



A LAW TO ESTABLISH NIGER STATE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BOARD AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNCETED THEREWITH

BE IT ENACTED by the House of Assembly of Niger State of Nigeria and by the authority of same as follows:

Citation and
Commencement

1. This Law may be cited as the Public Procurement Law, 2020 and shall come into operation on the 15th day of September, 2020.

Interpretation

2. In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires:

Accounting Officer means the person charged with line supervision of conduct of all procurement processes;

Approving Authority means the person charged with overall responsibility for the functioning of a ministry, department, or agency;

Assets includes tangible and intangible things which have been or may be sold or procured for a consideration;

Bid Security means a form of security assuring that the bidder shall not withdraw a bid within the period specified for acceptance and shall execute a written contract within the time specified in the bid;

Certificate of No Objection means the document evidencing and authenticating that due process and the letters of this Law have been followed in the conduct of a procurement proceeding and allowing for the procuring entity to enter into contract or effect payments to contractors or suppliers from the Treasury;

Contract means an agreement entered in writing;

Contractor or Supplier means any potential party to a procurement contract with the procuring entity and includes any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietor, joint stock company, joint venture or any other legal entity through which business is conducted;

Debar means the placing of a firm, company or natural person on a list of person ineligible to participate in any procurement proceedings under this Law;

Disposing Entity means MDAs that have the statutory responsibility to dispose public property using recognized methods pursuant to this Law;

Excessive Price means a monetary value proposed by a bidder for any procurement which is in the estimation of the board unreasonable and injudicious after consideration of the actual value of the item in question plus all reasonable imputations of cost and profit;

Goods means objects of every kind and description including raw materials, products, equipment and objects in solid, liquid or gaseous form and electricity as well as services incidental to the supply of the goods;

Interim Performance Certificates means evidence that a contractor or supplier has performed its obligations under procurement contract up to a level stipulated by the contractor but not meaning completion;

Interim Performance Certificate means authorized certificate raised by a statutory officer using recognized format indicating the level of work or service provided by a contractor or consultant for the purpose of advancing additional payment as progress is made towards the final completion of work or assignment.

International Competitive Bidding means the solicitation of bids from both domestic and foreign contractors and suppliers;

Judge Means a Judge of High Court of the State;

Lowest Evaluated Responsive Bid is the lowest price bid amongst the bids that meet all the technical requirements and standards as contained in the tender document;

Margin of Preference means the extra mark up on price allowed any domestic contractor or supplier bidding under international competitive bidding without being otherwise disadvantageous to the bid in terms of price;

M.D.A means Ministries, Departments and Agencies;

Minor Value means a monetary value which is not in excess of the monetary thresholds set for any approving authority by the board;

Monetary Threshold means the value limit in naira set by the board outside of which an approving authority may not award a procurement contract;

Negotiation means discussions to determine the terms and conditions of a contract or procurement;

Open Competitive Bidding means the offer of prices by individuals or firms competing for a contract, privilege or right to supply specified goods, works, construction or services;

Performance Guarantee means legal financial instruments raised by the Contractor or Service Provider in favour of the procuring MDA to cover the risk that it may be exposed to by virtue of advance payment it has made in consideration for a specified work to be executed or a service to be provided;

Prior Review Threshold means critical points in the procurement process at which documents are reviewed by a recognized officer to assess their appropriateness and completeness;

Procurement means acquisition;

Procuring Entity means any public body engaged in procurement and includes a ministry, department, or agency;

Public Procurement means the acquisition by any means of goods, works or services by the government;

Relevant Authority includes Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission;

Resident Due Process Team (RDPT) means a team that see to the administration of procurement at ministry, department, or agency level.

Services means the rendering by a contractor or supplier of his time and effort and includes any object of procurement other than goods, works or construction;

Solicitation Documents means the bid solicitation documents or any other documents for solicitation of offers, proposals or quotations;

State means Niger State:

Substantially Responsive means the response to bid solicitations which virtually answers to all the needs of a procuring entity as stipulated in the bid solicitation documents;

Supplier means a real or legal person that provides supply of goods, contracting of works or consultants;

Threshold refers only to the approving and not the actual process of award;

Validity Period means the period during which a bidder agrees not to increase the cost of its bid or to remove any components of the bid; and

Works means all works associated with the construction, reconstruction, demolition, repair or renovation of a building, structure or works, such as site preparation, excavation, erection; building, installation of equipment or materials, decoration and finishing, as well as services incidental to construction such as drilling, mapping, satellite photography, seismic investigation and similar services provided pursuant to the procurement of contract, where the value of those services does not exceed that of the construction itself.

3. (1) There shall be the State Council on Public procurement (in this Law referred to as "the Council") and its Members shall consist of:
- (a) a Chairman, who shall be a retired Judge of a Superior Court of record or a retired public servant who shall have served at a level not less than that of a Permanent Secretary or Director General or a position of coordinate status in the State or Federal Public Service, and who must be a person of integrity, not previously indicted by any administrative or judicial panel or convicted for any criminal offence.
 - (b) the Commissioner for Finance;
 - (c) the Commissioner for Economic Planning or official of coordinate responsibility;
 - (d) the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice;
 - (e) the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs;
 - (f) the Head of Service;
 - (g) four part-time Members to represent:
 - (i) the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Management of Nigeria;
 - (ii) Nigerian Society of Engineers;
 - (iii) the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors;
 - (iv) the Civil Society;
 - (h) the Director-General of the Board who shall be the Secretary of the Council.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this Section, the Council may co-opt any person to attend its meeting but the person so co-opted shall not have a casting vote or be counted towards quorum.

(3) The Chairman and the representatives of the four part-time Members of the Council listed under Sub-section (1)(g) of this Section shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of four years which may be renewed for another term of four years only, subject to confirmation by House of Assembly.

(4) The Chairman or a Member of the Council shall vacate office if he:

- (a) resigns in writing with a letter addressed to the Governor or the Chairman of the Council;
- (b) is convicted for any crime involving dishonesty or fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction within or outside Nigeria;
- (c) is found guilty of misconduct by an appropriate body or is barred from practicing his profession by any professional body he belongs to;
- (d) becomes bankrupt;
- (e) becomes of unsound mind and or by reason of ill health incapable of carrying out his duties;
- (f) vacates the office by reason of which he is a member of Council; or
- (g) is removed by the Governor if it is in the public interest to do so or on grounds of misconduct, if supported by two third majority vote of the State House of Assembly.

(5) All members of the Council other than the Director-General of the Board shall serve on a part-time basis.

Functions of the Council

4. The Council shall:

- (a) consider, approve and amend the monetary and prior review thresholds for the application of the provisions of this Law by procuring entities;
- (b) consider and approve policies on public procurement;
- (c) approve the appointment of the Directors of the Board;
- (d) receive and consider, for approval, the audited accounts of the Public Procurement Board;
- (e) approve changes in the procurement process to adapt to improvements in modern technology; and
- (f) give such other directives and perform such other functions as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this Law.

Establishment of the Public Procurement Board

5. (1) There is established an agency to be known as the Public Procurement Board (in this Law referred to as "the Board").

- (2) The Board:
- (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may sue and be sued; and
 - (c) may acquire, hold or dispose of any property, movable, or immovable for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Law.

Objectives of the Board

6. The objectives of the Board are;
- (a) the harmonization of existing government policies and practices on public procurement and ensuring probity, accountability and transparency in the procurement process;
 - (b) the establishment of pricing standards and benchmarks; ensuring the application of fair, competitive, transparent, value-for-money standard sand practices for the procurement and disposal of public assets; and services; and
 - (c) the attainment of transparency, competitiveness, cost effectiveness and professionalism in the public sector procurement system.

Functions of the Board

7. (1) The Board shall:
- (a) formulate the general policies and guidelines relating to public sector procurement for the approval of the Council;
 - (b) publicize and explain the provisions of this Law;
 - (c) subject to thresholds as may beset by the Council, certify State procurement prior to the award of contract;
 - (d) supervise the implementation of established procurement policies;
 - (e) monitor the prices of tendered items and keep a State database of standard prices;
 - (f) publish the details of major contracts in the procurement journal;
 - (g) publish paper and electronic editions of the procurement journal and maintain an archival system for the procurement journal;
 - (h) maintain a State database of the particulars and classification and categorization of contractors and service providers;
 - (i) collate and maintain in an archival system, all State procurement plans and information;
 - (j) undertake procurement research and surveys;
 - (k) Organize training and development programmes for procurement professionals;

- (l) periodically review the socio economic effect of the policies on procurement and advise the Council accordingly;
- (m) prepare and update standard bidding and contract documents;
- (n) prevent fraudulent and unfair procurement and where necessary apply administrative sanctions;
- (o) review the procurement and award of contract procedures of every entity to which this Law applies;
- (p) perform procurement audits and submit such report to the House of Assembly bi-annually;
- (q) introduce, develop, update and maintain related database and technology;
- (r) establish a single internet portal that shall serve as a primary and definitive source of all information on government procurement containing and displaying all public sector procurement information at all times; and
- (s) co-ordinate relevant training programs to build institutional capacity.

(2) There is established in all procuring entities of the State and Local Government Councils, procurement departments or units which shall best be staffed by personnel selected from the procurement cadre; and

(3) Any reference to Due Process Offices and Desk Officers in the Principal Law or regulations issued pursuant to it, refers to Procurement Departments or Units, and procurement personnel respectively.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Law, the Council may at any time authorize the Board to design and set up a secure electronic portal to be known as the Niger State Government Electronic Procurement System, otherwise known as the Niger e-procurement system which shall be an integrated platform for all state and local government public procurement activities within the purview of this Law and regulations issued pursuant to it.

(5) Subject to the approval of the Council, the Board shall issue guidelines for the deployment of e-procurement system by procuring entities and or local governments in the state in implementation of their procurement activities.

