 dt. 27.03.2003

⁴[(e) Where the procurement is by the Government Departments, State Government Undertakings, or any Board, Body or Corporation established by or under any law and owned or controlled by the Government or Zilla Panchayats constituted under the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 or City Municipal Corporation established under the Municipal Corporation Act, 1976 or City Municipal Councils established under the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964 or the Hyderabad Karnataka Areas Development Board constituted under the Hyderabad Karnataka Area Development Board Act, 1993 or Malnad Area Development Board constituted under the Malnad Area Development Board Act, 1991 or the Bayaluseeme Development Board constituted under the Bayaluseeme Development Board Act, 1994-

(i) in case of construction works of all types the values of which does not exceed rupees five lakhs;

(ii) in case of goods or services other than construction works the value of which does not exceed rupees one lakh;

(ee) Where the procurement of goods or services is by the Grama Panchayats and Taluk Panchayats constituted under the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993, Town Municipal Councils or Town Panchayats constituted under the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964 or Urban Development Authorities constituted under the Karnataka Urban Development Authorities Act, 1987-

(i) for the purpose of implementing mini water supply scheme or construction of school rooms and the value of such procurement does not exceed rupees two lakhs; and

(ii) for other purposes and the value of such procurement does not exceed rupees one lakh.]

⁴Clauses (e) and (ee) substituted for clause (e) in Act No. 21 of 2001 w.e.f. 25.8.2001

- (f) Where the goods or services are procured under rate contracts from the Director General or Supplies and Disposals or from Associations of State Road Transport Undertakings; and
- (g) In respect of specific procurements as may be notified by the Government from time to time.
- (h) In respect of spot purchase of cotton by Spinning Mills, purchase of Oilseeds by the Karnataka Agro-Industries Corporation or the Karnataka Co-operative Oilseeds Grower's Federation, purchase of sugarcane by the Sugar Mills, direct purchase of paddy by the Agriculture Produce Market Committees and the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation, purchase of cloth by the Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation, purchase of silk by the Karnataka Milk Producers Co-operative Federation, purchase of palm oil by the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation and the Karnataka Co-operative Oilseeds Grower's Federation, purchase of cloth by the Government Departments and public sector undertaking from the Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation and purchase by such other organizations or purchase of any other material as may be notified by the Government from time to time.

CHAPTER II

Regulation of Procurement

5. Procurement other than by tender prohibited- On and from the date of commencement of this Act no Procurement Entity shall procure goods or services except by inviting tenders for supply.

6. Procurement Entities to follow procedure- No tender shall be invited, processed or accepted by a Procurement Entity after the commencement of this Ordinance except in accordance with the procedure laid down in this Act or the rules made thereunder.

7. Tender Bulletin Officers- (1) The Government may by notification appoint an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Secretary to Government of the concerned department to be the State Tender Bulletin Officer for the State in respect of that department where the procurement of that department covers more than one district.

(2) Deputy Commissioner of the District shall be the District Bulletin Officer.

8. Publication of Tender Bulletin- (1) The State Tender Bulletin Officer, or as the case may be, the District Tender Bulletin Officer shall on receipt of intimation relating to notice of invitation of tender from tender inviting authority or information relating to details of acceptance of tender under Section 13 or rejection of tender under Section 14 from the tender Accepting

Authority, publish within the prescribed time, the State Tender Bulletin or as the case may be District Tender Bulletin.

(2) The Tender Bulletin shall be made available for sale in the office of the Tender Bulletin Officer and in such other places as the Tender Bulletin Officer deems fit to make available.

9. Tender Inviting Authority and Tender Accepting Authority- The Procurement Entity may, by order, appoint-

(i) One or more officers or a Committee of Officers to be the Tender Inviting Authority for any specified area, specified procurement or specified class of goods or services; and

(ii) One or more of officers or a Committee of Officers to be the Tender Accepting Authority for any specified area or specified procurement, specified class of goods and services;

Provided that where a multi-member Committee is already appointed for any Procurement Entity for discharging the function of accepting tenders, such Committee shall be deemed to be a Tender Accepting Authority appointed under this Act.

10. Tender Security Committee- The Tender Accepting Authority may constitute a Tender Scrutiny Committee consisting of such persons as it deems fit to scrutinize tenders above five crores in the case of the Public works, Irrigation and Minor Irrigation Departments of the Government and above rupees one crore in other cases.

11. Opening of Tenders- (1) The procurement entity may authorize either the Tender Scrutiny Committee consisting of such persons as it deems fit to scrutinize tenders above five crores in the case of the Public Works, Irrigation and Minor Irrigation Departments of the Government and above rupees one crore in other cases.

(2) The Authority, or as the case may be the officer referred to in sub-section (1) shall open the tender draw up a list of tenderers in the prescribed manner and unless it is also the Tender Accepting Authority, forward the tenders along with the list of tenderers, to the Tender Accepting Authority.

