

Press Statement Re: “7 gov’t execs face plunder charges” published in the Philippine Star on January 21, 2017

We are writing to respond to the above titled news article published in the Philippine Star on 21 January 2017. At the very outset, the Procurement Service strongly denies the allegations in said news article which are grossly erroneous, baseless and a product of irresponsible reporting.

“MANILA, Philippines - A non-government organization claiming affiliation with the United Nations yesterday filed plunder and graft charges against seven officials of Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) over the alleged anomalous award of a P1.317-billion contract for the supply of patrol jeeps to the Philippine National Police (PNP) in 2015.”

Statement/Clarification:

From this statement alone, it is quite obvious that the source of the material did not do its homework properly. The Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System or PHILGEPS is the website and electronic procurement system of the Philippine government which is defined under Section 8 of RA 9184 as the single, central portal that shall serve as the primary and definitive source of information in government procurement. It is being managed by the Procurement Service. PhilGEPS refers also to the group managing it which is a functional group under PS. The seven “officials” mentioned in the article are employees of the Procurement Service or PS. As of press statement, we have yet to receive a copy of the alleged complaint or any order regarding this case from the Ombudsman.

“Named as respondents in the complaint were former executive director Jose Tomas Syquia, former chief accountant now financial management group director Laarni Testor, chief comptroller Allan Raul Catalan, bids and awards committee head Rommel Rivera, BAC secretariat head Vincent

Cañares and BAC members Rosa Maria Clemente and Rosalyn Joan Pascual.”

Statement/Clarification:

Again, this statement is erroneous and careless, maligning PS staffs who are not even involved in the award of said project. Laarni Testor, Allan Raul Catalan, Rosa Maria Clemente and Rosalyn Joan Pascual are not members of the BAC and did not participate in the bidding of this project.

“The group alleged the PhilGEPS officials allowed the awarding of the supply contract to Columbian Autocars Corp. while the firm was not among the registered bidders for the project.”

Statement/Clarification:

The statement is again grossly erroneous. Columbian Autocars Corp. is a PhilGEPS registered bidder since April 27, 2012.

“The group added the PhilGEPS officials proceeded with the bidding and awarding of the contract despite lack of detailed budget breakdown and supporting documents from the PNP and the Department of Budget and Management’s Procurement Service.”

Statement/Clarification:

It is unclear what the group meant by detailed budget breakdown. This term is nowhere to be found in RA No. 9184 (validate if this is an accurate statement). If the group is referring to the approved budget for the contract (ABC), PS has detailed computations on how it arrived at the ABC.

“The group said the prototype vehicles of Columbian Autocars failed to pass the post-qualification test, yet PhilGEPS still proceeded with the awarding of contract.”

Statement/Clarification:

Again, this statement can only come from lack of research and irresponsible reporting to the detriment of the people being accused of

wrongdoing. It must be clarified that before the project was awarded there were two biddings that were conducted. The first was a failure and the second resulted to an award. Columbian Autocars failed to post-qualify in the first bidding but passed the post-qualification tests during the second bidding which resulted to the award. Re-bidding is a procedure allowed under RA No. 9184.

PS MANAGEMENT