(6) The e-procurement system shall be designed to ensure the attainment of the objectives of this Law, especially to ensure transparency, accountability, efficiency, competitiveness, and value for money in all procurement and disposal activities.

8. (1) The Board shall have the power to:
- (a) enforce the monetary and prior review thresholds set by the Council for the application of the provisions of this Law by the procurement entities;
 - (b) subject to paragraph (a) of this subsection, issue "Certificate of No Objection" for Contract Award within the prior review threshold for all procurements within the purview of this Law;
 - (c) from time to time stipulate to all procuring entities, the procedures and documentation pre-requisite for the issuance of "Certificate of No Objection "under this Law;
 - (d) where a reason exist:
 - (i) cause to be inspected or reviewed any procurement transaction to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Law;
 - (ii) review and determine whether any procuring entity has violated any provision of this Law;
 - (e) debar any supplier, contractor or service provider that contravenes any *Powers of the Board* or provision of this Law and regulations made pursuant to this Law;
 - (f) maintain a State database of contractors and service providers and to the exclusion of all procuring entities prescribe classifications and categorizations for the companies on the register;
 - (g) maintain a list of firms and persons that have been debarred from participating in public procurement activity and publish them in the procurement journal;
 - (h) call for such information, documents, records and reports in respect of any aspect of any procurement proceeding where a breach, wrong doing, default, mismanagement and or collusion has been alleged, reported or proved against a procuring entity or service provider;
 - (i) recommend to the Council, where there are persistent or serious breaches of this Law or regulations or guidelines made under this Law;
 - (i) the suspension of officers concerned with the procurement or disposal proceeding in issue;
 - (ii) the replacement of the head or any of the members of the procuring or disposal Resident Due Process Team of any entity.
 - (iii) the discipline of the Accounting Officer of any procuring entity;
 - (iv) the temporary transfer of the procuring and disposal function of a procuring and disposing entity to a third party procurement agency or consultant; or

(v) any other sanction that the Board may consider appropriate.

(j) call for the production of books of accounts, plans, documents, and examine persons or parties in connection with any procurement proceeding;

(k) act upon complaints in accordance with the procedures set out in this Law;

(l) nullify the whole or any part of any procurement proceeding or award which is in contravention of this Law;

(m) visit and inspect projects if deemed necessary for the purpose of carrying out their functions and achieving the objectives of this Law; and

(n) do such other things as are necessary for the efficient performance of its functions under this Law.

- (2) The Board shall serve as the Secretariat for the Council and subject to the approval of the Council, have power to enter into contract or partnership with any company, firm or person which in its opinion will facilitate the discharge of its functions.

Director -
General of
the Board

9. (1) There shall be a Director-General for the Board who shall be appointed by the Governor from the list of the qualified three candidates selected by the Council through a competitive process and recommended to the Governor.
- (2) The appointment of the Director-General shall be subject to the confirmation by the State House of Assembly.
- (3) The Director- General shall be:
- (a) the chief executive and accounting officer of the Board;
 - (b) responsible for the execution of the policy and day to day administration of the affairs of the Board; and
 - (c) a person who possesses the relevant and adequate professional qualification and shall have cognate experience of not less than 10 years.
- (4) The Director-General shall hold office:
- (a) for a term of 4 years in the first instance and may be re-appointed for a further term of 4 years and no more; and
 - (b) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment.
- (5) The Governor may remove from office the Director General if it is in the public interest for him to do so or upon the recommendation of Council the Governor may remove from office the Director General, if pursuant to a fair hearing, he is indicted of any of the following grounds:

- (a) financial impropriety; or
- (b) fraud; or
- (c) manifest incompetence; or
- (d) repeated breaches of ethics rules; or
- (e) serious and repeated abdication of duty; or
- (f) consistent and or grievous infractions of this Law or regulation issued therefrom;

Provided that such removal shall be subject to the approval of the State House of Assembly.

(6) In the absence of the Director General, the most senior Director of the Board shall assume office in an acting capacity pending his return or appointment of a new substantive Director General.

*Principal Officer
of the Board*

10. (1) The Council shall appoint the Principal Officers for the Board after competitive selection process to the following offices:

- (a) Deputy Director General;
- (b) Anti-corruption Unit;
- (c) Research, Review and Documentation;
- (d) Monitoring and Evaluation;
- (e) Legal Services;
- (f) Procurement Audit;
- (g) Information Communication Technology (I.C.T); and
- (h) Director of Administration.

(2) The principal officers appointed under subsection (1) shall have the requisite qualification and experience required for the effective performance of the functions of their respective Departments and the Board as specified under this Law.

(3) The Council shall have power to modify the operational structure of the Board as may be necessary to enhance the Board's duties and functions under this Law.

*Other staff
of the Board*

11. (1) The Council may appoint such officers and other employees as may, from time to time, be deemed necessary for the purpose of the Board.

(2) The terms and conditions of service (including remuneration, allowances, benefits and pensions) of officers and employees of the Board shall be as obtained in the State Public Service.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Council shall have power to appoint either on transfer or on secondment from the civil service in the State, such number of employees as may be required to assist the Board to the discharge of any of its functions under the Law and persons so employed shall be remunerated (including allowances) as the Council may consider appropriate.

12. (1) The Council may, subject to the provisions of this Law, make staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the employees of the Board and without prejudice to the foregoing, such regulations may provide for:

- (a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control (including dismissal) of employees of the Board; and
- (b) appeals by such employees against dismissal or other disciplinary measures.

(2) Until such regulations are made, any instrument Relating to the conditions of service of officers in the civil service of the State shall be applicable.

13. Employees of the Board shall be entitled to pensions, and other retirement benefits as prescribed under the Pension Law.

14. (1) The Board shall establish and maintain a Fund, to be approved by the Council, into which shall be paid and credited:

- (a) the sums appropriated by the House of Assembly for the running of the Board;
- (b) all subventions, fees and charges for services rendered or publications made by the Board; and
- (c) all other assets which may, from time to time, accrue to the Board.

(2) The Board shall charge its fund to meet all its expenditure.

(3) The Council may make regulations for the Board:

- (a) specifying the manner in which assets or the fund of the Board are to be held, and regulating the making of payment into and out of the fund; and
- (b) requiring the keeping of proper accounts and records for the purposes of the fund in such form as may be specified in the rules.

(4) The Board may, from time to time, apply the proceeds of the fund for:

- (a) The cost of administration of the Board;
- (b) The payments of salaries, fees and other remuneration of employees of the Board or experts or professionals appointed by the Board;
- (c) the maintenance of any property acquired by or vested in the Board;
- (d) any matter connected with all or any of the functions of the Board under this Law; and
- (e) any expenditure connected with all or any of the functions of the Board under this Law.

15. (1) The financial year of the Board shall be the same as that of the State government.
- (2) Not later than 6 months before the end of the financial year, the Board shall submit to the Council an estimate of its expenditure and projected income during the next succeeding year.
- (3) The Board shall keep proper accounts and records of its receipts, payments, assets and liabilities and shall in respect of each financial year prepare a statement of account in such form as the Council may direct.
- (4) The Board shall within 6 months after the end of the financial year to which the accounts relate cause the accounts to be audited in accordance with guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the State.
- (5) The Board shall at the end of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Council a report in such form as shall accurately capture all the activities of the Board during the preceding year and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the Board for that year.

16. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Law, no suit shall be commenced against the Board before the expiration of 30 days after written notice of an intention to commence the suit shall have been served upon the Board by the intending claimant or his agent; and the notice shall clearly and explicitly state:
- (a) the cause of action;
 - (b) The particulars of the claim;
 - (c) The name and address of legal practitioner of the intending claimant; and
 - (d) The relief being sought.
- (2) A member of the Board or the Director-General or any officer or employee of the Board shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Board against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, if the proceeding is brought against him in his capacity as a member, Director - General, officer or other employee of the Board.
- (3) A notice, summons or other documents required or authorized to be served upon the Board under the provisions of this Law or any other law or enactment may be served by delivering to the Director - General or by sending it by registered post and address to the Director-General at the principal office of the Board.

17. (1) The provisions of this Law shall apply to all procurement of goods, works, or services carried out by the State government and Local Governments and all procurement entities.
- (2) The provisions of this Law shall not apply to:
- (a) any joint project between the Federal and State Government in which the Federal Government's counterpart fund is up to or above 35% of the project's monetary value; and
 - (b) a project to be implemented for the state with the support of a funding institution which project documents stipulate that the procurement rules of the supporting institution shall apply.

18. (1) Subject to any exemption allowed by this Law all public procurement shall be conducted:
- (a) subject to the prior review thresholds as may from time to time be approved by the Council as provided under this Law;
 - (b) based only on procurement plans supported by prior budgetary appropriation, no procurement proceedings shall be formalized until the procuring entity has ensured that funds are available to meet the obligations and subject to the threshold in the regulations made by the Board, has obtained a "Certificate of No Objection" to contract Award from the Board;
 - (c) by open competitive bidding;
 - (d) in a manner which is transparent, timely and equitable for ensuring accountability and conformity with this Law and regulations deriving there from;
 - (e) with the aim of achieving value for money and fitness for purpose;
 - (f) in a manner which promotes competition, economy and efficiency; and
 - (g) in accordance with the procedures and timeline laid down in this Law and as may be specified by the Board from time to time.
- (2) Where the Board has set prior review thresholds in the procurement guidelines, no funds shall be disbursed from the treasury or revenue account or any bank account of any procuring entity for any procurement falling above the set thresholds unless the cheque, payments or other form of request for payments is accompanied by a "Certificate of No Objection" to an Award of Contract duly issued by the Board.

(3) For all cases where the Board shall set a prior review threshold, the Board shall prescribe by regulation, guidelines and the conditions precedent to the award of "Certificate of No Objection" under this Law.

