



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education



PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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Bids and Awards Committee I

Minutes of Pre-Bid Conference

Project No. : **2021c-AdmS4(001to005&14)-BI-CB-031**
Project : **Supply and Delivery of School Furniture for Elementary, Junior, Senior High Schools CY 2021 School Furniture Program**

ABC : **PhP1,720,659,347.70**
End-User : **Education Facilities Division**

Date & Time : **November 15, 2021; 10AM**
Venue : **Video Conferencing via Microsoft (MS) Teams**

Present:

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) I: Usec. Alain Del B. Pascua, Chairperson; Dir. Samuel Soliven, Regular Member; and Mr. Adolf Aguilar and Arch. Felix F. Villanueva, Jr., Provisional Members

Procurement Management Service: Mr. James Ronald G. Ybiernas, Supervising Administrative Officer; Ms. Christa O. Nicolas, Senior Technical Assistant II; Ms. Jenieca C. Marilla, Technical Assistant II; Ms. Beverly Grace P. James, Technical Assistant I; and Ms. Patricia Muñoz, Administrative Support II (BAC Secretariat Division)

Technical Working Group: Engr. Aldrin Tagao, Engr. Crisan Coronel, Engr. Darra Diego, Engr. Luis Purisima, Jr., Engr. Nehru Rainier Sarmiento, Engr. Raymund Alcazar, Engr. Myrna Sumaylo, Engr. Ive Jay Tambis, Arch. Jet Raymond Alabaso and Mr. Sherwin Bagagunio (EFD)

End-user(s): Engr. Annabelle Pangan (EFD)

Observer(s): Leo Bautista (COA)

Prospective Bidder(s): 1) Ms. Maegan Lamanilao (Top Asia Furniture Producers Cooperative); 2) Ms. Mila Reyes (Hauwei Builders and Development Corp.); 3) Mr. Reynaldo Pallon (Handicapped Persons Producers Cooperative); 4) Mr. Michael Asiddao (Atlanta Industries Inc.); 5) Ms. Emelita Salazar (Ma. Gracia Furniture & Gen. Merchandise); 6) Ms. Jonna Marin (JTC Pallet Packaging Inc.); 7) Mr. Alsee Bello and Mr. Richard Arceño (Bigay Buhay Multipurpose Cooperative); 8) Mr. Leonardo Gabalfin (Metro Mobilia Corporation); 9) Mr. Aachilles Bayano (San Francisco Association of Differently-Abled Person Multi-Purpose Cooperative); 10)

59 Mr. Gilbert Ching (Goldilucks Steel Mfg.); 11) Ms. Angelyn C. Antonio (Kit Prop &
60 IBEC JV); 12) Ms. Elena O. Songcuan (Elmuel Jay Trading & Construction); 13) Ms.
61 May Ann Dionisio (Apex Multi-Purpose Cooperative); 14) Ms. Richelle Bautista
62 (MAR-CAT Marketing Corporation); 15) Ms. Jhonna Felipe, (Base Wood Products –
63 JV-Partner-In-Charge); 16) Mr. Arthur De Guzman (Ergo Contracts Phils., Inc.); 17)
64 Ms. Girlie Mancera (Empresa Metalcraft Corp); 18) Ms. Rose Ann Dionisio (Willie
65 Mart); 19) Ms. Abigael Calizo (Mandes School and Office Furnitures); 20) Ms.
66 Orlean Faith Celen (Amcha Multipurpose Cooperative); 21) Mr. Angelo A. Valencia
67 (Ed-Val Enterprises); 22) Ms. Shiela Mae Gale (Asiaprime Commodities Corp.); 23)
68 Mr. Leonardo Reyes (RDY 3 General Merchandise); 24) Mr. Joven Tiu (Sta. Rita
69 Enterprises); 25) Mr. Restie Inaldo (Bedmaster Manufacturing Corporation); and
70 26) Ms. Marissa Lagaña (JMJ Multi-marketing) (without accomplished Pre-Bid
71 Conference Form)

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73 I. CALL TO ORDER

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75 Usec. Alain Del B. Pascua, BAC I Chairperson, presided and called the pre-
76 bid conference to order at 10:35 A.M. The BAC Secretariat documented the
77 minutes of the meeting.