12. Duties of Tender Inviting Authority- (1) It shall be the duty of every Tender Inviting Authority-

(a) to take out notice inviting tenders at the behest of the Procurement Entity in the prescribed manner;

(b) to communicate the notice inviting tenders by marking a copy thereof to the Tender Bulletin Officer concerned immediately after issue of the notice;

(c) to cause publication of notice inviting tenders in the prescribed manner; and

(d) to supply the Schedule of Rates and Tender Documents to every intending tenderer who has applied to get such documents.

(2) The Tender Inviting Authority shall take out notices, communications and publications required to be taken out under this section in such form, in such manner, by such mode and at such time and interval as may be prescribed and different manner and mode of publication may be prescribed for different procurements depending on the value of the procurement.

(3) The Tender Inviting Authority shall collect all the details received in response to the notice inviting tender, within the time stipulated and unless it is felt authorized to open the tender shall compile and forward all the tenders received to the Authority or Officer authorized to open the tenders.

13. Acceptance of Tender- The Tender Accepting Authority shall, after following such procedure as may be prescribed pass order accepting the tender and shall communicate the information relating to acceptance of tender together with a comparative analysis and reasons for accepting of tender to the procurement entity and the Tender Bulletin Officer;

Provided that where the Tender Accepting Authority consists of single officer who is due to retire within the next six months, from the date fixed for the acceptance for tender, he shall not act to accept the tender without obtaining prior approval of the Procurement Entity:

Provided further that subject to such general or special order as may be issued by the Government from time to time, the Tender Accepting Authority may before passing order accepting a tender negotiate with lowest tenderer.

14. General rejection of tenders- (1) The Tender Accepting Authority may at any time before passing an order of acceptance under Section 13 reject all the tenders on the ground of changes in the scope of procurement, failure of anticipated financial resource, accidents, calamities or any other ground as may be prescribed which would render the procurement unnecessary or impossible and report the same to the Procurement Entity.

(2) The Procurement Entity shall thereafter communicate the fact of the rejection under this section to all the Tenderers and also cause the same to be published in the Tender Bulletin.

15. Power to give directions- It shall be competent for the Government to give appropriate directions to the Procurement Entity or the Authorities under the Act in order to secure and maintain transparency at any stage of the process of procurement, and it shall be duty of the Procurement Entity or such authority to comply with the directions.

16. Appeal- (1) Any tenderer aggrieved by an order passed by the Tender Accepting Authority other than the Government under Section 13 may appeal to the prescribed authority within thirty days from the date of receipt of the order.

Provided that the prescribed authority may, in its discretion allow further time not exceeding thirty days for preferring any such appeal, if it is satisfied that the appellant had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal in time.

(2) The prescribed authority may after giving opportunity of being heard to both the parties pass such order thereon as it deems fit and such order and shall be final.

(3) The prescribed authority shall as far as possible dispose of the appeal within thirty days from the date of filing thereof.

17. Power to obtain information- Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, the Government may with a view to ensuring transparency call for and obtain, from any authority under the Act, any information relating to any matter in the process of procurement.

18. Power to call for records- The Government may at any time, with a view to ensuring transparency in the procurement process call upon any authority under the Act-

(i) to produce records relating to invitation, processing and acceptance of tenders;

(ii) to furnish the tender document, estimates/statements/accounts or statistics relating to such tenders; and

(iii) to furnish report on any specific point incidental to the procurement.

CHAPTER III Miscellaneous

19. Officers deemed to be Public Servants- Every Officer acting under or in pursuance of the provisions of this Act or under a rule, order or notification made thereunder, shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Central Act XLV of 1860).

20. Immunity for action taken in good faith- No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government or any officer or authority empowered to exercise powers or perform the functions under the Act in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

21. Bar of jurisdiction of Courts- Save as otherwise provided in this ordinance no order passed or proceedings taken by any officer or authority under this Act shall be called in question in any Court, and no injunction shall be granted by any Court in respect of any action taken or to be taken by such officer or authority in exercise of powers conferred on him or it, by or under this Act.

22. Act to override other laws- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force or any custom or usage agreement, decree or order of a Court or a Tribunal or other authority.

23. Penalty- Whoever contravenes the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.

24. Power to remove difficulties- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by an order published in the Gazette make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act as appear to them to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of the Act.

25. Power to make rules- (1) The Government, may by notification, make such rules as are necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made or notification or order issued under this Act shall as soon as possible, after it is made or issued, be placed before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days, which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and if before the expiry of the session in which it is laid or the sessions immediately following both Houses agree in making any modifications in the rule, notification or order or both Houses agree that the rule, notification or order shall not be made, the rule or notification or order shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so, however that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or notification or order.

26. Savings- All rules, regulations, orders, notifications departmental codes, manuals, bye-laws, official memoranda, circulars or any other order made or issued before the commencement of this Act and in force on the date of such commencement providing for or relating to any of the above matters for the furtherance of which this Act is enacted shall continue to be in force and effective as if they are made under the corresponding provisions of this Act, to the extent they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the

Act and unless and until superseded by anything done or any action taken or any rule, notification or order, is made under this Act.

27. Repeal and savings- (1) The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Ordinance, 2000 (Karnataka Ordinance No. 8 of 2000) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act.