(4) Subject to the prior review thresholds as maybe set by the Board, any procurement purported to be awarded without a "Certificate of No Objection" to Contract Award" duly issued by the Board shall be null and void.

(5) A supplier, contractor or service provider maybe a natural person, a legal person or a combination of the two. Suppliers, contractors or service providers acting jointly are jointly and severally liable for all obligations and or responsibility arising from this Law and the non-performance or improper performance of any contract awarded pursuant to this Law.

(6) All bidders, in addition to requirements contained in any solicitation documents shall:

- (a) possess the necessary:
 - (i) professional and technical qualifications to carry out particular procurements;
 - (ii) financial capability;
 - (iii) equipment and other relevant infrastructure.
- (b) shall have adequate personnel to perform the obligations of the procurement contracts.
- (c) possess the legal capacity to enter into the procurement contract;
- (d) not be in receivership, the subject of any form of insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings or the subject of any form of winding up petition or proceedings;
- (e) have fulfilled all its obligations to pay taxes, pensions and social security contributions; not have any director who has been convicted in any country for any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety or criminal misrepresentation or falsification of facts relating to any matter; accompany every bid with an affidavit disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the procurement entity or Board is a former or present director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars.

(7) The procuring entity may require a bidder to provide documentary evidence or other information it considers necessary as proof that the bidder is qualified in accordance with this Law and the solicitation documents and for this purpose any such requirements shall apply equally to all bidders.

(8) Whenever it is established by a procuring entity or the Board that any or a combination of the situations set out exist, a bidder may have its bid or tender excluded from any particular procurement proceeding if:

(a) there is verifiable evidence that any supplier, contractor or consultant has given or promised a gift of money or any tangible item, or has promised, offered or given employment or any other benefit, item or a service that can be quantified in monetary terms to a current or former employee of a procuring entity or the Board, in an attempt to influence any action, or decision making of any procurement activity;

(b) a supplier, contractor or consultant during the last three years prior to the commencement of the procurement proceedings in issue, failed to perform or to provide due care in performance of any public procurement;

(c) the bidder is in receivership or is the subject of any type of insolvency proceedings or if being a private company under the Companies and Allied Matters Act, is controlled by a person or persons who are subject to any bankruptcy proceedings or who have been declared bankrupt and or have made any compromises with their creditors within two calendar years prior to the initiation of the procurement proceeding;

(d) the bidder is in arrears regarding payment of due taxes, charges, pensions or social insurance contributions, unless such bidders have obtained a law fulpermit with respect to allowance, deference of such outstanding payment thereof in installments;

(e) the bidder has been validly sentenced for a crime committed in connection with a procurement proceeding; or any other crime committed to gain financial profit;

(f) the bidder has in its management or is in any portion owned by any person that has been validly sentenced for a crime committed in connection with a procurement proceeding, or other crime committed to gain financial profit; and

(g) the bidder fails to submit a statement regarding its dominating or subsidiary relationships with respect to other parties to the proceedings and persons acting on behalf of the procuring entity participating in same proceeding or whom remains in subordinate relationship with other participants to the proceedings.

(9) In such cases the procuring entity shall inform the Board and person referred to in subsection (8)(a)-(g) in writing, that the bid or tender in question has been excluded and the grounds for the exclusion and to keep a record of same in the file pertaining to the public procurement proceeding in question.

(10) All communications and documents issued by procuring entities and the Board shall be in English Language.

(11) All communications regarding any matter deriving from this Law or proceedings of public procurement shall be in writing or such other form as may be stipulated by the Board.

(12) Every procurement entity shall maintain both file and electronic records of all procurement proceedings made within each financial year and the procurement records shall be maintained for a period of ten years from the date of the award.

(13) Copies of all procurement records shall be transmitted to the Board not later than 3 months after the end of the financial year and shall show:

- (a) information identifying the procuring entity and the contractors;
- (b) the date of the contract award;
- (c) the value of the contract; and
- (d) the detailed records of the procurement proceedings.

(14) All unclassified procurement records shall be open to inspection by the public at the cost of copying and certifying the documents plus an administrative charge as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board especially where there is suspicion of fraud or discrepancies.

(15) The criteria stipulated as the basis upon which suppliers or contractors would be evaluated shall not be change in the course of any procurement proceeding.

(16) The burden of proving fulfillment of the requirement for participation in any procurement proceeding shall lie on the supplier or contractor.

(17) A contract shall be awarded to the lowest evaluated responsive bid from the bidders substantially responsive to the bid solicitation.

(18) Notwithstanding subsection (16), the Board may refuse to issue a "Certificate of No Objection" to Contract Award on the grounds that the price is excessive.

(19) Pursuant to subsection (17), the Board may direct either that the procurement proceedings be entirely cancelled or that the procuring entity conduct a re-tender.

(20) Pursuant to subsection (18), the Board may either direct that the procurement proceedings be entirely cancelled or that the procuring entity conduct a tender.

(21) The accounting officer of a procuring entity and any officer to whom responsibility is delegated are responsible and accountable for any action taken or omitted to be taken either in compliance with or in contravention of this Law.

(22) The accounting officer of a procuring entity has the responsibility to ensure that the provisions of this Law and the regulations laid down by the Board are complied with, and concurrent approval by any Resident Due Process Team shall not absolve the accounting officer from accountability for anything done in contravention of this Law or the regulations laid down hereunder.

(23) Procurement and disposal decisions of a procuring entity shall be taken in strict adherence to the provisions of this Law and any regulations as may from time to time be laid down by the Board.

(24) Persons who have been engaged in preparing for a procurement or part of the proceedings thereof may neither bid for the procurement in question or any part thereof either as main contractor or subcontractor nor may they cooperate in any manner with bidders in the course of preparing their tenders.

(25) A procuring entity shall not request or stipulate that a bidder should engage a particular subcontractor as a requirement for participating in any procurement proceedings.

(26) All procurement contracts shall contain provisions for amicable settlement as the primary form of dispute resolution. Where this fails, the contracting parties shall refer the dispute for Mediation or Arbitration and both fail the parties may have recourse to litigation.

(27) The values in procurement documents shall be stated in Nigerian currency and where stated in a foreign currency shall be converted to Nigerian currency using the exchange rate of the Central Bank of Nigeria valid on the day of opening a tender or bid.

(28) All procurement contracts shall contain warranties for durability of goods, exercise of requisite skills in service provision and use of genuine materials and inputs in execution.

(29) Every bid shall disclose in full the names of partners, directors, trustees and if a private limited company, the names of its shareholders as well as any other party that has beneficial interest or intended to have beneficial interest of any nature in a bid or resulting contract.

(30) Standard bidding documents issued by procuring entities shall where applicable promote local content in the state and make provisions for the application of local resources and non-professional personnel available in the state.

(31) Where a procuring entity does not possess in-house expertise for the implementation of its procurement activity, the relevant procuring ministry, department or agency of government with the required expertise shall serve as its in-service advisor in preparing and implementing the project.

(32) Pursuant to sub-section 31 of this section, the Board shall by regulations specify the roles of a procuring entity and the ministry, agency or department acting as in-house service advisor.

*Approving
authority*

19. Subject to the monetary and prior review thresholds for procurements in this Law as may from time to time be determined by the Council, ministries, departments, or agencies shall be the approving authority for the conduct of public procurement.

*Procurement
Plan*

20. Subject to regulations as may from time to time be made by the Board under the direction of the Council; a procuring entity shall plan its procurement by:
- (i) preparing the needs assessment and evaluation;
 - (ii) identifying the goods, works or services required;
 - (iii) carrying appropriate market and statistical surveys and on that basis prepare analysis of the cost implications of the proposed procurement;
 - (iv) aggregating its requirements whenever possible, both within the procuring entity and between procuring entities, to obtain economy of scale and reduce procurement cost;
 - (v) Integrating its procurement expenditure into its yearly budget;
 - (vi) Prescribing any method for effecting the procurement subject to the necessary approval under this Law; and

(vii) Ensuring that the procurement entity functions stipulated in this Section shall be carried out by the Resident Due Process Team.

21. Subject to regulations as may from time to time be made by the Board under direction of Council, procuring entity shall, in implementing its procurement plans:
- (a) advertise and solicit for bids in adherence to this Law and guidelines as may be issued by the Board from time to time;
 - (b) invite two credible persons as observers in every procurement process, one person each representing a recognized:
 - (i) private sector professional organization whose expertise is relevant to the particular goods or service being procured; and
 - (ii) non-governmental organization working in transparency, accountability and anticorruption areas, and the observers shall not intervene in the procurement process but shall have right to submit their observation report to any relevant agency or body including their own organizations or associations;
 - (c) receive, evaluate and make a selection of the bids received in adherence to this Law and guidelines as may be issued by the Board from time to time;
 - (d) obtain approval of the approving authority before making an award;
 - (e) debrief the bid losers on request;
 - (f) resolve complaints and disputes if any;
 - (g) obtain and confirm the validity of any performance guarantee;
 - (h) obtain a "Certificate of No Objection" to Contract Award from the Board within the prior review threshold as stipulated in Section 8 (1)(b) and (c) of this Law;
 - (i) execute all Contract Agreements; and
 - (j) announce and publicize the award in the format stipulated by this Law and guidelines as may be issued by the Board from time to time.
22. (1) The accounting officer of a procuring entity shall be the person charged with line supervision of the conduct of all procurement processes; in the case of ministries, the Permanent Secretary and in the case of departments and agencies, the Director - General, General Manager, Executive Secretary or officer of co-ordinate responsibility.