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79 II. CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

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81 The BAC I Chairperson certified that the quorum of the BAC was present to
82 transact business. He acknowledged the presence of the BAC members, BAC
83 Secretariat, Technical Working Group, end-user representative, and observer
84 and made a roll call of the prospective bidders in the attendance registry.

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86 III. HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION

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88 The BAC I Chairperson welcomed everyone to the pre-bid conference.

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90 Ms. Christa O. Nicolas, BAC Secretariat, stated that invitations were sent to
91 the Commission on Audit (COA) and various civil society organizations
92 (CSOs) thru letters dated November 8, 2021.

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94 Consistent with Sec. 22.3, Rule VII of the IRR of RA 9184, the BAC I
95 Chairperson instructed the BAC Secretariat to proceed with the discussion of
96 the project information, eligibility requirements, technical components of the
97 contract, financial components of the contract and other salient features of
98 the Bidding Documents. Ms. Nicolas also presented the deadline and venue
99 for the submission and opening of bids as well as the deadline for
100 submission of letters of clarification for the bidders, if there is any.

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102 The BAC I Chairperson announced that the floor is open to queries,
103 information, proposals, or other concerns coming from the prospective
104 bidders or suppliers on the assumption that the prospective bidders have
105 downloaded bidding documents from the PhilGEPS, requested from the BAC
106 Secretariat for copies of the same, or bought copies of the same. The
107 prospective bidders were asked to virtually raise their hands/ use the raise
108 hand button if they have queries/ clarifications and wait to be recognized
109 before proceeding with their questions. The BAC Secretariat moderated the
110 discussion. Details of the queries are as follows:

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<i>Invitation to Bid/Instructions to Bidders / Bid Data Sheet</i>			
<i>Provision</i>	<i>Questions/Queries/Clarifications</i>	<i>BAC's Response</i>	<i>For Bid Bulletin (Y/N)</i>
	Mr. Alsee Bello of Bigay Buhay Multipurpose Cooperative asked regarding the Single Largest Completed Contract (SLCC): from the previous procurements, lotting is per region compared to the present procurement in which the lot is composed of clustered regions. Small business owners like them will have a hard time to comply with the SLCC.	The BAC I Chairperson answered that the clustering made was based on series of consultations. He added that admittedly, not all of the requests of the prospective bidders can be accommodated as some of the requests are also contrary to the requests of other bidders. In deciding matters such as this, the economy of scale was considered.	N
ITB Clause 10	Mr. Joven Tiu of Sta. Rita Enterprises asked if they will provide a set of samples for every lot that they are joining in the bidding. He also said that he attended the pre-bid conference last time but did not hear any consultation. He suggested that he's in favor of lotting by region. Mr. Tiu also agreed with the queries of Empresa Metal Craft Corp. in giving the suppliers the option of choosing the materials.	The BAC I Chairperson answered that only one sample is required if the sets are the same in the lot/s and with the same technical specifications. He added that the basis of the clustering was due to the consultations during the first pre-bid conference and cancelled bid opening last October 21, 2021, and these were all the recommendations of the Technical Working Group and End-user unit and approved by the BAC. He	Y, of considered.

		reiterated that the BAC's decision is for the interest of the agency.	
ITB Clause 10	Mr. Reynaldo Pallon of Handicapped Persons Producers Cooperative asked if the sample to be presented during the bid opening is knock down or assembled	The BAC I Chairperson answered that the samples must be assembled.	N
	Mr. Reynaldo Pallon of Handicapped Persons Producers Cooperative asked if the regular supplier is allowed to bid for project for the regular cooperatives.	Engr. Luis Purisima, Jr., TWG Member, answered that the project for the cooperatives is earmarked purely for cooperatives so regular suppliers cannot participate for lots allocated to regular cooperatives including the cooperative of Persons with Disability (PWD).	N
	Mr. Reynaldo Pallon of Handicapped Persons Producers Cooperative asked if the payment for the bidding documents of the cancelled procurement of School Furniture is refundable. In relation to the ABC, he asked if the tax is already deducted since the bidding price for the cooperative is relatively low than the bidding price for the regular suppliers.	Ms. Nicolas answered that they can either refund or utilize it for the present project provided that they accomplish Annex A- Bidder's Information Sheet, to indicate the lot/s bidding for and for the computation of cost of bidding documents. The ABC was calculated less the tax. The BAC I Chairperson stated that the cooperative has a tax exemption.	N

