

Ref.no. HKB/WALLED CITY /24

Dated: 03/12/24

To,
The Director General,
Walled City Authority, Lahore.

Subject: Grievance Regarding Tender Clauses and Non-Consideration of the Lowest Bid

Dear Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally register a grievance regarding the tender process for tender reference. **Providing and Fixing of Iron Cage for Protection of LED Flood Lights 50-Watt on Trail Inside Lahore Fort** specifically related to the clauses included in the tender document, which, in our view, limit open bidding and may lead to an unfair advantage for select companies. This raises serious concerns regarding the transparency and fairness of the bidding process.

We understand that the pre-enlistment process based on prior experience is a common practice to ensure the quality and credibility of contractors. However, in cases where such prequalification is not required, it is expected that the tender is awarded to the lowest bidder, provided they meet the necessary technical (other than the clause which monopolise one or few parties only) and financial criteria.

In our case, we submitted a bid fulfilling all the technical criteria except for one clause which limits the bidders to enter into the process making it an open/transparent process. Our bid was 35% below the budgeted price, which we believe is a competitive and reasonable offer. However, despite offering the lowest bid, the contract was awarded to a company whose bid was approximately Rs. 600,000 plus higher than ours. This not only directly impacts the competitiveness of the tender process but also results in the wastage of public funds. We fail to see any valid justification for awarding the contract to a higher bidder when a more economical option was available, especially when both bids meet the technical requirements outlined in the tender.



We are concerned that the restrictive clauses mentioned in the tender document may limit open competition, thereby favouring a few selected companies. This undermines the core principles of transparency, fairness, and accountability that should guide the public procurement process.

We respectfully request a review of the tender process, with specific attention to the clauses that may restrict open competition. In accordance with standard procurement practices, we urge you to ensure that the lowest bid meeting all requirements is considered as the successful bid, especially in cases where no prequalification is stipulated.

We trust that you will give this matter due consideration to ensure the integrity of the tender process and safeguard public funds from unnecessary expenditure.

We look forward to your prompt response and clarification regarding the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Khalil Ahmad Mughal



CEO / HKB ENGINEERING CO.

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