(2) The accounting officer of every procuring entity shall have overall responsibility for the planning of organization of tenders, evaluation of tenders and execution of all procurements and in particular shall be responsible for:

- (a) ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Law by his entity and liable in person for the breach or contravention of the Law or any regulation made hereunder whether or not the act or omission was carried out by him personally or any of his subordinates and it shall not be material that he had delegated any function duty or power to any person or group of persons;
- (b) constituting the Procurement Resident Due Process Team and its decisions;
- (c) ensuring that adequate appropriation is provided specifically for the procurement in the State budget;
- (d) integrating his entity's procurement expenditure into its yearly budget;
- (e) ensuring that no reduction of values or splitting of procurements is carried out such as to evade the use of the appropriate procurement procedure;
- (f) constituting the Evaluation Committee;
- (g) liaising with the Board to ensure the implementation of its guidelines.

Establishment
of Residence
Due Process
Team

23. (1) There is hereby established by this Law in each procuring entity a Resident Due Process Team (in this Law referred to as "Resident Due Process Team").

- (2) The Resident Due Process Team shall consist of:
- (i) the accounting officer of the procuring entity or his representative who shall chair the Team;
 - (ii) the financial unit of the procuring entity;
 - (iii) except where not applicable, are presentative of the planning, research and statistics unit of the procuring entity shall be the Secretary;
 - (iv) technical personnel of the procuring entity with expertise in the subject matter for each particular procurement;
 - (v) the administrative unit of the procuring entity; and
 - (vi) a representative of the Store unit of the procuring entity.
 - (vi) the Desk Officer or representative of the Ministry of Justice

24. (1) Subject to the approval of the Council, the Board shall, from time to time, prescribe guidelines for the membership of the Resident Due Process Team.

- (2) The Resident Due Process Team shall be responsible for the award of procurements of goods, works and services within the threshold set in the guidelines.
- (3) In all cases where there is a need for prequalification, the Chairman of the Resident Due Process Team shall constitute a Sub-Committee to undertake technical evaluation of bids which shall be made up of professional staff of the procuring entity and the Secretary of the Resident Due Process Team who shall be the Chairman of the Evaluation Sub- Committee.
- (4) The decision of the Resident Due Process Team shall all be communicated to the Commissioner for implementation.
25. (1) Where a procuring entity had made a decision with respect to the minimum qualifications of suppliers, contractors or service providers by requesting interested persons to submit applications, to pre-qualify, it shall set out precise criteria upon which it seeks to give consideration to the applications and in reaching a decision as to which supplier, contractor or service provider qualifies, shall apply only the criteria set out in the prequalification documents and no more.
- (2) Procuring entities shall supply a set of prequalification documents to each supplier, contractor or consultant that requests them, and the price that a procuring entity may charge for the prequalification documents shall reflect only the cost of printing and provision to suppliers or contractors and consultants.
- (3) The prequalification document shall include:
- (a) instructions to prepare and submit prequalification application;
 - (b) a summary of the main terms and conditions required for the procurement contract to be entered into as a result of the procurement proceedings;
 - (c) any documentary evidence or other information that must be submitted by suppliers, contractors or consultants to demonstrate their qualifications;
 - (d) the manner and place for the submission of applications to pre-qualify and the deadline for the submission, expressed as a specific date and time which allows sufficient time for suppliers, contractors or consultants to prepare and submit their applications taking into account the reasonable need of the procuring entity; and

(e) any other requirement that may be established by the procuring entity in conformity with this Law and procurement regulations relating to the preparation and submission of applications to pre-qualify and to the prequalification proceedings.

(4) The procurement entity shall respond to any request by a supplier, contractor or consultant for clarification of the prequalification documents if the request is made at least ten days before the deadline for the submission of applications to prequalify.

(5) The response by the procuring entity shall be given within a reasonable time and in any event within a period of at most seven working days so as to enable the supplier, contractor or consultant to make a timely submission of its application to prequalify.

(6) The response to any request that might reasonably be expected to be of interest to other supplier, contractor or consultant shall, without identifying the source of the request, be communicated to other suppliers or contractors or consultants provided with the prequalification documents by the procuring entity.

(7) A procuring entity shall promptly notify each supplier, contractor or consultant which submitted an application to pre-qualify of whether or not it has been pre-qualified and shall make available to any member of the general public upon request, the names of the supplier, contractors or consultants who have been pre-qualified.

(8) Supplier, contractors or consultants who have been pre-qualified may participate further in the procurement proceedings.

(9) The procuring entity shall upon request communicate to supplier, contractors or consultants who have not been pre-qualified; the grounds for disqualification.

(10) The procuring entity may require a supplier, contractor or service provider who has been prequalified to demonstrate its qualifications again in accordance with the same criteria used to pre-qualify the supplier, contractor or consultant.

(11) The procuring entity shall promptly notify each supplier, contractor or service provider requested to demonstrate its qualifications again whether or not the supplier, contractor or consultant has done so to the satisfaction of the procuring entity.

(12) The procuring entity shall disqualify any supplier, contractor or service provider who fails to demonstrate its qualification again if requested to do so.

26. (1) Except as provided by this Law, all procurements of goods and works by all procuring entities shall be conducted by open competitive bidding.

(2) Any reference to open competitive bidding in this Law means the process by which a procuring entity, based on previously defined criteria, effects public procurements by offering to every interested bidder equal simultaneous information and opportunity to offer the goods and works or services needed.

(3) The winning bid shall be that which is the lowest evaluated responsive bid which has been responsive to the bid with regards to work specification and standard.

27. (1) Invitations to bid may be either by way of National Competitive Bidding or International Competitive Bidding and the Board shall from time to time set the monetary thresholds for which procurements shall fall under either system.

(2) Every invitation to an open competitive bid shall:
(a) in the case of goods and works under International Competitive Bidding, the invitation for bids shall be advertised in at least two national newspapers and one relevant internationally recognized publication, any official websites of the procuring entity and the Board as well as the procurement journal not less than six weeks before the deadline for submission of the bids for the goods and works; and
(b) in the case of goods and works valued under National Competitive Bidding the invitation for bids shall be advertised on the notice board of the procuring entity, any official web site of the procuring entity, at least two national newspapers and in the procurement journal not less than four weeks before the deadline for submission of the bids for the goods, works or services.

28. (1) Subject to the monetary and prior review thresholds as may from time to time be set by the Board all procurements valued in excess of the sums prescribed by the Board shall require a bid security in an amount not more than 10% of the bid price by way of a bank guarantee issued by a reputable bank acceptable to the procuring entity.

(2) The Board shall from time to time specify the principal terms and conditions of time required bid security in the tender documents.

(3) When the procuring entity requires suppliers or contractors submitting tenders to provide a bid security the requirement shall apply to each supplier or contractor.

Submission
Of Bids

29. (1) All bids in response to an invitation to open competitive bidding shall be submitted in writing and in addition to any other format stipulated in the tender documents, signed by an official authorized to bind the bidder to a contract and placed in a sealed envelop.
- (2) All submitted bids shall be deposited in a secured tamper-proof bid box.
- (3) All bids submitted shall be in English Language.
- (4) The procuring entity shall issue a receipt showing the date and time the bid was delivered.
- (5) Any bid received after the deadline for the submission of bids shall not be opened and must be returned to the supplier or contractor which submitted it.
- (6) No communication shall take place between procuring entities and any supplier or contractor after the publication of a bid solicitation other than as provided in this Law.

Rejection of
Bids

30. A procuring entity may:
- (a) reject all bids at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid, without incurring thereby any liability to the bidders; and
 - (b) cancel the procurement proceedings in the public interest, without incurring any liability to the bidders.

Validity
Period of
Bids,
modification
and
withdrawal of
tenders

31. (1) The period of validity for a bid shall be the period specified in the tender documents.
- (2) A procuring entity may request suppliers or contractors to extend the period of validity for an additional specified period of time.
- (3) A supplier or contractor may refuse the request for the extension of bid, in which case the effectiveness of its bid will terminate upon the expiration of the un extended period of effectiveness.
- (4) A supplier or contractor may modify or withdraw its bid prior to the deadline for the submission of bids.
- (5) The modification or notice of withdrawal is effective if it is received by the procurement entity before the deadline for the submission of tenders.

32. All bids shall be submitted before the deadline or date specified in the tender documents or any extension of the deadline for submission and the procuring entity shall:
- (a) permit attendees to examine the envelopes in which the bids have been submitted to ascertain that the bids have not been tampered with;
 - (b) cause all the bids to be opened in public, in the presence of the bidders or their representatives and any interested member of the public;
 - (c) ensure that the bid opening takes place immediately following the deadline stipulated for the submission of bids or any extension thereof;
 - (d) ensure that a register is taken of the names and addresses of all those present at the bid opening and the organizations they represent which is recorded by the Secretary of the Resident Due Process Team; and
 - (e) call-over to the hearing of all present, the name and address of each bidder, the total amount of each bid, the bid currency and shall ensure that details are recorded by the Secretary of the Resident Due Process Team or his delegate in the minutes of the bid opening.
33. (1) All bids shall be first examined to determine if they:
- (a) meet the minimum eligibility requirements stipulated in the bidding documents;
 - (b) have been duly signed;
 - (c) are substantially responsive to the bidding documents; and
 - (d) are generally in order.
- (2) A procuring entity may ask a supplier or a contractor for clarification of its bid submission in order to assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of bids.
- (3) The following shall not be sought, offered or permitted:
- (a) changes in prices;
 - (b) changes of substance in a bid; and
 - (c) changes to make an unresponsive bid responsive.
- (4) Notwithstanding sub-section (3), the procuring entity may correct purely arithmetical errors that are discovered during the examination of tenders.
- (5) The procuring entity shall give prompt notice of the correction to the supplier or contractor that submitted the tender.
- (6) A major deviation shall result in a rejection of bid while a minor deviation shall be subject to clarification.