	Ms. Shiela Gale of Asia Prime Commodities Corp. asked if they can use the payment made for the purchase of the bidding documents of the cancelled procurement of school furniture for the present procurement.	Ms. Nicolas answered in the affirmative. Bidders are allowed to refund or add payment based on the new computation of the lot/s bidding for but they need to provide the receipt and the duly accomplished Bidder's Information Sheet.	N
ITB Clause 10	Mr. Michael Asiddao of Atlanta Industries Inc. clarified regarding the submission of samples during the bid opening if it is possible to provide the sample after the announcement of the Lowest Calculated Bid. He added that for those who have undertaken the testing of the samples, he asked if they can resubmit their certification. He also agreed with the suggestions of Ma. Gracia Furniture and Empresa Corp.	The BAC I Chairperson answered that the sample of the items is not per lot, but one sample for the similar items and similar technical specifications. The purpose is for everyone to witness the durability and the standards of the samples presented by the bidders. The BAC I Chairperson added that as stated in the bidding documents, for those sample/s already tested by DOST, the bidder may submit the said certification subject to verification to the DOST. For those who have not yet submitted their samples for testing and was declared as the	N

		bidder having the Lowest Calculated Bid, the DepEd will send the samples to DOST for testing. This is to equalize the request of the bidders who are having difficulty with the testing requirement.	
	Mr. Lenardo Gabalfin of Metro Mobilia Corporation asked if replacement of samples is allowed.	The BAC I Chairperson answered no, as stated in the bidding documents.	N
	Mr. Richard Arceño of Bigay Buhay Multipurpose Cooperative suggested the lotting to be localized or per region to provide more employment for persons with disabilities.	The BAC I Chairperson stated the lotting was recommended by the end-user unit based on the suggestions of the prospective bidders.	N
ITB Clause 5.3	Mr. Richard Arceño of Bigay Buhay Multipurpose Cooperative suggested aggregating the contracts.	Ms. Nicolas stated that according to bidding documents, the suppliers can submit a similar contract for 10 years and they have an option of at least two similar contracts and the total aggregated contract amount should be equivalent to at least 50% of the ABC of the lot bid form and the largest of the similar contract must be equivalent to at least 25%, so they have two options similar	N

		contracts or two similar contracts.	
ITB Clause 10	Mr. Reynaldo Pallon of Handicapped Persons Producers Cooperative asked what if one of the bidders is declared as the lowest calculated bid but still cannot submit the sample, can it still be submitted even after the bid opening.	The BAC I Chairperson stated that DOST certification is not yet required during the bid opening. The bidder declared as having the Lowest Calculated Bid with prior or pending application for testing, the DepEd will follow up status of the sample testing to the DOST.	N
ITB Clause 20.2	Mr. Aachilles Bayano of San Francisco Association of Differently-Abled Person Multi-Purpose Cooperative for the 10% and 15% allocation for the cooperative, the post-qualification requirements be the same except for the certification from NCDA.	Ms. Nicolas stated that as indicated in the bidding documents, ITB Clause 20.2, Items C and D are required only for the cooperatives of PWD.	N
	Mr. Reynaldo Merida of Amcha Multipurpose Cooperative suggested if it is allowed to split lot 17 so that there is an opportunity for the other groups to join.	The BAC I noted the suggestion.	Y, if considered.
ITB Clause 20.2	Mr. Reynaldo Merida of Amcha Multipurpose Cooperative stated that as regards the post-qualification requirement for cooperative of the PWD such certification from NCDA, but as of now NCDA has no offices in the different regions; he asked if certification from CDA only and none from NCDA will suffice.	Engr. Purisima stated that these are two different documents. The certificate issued by the NCDA is a certification that it is a bona fide cooperative formed by PWD and the certification of compliance issued by the CDA. The certification is for	N