- (7) The following shall be considered as major deviations:
- (a) with respect to clauses in an offer:
 - (i) unacceptable subcontracting,
 - (ii) unacceptable time schedule if time is of essence,
 - (iii) unacceptable alternative design, and
 - (iv) unacceptable price adjustment;
 - (b) with respect to the status of the bidder :
 - (i) the fact that he is ineligible or not pre-qualified; and
 - (ii) the fact that he is uninvited;
 - (c) with respect to bid documents, an unsigned bid;
 - (d) with respect to time, date and location for submission:
 - (i) any bid received after the date and time for submission stipulated in the solicitation document;
 - (ii.) any bid submitted at the wrong location.

(8) In cases of major deviations, bids shall not be considered any further and, where unopened, shall be returned as such to the bidder.

(9) In all cases of rejection, a letter stipulating the reasons for rejection shall be sent, and the bidder shall not be permitted to amend his bid to become compliant.

(10) Subject to any provision to the contrary, the following shall be considered as minor deviations:

- (a) the use of codes;
- (b) the difference in standards;
- (c) the difference in materials;
- (d) alternative design;
- (e) modified liquidated damages;
- (f) omission in minor items;
- (g) discovery of arithmetical errors;
- (h) sub-contracting that is unclear and questionable;
- (i) different methods of construction;
- (k) difference in final delivery date;
- (l) difference in delivery schedule;
- (m) completion period where these are not of essence;
- (n) non-compliance with some technical local guideline;
- (o) payment terms; and
- (p) any other condition that has little impact on the bid.

- (k) decision of reject
- (l) recommendation
- (m) writing up of the

(11) In cases not mentioned above and where there exists a doubt as to whether a particular condition in a bid is a major or a minor deviation, the following rules shall apply:

(a) where the impact on the costs is major, it shall be regarded as a major deviation; and

(b) where the impact on the costs is minor, it shall be regarded as a minor deviation.

(12) In cases of minor deviations, written clarification may be obtained from the supplier or contractor and, where applicable, an offer made for the correction of the minor deviation.

(13) Where a supplier or contractor does not accept the correction of a minor deviation, his bid shall be rejected.

(14) At the stage of evaluation and comparison, all minor deviations shall be qualified in monetary terms.

(15) For the rejection of a bid, a written notice shall be given promptly to the supplier.

Evaluation
of bids

34. (1) For the evaluation and comparison of bids that have been adjudged valid for the purposes of evaluation, no other method or criteria shall be used except those stipulated in the solicitation documents.
- (2) The objective of bid evaluation shall be to determine and select the lowest evaluated responsive bid from bidders that have responded to the solicitation.
- (3) In the course of its determination of the lowest evaluated responsive bid from the bidders that have responded to the bid solicitation, the Resident Due Process Team shall, in particular, undertake the following processes as applicable:
- (a) checking of deviations;
 - (b) checking of omissions with quantification of same;
 - (c) application of discounts, as applicable;
 - (d) clarification with bidders of questionable minor deviations;
 - (e) quantification in monetary terms of such questionable deviations;
 - (f) conversion to common currency;
 - (g) calculation and tabulation of bid amount with domestic preference where applicable;
 - (h) determination of the lowest calculated prices in order of rank;
 - (i) post-qualification of bidders, where applicable;
 - (j) listing of rejection of bids, where applicable;
 - (k) decision of rejection of all bids where justifiable;
 - (l) recommendation for award; and
 - (m) writing up of the bid evaluation report.

(4) All relevant factors, in addition to price, that will be considered for the purpose of bid evaluation and the manner in which such factors will be applied shall be stipulated in the solicitation documents.

(5) Such factors shall be calculated in monetary terms as stipulated in the solicitation documents and shall include:

(a) for goods, among others, costs of transportation and Insurance, payment schedule, delivery time, operating costs, efficiency, compatibility of the equipment, availability of services and spare parts, related training, safety, environmental benefits or loses by damages;

(b) for works, in addition to factors stipulated in Section 34(1) and subject to Section 34(2), if time is a critical factor, the value of early completion; and

(c) the value of early completion under Section 35(2) shall not be taken in to account unless in conformity with criteria pre-set in the bidding documents, the conditions of contract provide for commensurate penalties in case of late delivery.

(6) When bid prices are expressed in two or more currencies, the prices of all bids shall be converted to Nigerian currency, according to the rate and date of rate specified in the solicitation documents.

(7) If suppliers were pre-qualified, verification of the information provided in the submission for prequalification shall be confirmed at the time of award of contract and award may be denied to a bidder who no longer has the capability or resources to successfully perform the contract.

(8) After opening of bids, information relating to the examination, clarification and evaluation of bids and recommendations concerning award shall not be disclosed to bidders or to persons not officially concerned with the evaluation process until the successful bidders is notified of the award.

35. (1) The successful bid shall be that submitted by the lowest cost bidder from the bidders responsive as to the bid solicitation.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the selected bidder need not be the lowest cost bidder provided the procuring entity can show good grounds derived from the provisions of this Law to that effect.

(3) Notice of the acceptance of the bid shall immediately be given to the successful bidder.

36. (1) A procuring entity may grant a margin of preference in the evaluation of tenders when comparing tenders from domestic bidders with those from foreign bidders or when comparing tenders from domestic suppliers offering goods manufactured locally with those offering goods manufactured abroad.

(2) Where a procuring entity intends, to allow domestic preferences, the bidding documents shall clearly indicate any preference to be granted to domestic suppliers and contractors and the information required to establish the eligibility of a bid for such preference.

(3) Margins of preference shall apply only to tenders under international competitive bidding.

(4) The Board shall by regulation from time to time set the limits and the formula for the computation of margins of preference and determine the contents of goods manufactured locally.

37. (1) In addition to any other regulations as may be prescribed by the Board, a mobilization fee of not more than 25% may be paid to a supplier or contractor supported by the following:

(a) in the case of State Competitive Bidding, an unconditional bank guarantee or insurance bond issued by an institution acceptable to the procuring entity; and

(b) in the case of International Competitive Bidding an unconditional bank guarantee issued by a banking institution acceptable to the procuring entity.

(2) Once a mobilization fee has been paid to any supplier or contractor, no further payment shall be made to the supplier or contractor without an interim performance certificate issued in accordance with the contract agreement and a detailed report on the progress of the project from the MDA concerned.

38. The provision of a Performance Guarantee shall be a precondition for the award of any procurement contract upon which any mobilization fee is to be paid, provided however it shall not be less than 10% of the contract value in any case or an amount equivalent to the mobilization fee requested by the supplier or contractor, whichever is higher

39. (1) Payment for the procurement of goods, works, and services shall be settled promptly and diligently.

(2) Any payment due for more than ninety days from the date of the submission of the invoice, valuation certificate or confirmation or authentication by a ministry, extra-ministerial department, parastatals or corporation shall be deemed a delayed payment.

(3) All delayed payments shall attract interest at the rate specified in the contract document.

(4) All contracts shall include terms, specifying the interest for late payment of more than ninety days.

Recorded
Procurement
proceedings

40. (1) Every procuring entity shall maintain a record of the comprehensive procurement proceedings:

(2) The record referred to in this Section shall, on request, be made available to:

(a) any person after a tender proposal, offer or quotation has been accepted or after, procurement proceedings have been terminated without resulting in a procurement contract; and

(b) suppliers, contractors or consultants that submitted tenders, proposals, offers or quotations, or applied for prequalification, after a tender, proposal offer or quotation has been accepted or procurement proceeding have been terminated without resulting in a procurement contract.

(3) The procuring entity shall not be liable to suppliers, contractors or service providers for damages owing solely to failure to maintain a record of the procurement proceedings in accordance with this Section.

(4) The records and documents maintained by procuring entities on procurement shall be made available for inspection by the Board, an investigator appointed by the Board and the Auditor- General upon request, and where donor funds have been used for the procurement, donor officials shall also have access upon request to procurement files for the purpose of audit and review.

Two stage
tendering

41. (1) Notwithstanding, the provisions of this Law, the Board may issue "Certificate of No Objection" upon conditions hereinafter prescribed.

(2) A procuring entity shall be engage in procurement by two-stage tendering:

(a) where it is not feasible for the procuring entity to formulate detailed specifications for the goods or works or, in the case of service, to identify their characteristics and where it seeks tenders, proposals or offers on various means of meeting its needs in order to obtain the most satisfactory solution to its procurement needs;

(b) where the character of the goods or works are subject to rapid technological advances; where the procuring entity seeks to enter into a contract for research, experiment, study or development, except where the contract includes the production of goods in sufficient quantities to establish their commercial viability or recover research and development costs, where the procuring entity applies this Law procurement concerned with national security and determines that the selected procedure is the most appropriate procedure of procurement; or

(c) where the tender proceedings have been utilized but were not successful or the tenders were rejected by the procuring entity under an open competitive bid procedure and the procuring entity considers that engaging in new tendering proceedings will not result in the procurement contract.

(3) The provisions of this law as regards the process for Open Tendering open competitive bidding shall apply to two-stage tendering proceedings except to the extent that those provisions vary from this section.

(4) The invitation documents:

(a) shall call upon suppliers or contractors to submit in the first stage of two-stage tendering proceedings, initial tenders which contain their proposals without a tender price; and

(b) may solicit proposals that relate to technical quality or other characteristics of the goods, works or services as well as contractual terms and conditions of supply and may stipulate the professional competence and technical qualification of the suppliers or contractors.

(5) The procuring entity may, in the first stage, engage in negotiations with any supplier or contractor whose tender has not been rejected under an open competitive bidding procedure with respect to any aspect of its tender.

(6) In the second stage of the two – tender proceedings the procuring entity:

(a) shall invite suppliers or contractor whose tenders have not been rejected to submit final tenders with prices on a single set of specifications;

(b) may, in formulating the specifications, delete or modify any aspect of the technical or quality characteristic of the goods, works or services to be procured together with any criterion originally set out in these documents, evaluate and compare tenders and ascertain the successful tenders;

- (c) may add new characteristics or criteria that conform with this law;
- (d) shall communicate to suppliers or contractors in the invitation to submit firm tenders, any deletion, modification or addition; and
- (e) may permit a supplier or contractor who does not wish to submit a final tender to withdraw from the tendering proceedings.

(7) The final tenders shall be evaluated and compared in order to ascertain the successful tenders as defined in an open competitive bid.

*Selective
(Restricted)
Tendering*

42. (1) Subject to the approval by the Board, a procuring entity may for reasons of economy and efficiency engage in procurement by means of selective (restricted) tendering if:
- (a) the goods, works or services are available only from a limited number of suppliers or contractors;
 - (b) the time and cost required to examine and evaluate a large number of tenders is disproportionate to the value of the goods, works or services to be procured; or
 - (c) the procedure is used as an exception rather than the rule.
- (2) Where a procuring entity engages in selective (restricted) tendering on the basis that:
- (a) the goods, works and services are available only from a limited number of suppliers or contractors, it shall invite tenders from all the suppliers and contractors who can provide the goods, works or services; and
 - (b) the time and cost required to examine and evaluate a large number of tenders is disproportionate to the value of the goods, works or services, it shall select in a non-discriminatory manner the number of suppliers or contractors to ensure effective competition.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the procuring entity shall cause a notice of the selective tendering proceedings to be published in the procurement journal.
- (4) The provisions of this law regarding the open competitive bidding procedure shall apply to the selective tendering proceedings, except to the extent that those provisions are varied by this section.

*Proprietary
item
tendering*

43. (1) A procuring entity may carry out procurements by requesting for quotations from suppliers or contractors where the value of the goods or works to be procured does not exceed a sum that shall be set in the procurement guideline.

- (2) Generally, quotations shall be obtained from three unrelated contractors or suppliers.
- (3) Each contractor or supplier from whom a quotation is requested shall:
 - (a) be informed whether any factors other than the charges for the goods, works or services themselves, such as any applicable transportation and insurance charges, custom duties and taxes are to be included in the price; and
 - (b) give only one quotation and shall not be allowed to change or vary the quotation.
- (4) No negotiation shall take place between a procuring entity and the contractor or supplier with respect to a quotation.
- (5) The procurement shall be awarded to the qualified contractor or supplier that gives the lowest priced responsive quotation.
- (6) Where the total value of the procurement is not more than the sum that shall be set in the guideline, the procurement entity may not obtain the Board's approval.

Direct
procurement
and rapid
response
services

44. (1) A procuring entity may carry out any direct procurement where:
 - (a) a procuring entity which has procured goods, equipment, technology or services from a supplier or contractor, determines that:
 - (i) additional supplies need to be procured from that supplier or contractor because of standardization,
 - (ii) there is a need for compatibility with existing goods equipment, technology or services, taking into account the effectiveness of the original procurement in meeting the needs of the procurement entity,
 - (iii) the limited size of the proposed procurement in relation to the original procurement provides justification,
 - (iv) the reasonableness of the price and the unsuitability of alternatives to the goods or services in question merits the decision;
 - (b) the procuring entity seeks to enter into a contract for research, experiment, study or development, except where the contract includes the production of goods in quantities to establish commercial viability or recover research and development costs; or,
 - (c) the procuring entity applies this law for procurement that concerns national security, and determines that single source procurement is the most appropriate method of procurement;

(d) the state is either seriously threatened by or actually confronted with a pandemic, disaster, catastrophe or act of God; or

(e) the condition or quality of goods, equipment, building or publicly owned capital goods may seriously deteriorate unless action is urgently and necessarily taken to maintain them in their actual value or usefulness; or

(f) public project may be seriously delayed for want of an item of a minor value.

(2) The procuring entity:

(a) may procure the goods, works or services by inviting a proposal or price quotation from a single supplier or contractor; and

(b) shall include in the record of procurement proceedings a statement of the grounds for its decision and the circumstances in justification of the *direct procurement*.

(3) For procurement to be carried out in accordance with conditions listed under sub-section 44(1) (a) – (c) of this section, procuring entities shall require the prior approval of the Board.

(4) For procurement to be carried out in accordance with the conditions listed under sub-section 44(1) (d)-(f) of this section, the procuring entity:

(a) may, depending on the urgency, proceed with the implementation of the emergency procurement activity in line with principles of transparency, accountability, and value for money without the Board's prior approval; and

(b) shall immediately upon completion of the proceedings, file a detailed report of the proceedings to the Board, which shall verify same and if appropriate, issue a "Certificate of No Objection".

Expressions
Of interest to
provide
services for
ascertained
needs

45. Where a procuring entity wishes to procure services for its needs which are precise and ascertainable:

(a) it shall solicit for expressions of interest or applications to pre-qualify to provide the services by publishing a notice to that effect in at least two national newspapers and the procurement journal;

(b) where the value of the services to be procured is less than one million naira, or with the approval of the Board, of such a low value that only local consultants would be interested, the procuring entity may without placing any notice request at least 3 and not more than 10 consultants or service providers to make proposals for the provision of the services in a format stipulating:

(i) a statement of qualifications of the consultant to provide the service;

- (ii) a statement of understanding of the procuring entity's need;
- (iii) the procedure for providing the service;
- (iv) the time frame for providing the service ;and
- (v) the cost or fee for the service.

(c) Every consultant shall register with the Board.

Request for proposals to provide services for unascertained

46. (1) A procuring entity wishing to procure services for its needs may do so by requesting for proposals when it intends to enter into a contract for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development, except where the contract includes the production of goods sufficient to establish their commercial viability or to recover research and development cost.

(2) The procuring entities shall procure the services of consultant by soliciting for expressions of interest by publishing a notice to that effect in two national Newspapers and the procurement journal.

(3) A procuring entity may make direct requests to a limited number of consultants, requesting proposals for the provision of a service if:

(a) the services are only available from no more than three consultants:

(b) the time and cost required to examine and evaluate a large number of proposals would be disproportionate to the value of the services to be performed, provided that it invites enough consultants to ensure transparent competition; or

(c) it is in the interest of state security or similar reason of confidentiality.

Contents of the request for proposals

47. (1) Request for proposal shall include:

- (a) the name and address of the procurement entity;
- (b) a requirement that the proposals are to be prepared in English language;
- (c) the manner, place and deadline for the submission of proposals;
- (d) a statement to the effect that the procuring entity reserves the right to reject proposals;
- (e) the criteria and procedure for the evaluation of the qualifications of the consultant;
- (f) the requirements on documentary evidence or other information that shall be submitted by consultants to demonstrate their qualification;

- (g) the nature and required characteristics of the services to be procured including the location where the services are to be provided and the time when the services are to be provided;
- (h) whether the procuring entity is seeking proposals on various possible ways of meeting its needs;
- (i) a requirement that the proposal price is to be expressed in Nigerian currency;
- (j) the manner in which the proposal price is to be expressed, including a statement on whether the price covers elements apart from the cost of services, such as reimbursement for transportation, lodging, insurance, use of equipment, duties or taxes;
- (k) whether the procedure to ascertain the successful proposal shall be based on the lowest cost or quality and or a combination of the lowest cost, quality and criteria other than cost but stipulated in the request for proposals; and
- (l) a short list to be made of only national consultants for consulting assignment, contract within a set threshold in the procurement guideline provided that national consultants possess such requisite skills.

(2) The procuring entity shall provide the same information to every consultant requested to submit proposals.

48. (1) A consultant shall be allowed to request for clarification on the request from the procuring entity and such request may be made within a reasonable time to be specified.

(2) A procuring entity may, whether on its initiative or as a result of a request for clarification by a consultant, modify the request for proposals by issuing an addendum at any time prior to the deadline for submission of proposals.

(3) The addendum shall be communicated promptly before the deadline for the submission of proposals to the shortlisted consultants to whom the procuring entity has provided the request for proposals and shall be binding on those consultants.

(4) If the procuring entity convenes a meeting of consultants, it shall prepare minutes of the meeting containing the issues submitted at the meeting for clarification of the request for proposal and its responses to those issues, without identifying the sources of the requests for clarifications.

(5) The minutes shall be provided promptly before the Deadlines for the submission of proposals to the consultants participating in the selection proceedings to enable them take the minutes into account in their proposals.

Submissions
of proposals

49. (1) The procuring entity shall allow sufficient time for the preparation and submission of the requested proposals but shall in no case give less than 30 days between the issue of the notice or request and the deadline for submission.
- (2) The technical and financial proposals shall be submitted simultaneously but in separate envelopes.
- (3) A proposal received after the deadline for submission of proposals shall be returned to the sender unopened.
- (4) Immediately after the deadline for submission of proposals, the technical proposals shall be opened for evaluation whilst the financial proposals shall remain sealed and kept in a secure bid-box until they are opened publicly.
- (5) The technical evaluation committees shall not have access to or insights to the financial proposals until the evaluation including Resident Due Process Team review are concluded

Criteria's for
evaluation of
proposals

50. (1) The procuring entity shall establish criteria to evaluate the proposals and prescribe the relative weight to be accorded to each criterion and the manner in which they are to be applied in the evaluation of:
- (a) the qualification, experience, reliability, professional and managerial competence of the consultant or service provider and of the personnel to be involved in providing the services;
 - (b) the effectiveness of the proposals submitted by the consultant or service provider in meeting the needs of the procuring entity;
 - (c) the proposal price including any ancillary or related cost;
 - (d) the effect that acceptance of the proposal will have on the balance of payments position and foreign reserves of the government, the extent of participation by local personnel, the economic development potential offered by the proposal, including domestic investment or other business activity, the encouragement of employment, the transfer of technology, the development of managerial, scientific and operational skills and the counter trade arrangements offered by consultant or service providers; and
 - (e) national defence and security considerations.

(2) A procuring entity may accord margin of preference for domestic consultants or service providers which shall be calculated in accordance with the regulations and guidelines as issued from time to time by the Board and shall be reflected in the record of the procurement proceedings.

General selection procedure (services)

51. (1) The procuring entity shall select the successful proposal by either choosing the proposal with:
- (a) the lowest evaluated price; or
 - (b) the best combined evaluation in terms of the general criteria set out in the request for proposals and the price quoted.
- (2) The procuring entity shall include in the record of procurement a statement of the ground sand circumstances on which it relied to select either of the procedures in subsection (1).
- (3) Nothing in this Section shall prevent the procuring entity from resorting to the use of any impartial panel of experts to make the selection.

Procedure for selection of proposal where price is a factor

52. (1) Where the procuring entity elects to choose the successful proposal based on technical and price factors, it shall establish a weight with respect to quality and technical price factors of the proposals in accordance with the criteria other than price as might have been set out in the request for proposals and rate each proposal in accordance with such criteria and the relative weight and manner of application of the criteria as stipulated in the request for proposals.
- (2) The procuring entity shall compare the prices of those proposals that have attained a rating at or above the threshold.
- (3) The procuring entity shall notify the consultants whose proposals did not meet the minimum qualifying mark or were non responsive to the invitation for proposals and terms of reference after the evaluation of quality is completed within a period of 14 working days after the decision has been taken by the procurement entity.
- (4) The name of the qualifying consultants, and the quality scores for the technical component of the proposal shall be read aloud and recorded alongside the price proposed by each consultant or service provider when the financial proposals are opened.
- (5) The procuring entity shall prepare the minutes of public opening of financial proposals which shall be part of the evaluation report and shall retain this record.

- (6) The successful proposals shall be:
 - (a) the proposals with the best combined evaluation in terms of the criteria established under subsection (1) from price in the case of quality and cost-based selection.
 - (b) the proposals with the lowest price in the case of least-cost selection; or
 - (c) the highest ranked technical proposal within the budget.
- (7) The Consultants with the winning proposal shall be invited for negotiations, which shall focus mainly on the technical proposals.
- (8) The proposed unit rates for staff-months and reimbursable shall not be negotiated unless there are exceptional reasons.

Selection
procedure where
price is not a
factor

53

- (1) Where the procuring entity elects to make a quality based selection procedure based on consultant's qualifications or single-source selection, it shall engage in negotiations with consultants in accordance with this Section.
- (2) The procurement entity shall:
 - (a) establish a weight with respect to quality and price of the proposals;
 - (b) invite for negotiations on the price of its proposal, the Consultant that has attained the best rating in accordance with subsection (1);
 - (c) inform the Consultants that attained ratings above the weight that may be considered for negotiation if the negotiations with the consultant with the best rating do not result in a procurement contract; and
 - (d) inform the Consultant with the best rating, that it is terminating the negotiations if it becomes apparent to the procuring entity that the negotiations with that Consultant invited under paragraph (b), of subsection (2) of this section will not result in a procurement contract.
- (3) The procuring entity shall, if negotiations with the consultant with the best rating fails, invite the Consultant that obtained the second best rating, and if the negotiations with that Consultant do not result in a procurement contract, the procuring entity shall invite the other suppliers or contactors for negotiations on the basis of their rating until it arrives at a contract or rejects the remaining proposals.
- (4) The procuring entity shall treat proposals and any negotiations on selection procedure as confidential and avoid the disclosure of their contents to competing consultants.

54. (1) The Board may review and recommend for investigation by any relevant authority any matter related to the conduct of procurement proceedings by a procuring entity, or the conclusion or operation of a procurement contract if it considers that a criminal investigation is necessary or desirable to prevent or detect a contravention of this Law
- (2) The relevant authority may in the course of investigation:
- (a) require an officer, employee or agent of the procuring entity or bidder, supplier, contractor, or consultant to produce any books, records, accounts or documents;
 - (b) search premises for any books, records, accounts or documents;
 - (c) examine and make extracts from the copies of books, records, accounts or documents of any procuring entity, bidder, supplier, contractor or consultant;
 - (d) remove books, records, accounts or documents of the procuring entity, bidder, supplier, contractor or consultant for as long as may be necessary to examine them or make extracts from or copies of them but the investigator shall give a detailed receipt for the books, records, accounts or documents removed;
 - (e) require an officer, employee or agent of the procurement entity or bidder, supplier, or contractor or consultant:
 - (i) to explain an entry in the books, records, accounts or documents,
 - (ii) to provide the investigator with information concerning the management or activities of the procurement entity or bidders as may be reasonably required;
 - (f) explain an entry in the books, records, accounts or documents; and
 - (g) provide the investigator with information concerning the management or activities of the procurement entity or bidders as may be reasonably required.
- (3) The Board may, pursuant to the advice of the procuring entity, result of its review of a procurement or report of investigation by a relevant government agency issue a variation order requiring a contractor at his own expense to require, replace, or to do anything in his or her contract left undone or found to have been carried out with inferior or defective materials or with less-skill and expertise than required by the contract of award.

(4) The Board shall, if satisfied that there has been a contravention of this Law or any regulation to procurement proceedings or procurement contract, take action to rectify the contravention which action shall include:

- (a) nullification of the procurement proceedings;
- (b) cancellation of the procurement contract;
- (c) ratification of anything done in relation to the proceedings; or
- (e) a declaration consistent with any relevant provisions of this Law.

(5) On completion of the investigation, the relevant authority shall, if an offence is disclosed, take all necessary steps to commence prosecution and inform the Board and the procurement entity accordingly, but where no offence is disclosed, the file shall be closed and the Bureau and procuring entity shall be duly informed.

Administrative
review 55.

(1) A bidder may seek administrative review for any omission or breach by a procuring or disposing entity under the provisions of this Law, or any regulations or guidelines made under this Law or the provisions of bidding documents.

(2) A complaint by a bidder against a procuring or disposing entity shall first be submitted in writing to the accounting officer within fifteen working days from the date the bidder first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to the complaint or should have become aware of the circumstances, whichever is earlier.

(3) On reviewing a complaint, the accounting officer shall make a decision in writing within 15 working days indicating the corrective measures to be taken, if any, including the suspension of the proceedings where he deems it necessary and giving reasons for his decision.

(4) If the bidder is not satisfied with the decision of the accounting officer, the bidder may make a complaint to the Board within 10 working days from the date of communication of the decision of the accounting officer.

(5) Upon receipt of a complaint, the Board shall promptly:
(a) give notice of the complaint to the respective procuring or disposing entity and suspend any further action by the procuring or disposing entity until the Board has settled the matter;

(b) unless it dismisses the complaint:

- (i) prohibit a procuring or disposing entity from taking any further action,
- (ii) nullify in whole or in part an unlawful actor decision made by procuring or disposing entity,
- (iii) declare the rules or principles that govern the subject matter of the complaint, and
- (iv) revise an improper decision by the procuring or disposing entity or substitute its own decision for such a decision.

(6) Before taking any decision on a complaint, the Board shall notify all interested bidders of the complaint and may take into account representations from the bidders and from the respective procuring or disposing entity.

(7) The Board shall make its decision within 21 working days after receiving the complaint, stating the reasons for its decisions and remedies granted, if any.

(8) Where the Board fails to render its decision within the stipulated time, or the bidder is not satisfied with the decision of the Board, the bidder may appeal to the High Court within 30 days after the receipt of the decision of the Board, or expiration of the time stipulated for the Board to deliver a decision.

(9) Where an appeal has been made to the High Court in line with the provision of subsection(8), the Court shall dispose of the case expeditiously.

56. (1) For the purposes of this Law every procuring entity shall also be disposing entity.

(2) The open competitive bidding shall be the primary source of receiving offers for the purchase of any public property offered for sale.

(3) The Board shall, with the approval of the Council:

- (a) determine the applicable policies and practices in relation to the disposal of all public property;
- (b) issue guidelines detailing operational principles and organizational modalities to be adopted by all procuring entities engaged in the disposal of public property; and
- (c) issue standardized document, monitor implementation, enforce compliance and set reporting standards that shall be used by all procuring entities involved in the disposal of public property.

- (4) For the purposes of this law public property is defined as resources in the form of tangible and non-tangible assets (ranging from serviceable to the unserviceable):
 - (a) created through public expenditure;
 - (b) acquired as a gift or through deeds;
 - (c) acquired in respect of intellectual or proprietary rights;
 - (d) acquired on financial instruments (including shares, stocks, bonds etc); and
 - (e) acquired by goodwill and any other gifts of the State government.
- (5) The means of the disposal of public assets shall include:
 - (a) sale and rental;
 - (b) lease and hire purchase;
 - (c) licenses and tenancies;
 - (d) franchise and auction;
 - (e) transfers from one government department to another with or without financial adjustments; and
 - (f) offer to the public at an authorized variation.

Planning of disposal

57. (1) Before slating any public property for disposal, the accounting officer (whether acting in his own authority or at the direction of any superior or other authority) in charge of any public property set for disposal shall authorize the preparation of a valuation report for such property by an independent Evaluator or such professional with the appropriate competence to carry out the valuation.
- (2) The disposal of assets whether or not listed in the assets register for a procuring entity shall be planned and integrated into the income and expenditure budget projection of the procuring entity.
- (3) The disposal of assets referred to in subsection (2) shall be timed to take place when the most advantageous returns can be obtained for the asset in order to maximize revenue accruing to the government.
- (4) All procuring entities shall distribute responsibilities for the disposal of public property between the procurement unit and the Board.

Code of Conduct for public procurement

58. (1) The Board shall, with the approval of the Council, stipulate a Code of Conduct for all public officers, suppliers, contractors and service providers with regards to the standards of conduct acceptable in matters involving the procurement and disposal of public assets.

(2) The conduct of all persons involved with public procurement, whether as official of the Board, a procuring entity, supplier, contractor or service provider shall at all times be governed by principles of honesty, accountability, transparency, fairness and equity.

(3) All officers of the Board, members of Resident Due Process Team and other persons that may come to act regarding the conduct of public procurements shall subscribe to an oath as approved by Council.

(4) All persons in whose hands public funds may be entrusted for whatever purpose should bear in mind that its utilization should be judicious.

(5) Where a transaction involves the disposal of assets, principles of honesty, accountability, transparency, fairness and equity shall continue to apply to the same extent as where it involves procurement.

(6) These principles shall apply at all times, particularly when:

- (a) making requisition for or planning of procurements;
- (b) preparing solicitation documents;
- (c) receiving offers in response to any form of solicitation towards a procurement or disposal.
- (d) evaluating and comparing offers confidentially and in complete neutrality;
- (e) protecting the interest of all parties without fear or favour; and
- (f) obviating all situations likely to render an officer vulnerable to embarrassment or undue influence.

(7) All public officers shall handle public procurement and disposal of assets by:

- (a) ensuring adequate time for preparing offers;
- (b) complying with this law and all derivative guidelines; and
- (c) receiving strict confidentiality until completion of a contract.

(8) All public officers involved in public procurement and disposal of assets shall maintain the highest standards of ethics in their relationship with persons, real or corporate, who seek government commerce whether as a bidder, supplier, contractor or service provider by developing transparent, honest and professional relationships with such persons.

(9) Every public officer involved directly or indirectly in matters of public procurement and disposal of assets shall:

(a) divest himself of any interest or relationships which are actually or potentially inimical or detrimental to the best interest of government and the underlining principles of this law; and

(b) not engage or participate in any commercial transaction involving the State government, its ministries, departments, or agency, where his capacity as public officer is likely to confer any unfair advantage, pecuniary or otherwise, on him or any person directly related to him.

(10) Any person engaged in the public procurement and disposal of assets who has assumed, or is about to assume, a financial or other business outside business relationship that might involve a conflict of interest, must immediately declare to the authorities any actual or potential interest.

(11) Such a declaration shall be given such consideration at the relevant level as is necessary so that, where it is seen that remedial action is taken, a conflict of interest is present.

(12) A conflict of interest exists where a person:

(a) possesses an interest outside his official duties that materially encroaches on the time or attention which should otherwise be devoted to affairs of government;

(b) possesses a direct or indirect interest in or relationship with bidder, supplier, contractor or service provider that is inherently unethical or that may be implied or constructed to be, or make possible personal gain due to the person's ability to influence dealings;

(c) entertains relationships which are unethical, rendering his attitude partial toward the outsider for personal reasons or otherwise inhibit the impartiality of the person's business judgments;

(d) places by acts or omissions the procuring entity he represents or the government in unequivocal, embarrassing or ethically questionable position;

(e) entertains relationships compromising the reputation or integrity of the procuring entity he represents or the government;

(d) receives benefits by taking personal advantage of an opportunity that properly belongs to the procuring entity he represents or the government

- (e) creates a source of personal revenue or advantage by using public property which comes into his hands either in course of his work or otherwise; and
- (f) discloses confidential information being either the property of his procuring entity, the government or to a supplier, contractor or service provider to unauthorized persons.

(13) A person involved in the disposal of assets shall not either by a third party or by himself be interested in any manner in buying directly or indirectly these assets and shall not have or obtain any type of advantage or revenue from the disposal for a period of three years after the disposal.

59 OFFENCES

(1) Any person who awards a contract falling outside an approval threshold without a prior written approval of the Board vested with the approving authority, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of Two years or a fine of not less than ₦2,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦4,000,000.00.

(2) Any person who certifies in writing partial or full completion of any aspect of a contract when the contractor's performance has not met the specification and agreed standard and milestone in the contract, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of Five years.

(3) Any government employee including a political office holder who:

(a) approves or issues payment certification for any part of a contract activity or activities knowing or having reasonable belief that the contract or any part of it being approved for payment has not been creditably performed; or

(b) disburses payment for a contract knowing that the entire contract or any part thereof being paid for has not been creditably performed; or

(c) knowingly seeks and obtain payment for the whole or any part of a contract knowing that his performance has not met the specifications, standard and milestone in the project contract, *commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than Three years without option of fine and shall be liable to dismissal from the government service without recourse to other rules or regulation.*

(4) Any person other than government employee or political office holder who contravenes any of the offences listed under sub-section 3 of this section, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of Three years or a fine of not less than ₦5,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦10,000,000.00.

(5) Any person who:

(a) enters or attempts to enter into a collusive agreement, whether enforceable or not, with a supplier, contractor or service provider where the prices quoted in their respective bids, proposals or quotations are or would be higher than would have been, had there not been such collusion between the persons concerned, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of Two years or a fine of not less than ₦5,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦10,000,000.00.

(b) directly or indirectly, influences or attempts to influence in any manner the procurement process to obtain an unfair advantage in the award of a procurement contract for any person, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of Three years or a fine of not less than ₦5,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦10,000,000.00.

(c) splits any tender(s) to enable the evasion of monetary thresholds set, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of One years or a fine of not less than ₦3,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦5,000,000.00.

(d) bid-rigs for tender, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of Two years or a fine of not less than ₦5,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦10,000,000.00.

(e) alters any procurement document with intent to influence the outcome of a bid proceeding, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of Two years or a of fine of not less than ₦5,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦10,000,000.00.

(f) alters or uses fake documents to seek qualification or support a procurement bid, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of One year or a fine of not less than ₦3,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦5,000,000.00.

(g) wilfully refuses to allow the Board or its officer/agent/privy access to any procurement records, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of Two years or a fine of not less than ₦3,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦5,000,000.00.

(6) Any Body Corporate that contravenes any provision of this Section or of this Law or of any regulations, guidelines or rules issued pursuant to this Law, commits an offence punishable with:

(a) debarment from all public procurement for a period not less than 3 years; and

(b) a fine of not less than ₦5,000,000.00, but not exceeding ₦10,000,000.00.

(7) Any Managing Director or any other Director or both, who is/are proved to have participated in or approved the activity of the Body Corporate convicted pursuant to Sub-section (6) of this section, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of One year or a fine of not less than ₦3,000,000.00 each, but not exceeding ₦5,000,000.00.

(8) Aiding and abetting the commission of any offence under this law shall be an offence itself and carry the punishment prescribed for commission of the offence itself.

(9) A Judge trying an offence under this Law shall where he finds that the actions of a convicted person has led to a financial loss or any damages to the State, order in favour of the State adequate restitution and disgorgement of profits or illicit gains made, in addition to fines impose under this section.

(10). For the purpose of subsection (5) (a), (d), (e) and (f) of this section, the expressions below shall have the following meanings respectively:

Collusion shall be presumed from a set of acts from which it can be assumed that there was an understanding, implicit, formal or informal, overt or covert under which each person involved reasonably expected that the other would adopt a particular course of action which would interfere with the faithful and proper application of the provisions of this Law: and
“Presumption” for the purposes of “collusion” ,consideration shall be given to a suspect’s ability to control the procurement proceedings or to control a solicitation or the conditions of the contract in question, whether total or partial.

Bid rigging means agreement between persons whereby offers submitted have been pre-arranged between them; or their conduct has had the effect of directly or indirectly restricting free and open competition, distorting the competitiveness or the procurement process and leading to an escalation or increase in costs or loss of value to the State Treasury;

alteration includes falsification of document; insertion of documents such as bid security or tax clearance certificate which were not submitted with the bid and found at the bid opening; and request for clarification in a manner not permitted under this Law;

Proof 60. For the purposes of sub-section (6) of this Section, it shall be sufficient to prove that a reasonable business person should have known that his action would result in his company or firm having an undue advantage over other bidders to the detriment of the government treasury.

Jurisdiction of the Court 61. (1) Any offence in contravention of this Law shall be tried by the State High Court.

Regulation 62. The Board shall have the power to make regulations, guidelines or rules to give effects to the provisions of this Law.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Miscellaneous 63. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman, the Director-General or of any other person generally or especially authorized to act for that purpose by the Council.

(2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the Board by the Director-General or any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Council.

(3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Boards shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.

(4) The validity of any proceeding of Council or of a Committee thereof shall not be adversely affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Council or Committee, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the Council or of a Committee, or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Council or Committee.

64. (1) For the purposes of any act done before the commence of this Law, all the provision of the repeal law including its penal provisions, and all regulations, warrants, and other acts of authority originating under them, shall, notwithstanding the repeal of those enactments, be deemed to remain in full force and effects; and all proceedings under any those enactments, including any legal proceedings in respect of any offence committed whether before or after the commencement of this Law, may be instituted or continued accordingly as if the enactment had not been repealed.

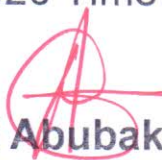
(2) Nothing in this Law shall affect any order, rule, regulation, appointment, contract, or agreement made, proceedings taken, instrument issued or things done under the repealed Public Procurement and Public Procurement Board Law, 2010, but such order, rule, regulation, appointment, contract, or agreement made, proceedings taken, instrument issued or things done shall have effect in so far as it could have been made, given, taken, issued or done under this Law.

65. The Niger State Council on Public Procurement and Public Procurement Board Law, 2010 is hereby repealed.

ABDULLAH
Clerk to the

FIRST SCHEDULE

I assented this 22nd day of SEPT 2020 Time 11:44 AM


Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello
Governor of Niger State

SECOND SCHEDULE

I withheld assent this..... day of.....2020 Time.....

Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello
Governor of Niger State

THIRD SCHEDULE

I, **Abdullahi M. Kagara**, Clerk to the Legislature of Niger State hereby certify that this Law has been passed in accordance with Sub-Section 3 of Section 100 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill, which has been passed by the Legislature and found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.



ABDULLAHI M. KAGARA
Clerk to the Legislature