		different aspects.	
ITB Clause 7.1 (b)	Mr. Reynaldo Merida of Amcha Multipurpose Cooperative asked regarding item 7.1 for the percentages allowed for the subcontract.	Ms. Nicolas stated that in relation to the provision on the subcontract, as stated in the ITB Clause 7.1 (b) of the Bid Data Sheet, a supplier may subcontract one or more cooperatives as it may deem necessary, however, in any case, the amount of the subcontract could not be more than 20% of the total project or contract cost.	N
ITB Clause 5.3 and 20.2	Mr. Reynaldo Pallon of Handicapped Persons Producers Cooperative asked if a joint venture between Cooperatives is allowed to afford the Single Largest Completed Contracts. He added that if the NCDA and CDA are both necessary requirements and two different requirements as opposed to the suggestion of Mr. Merida.	Mr. James Ronald Ybiernas, BAC Secretariat, explained that joint venture is allowed, however, the two joint venture partners cannot combine their completed contracts to comply with the SLCC requirement. Only one of the joint venture partners is permitted to comply with the SLCC; any of the two joint ventures is allowed to comply. Engr. Purisima agreed with the prospective bidder and he answered that it is required because it is a requirement from	N

		two different agencies.	
	Ms. Rose Ann Dionisio of Willie Mart clarified that if they will only submit one set of documents for the common documents and separate for financial documents.	Ms. Nicolas agreed with Ms. Dionisio. One set for the common documents for all the lots bid for provided that they indicate the lots. For the price schedule, separate for each lot but use the same template for all the lots.	N

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<i>Special Conditions of Contract</i>			
<i>Provision</i>	<i>Questions/ Queries/ Clarifications</i>	<i>BAC's Response</i>	<i>For Bid Bulletin (Y/N)</i>
GCC Clause 1	Mr. Reynaldo Pallon of Handicapped Persons Producers Cooperative asked if the items be assembled or knock down upon delivery to warehouse.	The BAC I Chairperson answered that assembled but with regard to the delivery of the items, DepEd preferred it to be knock down.	N
GCC Clause 1	Mr. Michael Asiddao of Atlanta Industries Inc. clarified the handling and delivery, since the items to be delivered are knock down, he asked who will assemble, and who will be accountable for the damage due to miscarriage of the furniture.	The BAC I Chairperson answered that the DepEd is responsible for the installation but that will be based on the manual and video instruction provided by the supplier. He reiterated that during the delivery, the accountability belongs to DepEd once delivered to DepEd warehouse.	N
GCC 2.2	Mr. Leonardo Gabalfin of Metro Mobilia Corporation asked for the number of days or weeks the supplier will be paid after the submission of completed documents.	Mr. Ybiernas answered that once the inspectorate team is done with the inspection, they will provide an inspection and acceptance report (IAR), that is the time they can request for the payment. And for the Accounting Division, as a rule, a maximum of 60	N

		calendar days to process the payment. But, there is a pending request to Accounting Division for a special lane to expedite the payment process.	
GCC Clause 1	Mr. Leonardo Reyes of RDY 3 General Merchandise asked if the bubble wrap is allowed for the packaging. And for Lot No. 5, for the clustering of Region IV-B and Region VIII, where will be the location of their warehouse?	Ms. Nicolas answered that the bubble wrap is possible but for the approval of the end-user unit. She added that as stated in the bidding documents, the Supplier shall, upon notice by DepEd, ensure that items/goods are made available for inspection at its warehouse, which should be located in NCR, Region 3 or Region 4-A; or for items to be delivered in Visayas, in a warehouse in Cebu; and for items to be delivered in Mindanao, in a warehouse in Davao or Cagayan De Oro. After inspection and acceptance at its warehouse, the Supplier shall ensure that the goods/items are packaged, sealed, ready and fit for transport.	N
GCC Clause 1	Ms. Shiela Gale of Asia Prime Commodities Corp. asked regarding the allotted days for the pick-up of the items to the warehouse.	Ms. Nicolas stated that upon notice from the bidders of its readiness for inspection and delivery, the logistics or the inspectorate team will notify the bidders of the schedule of inspection.	N
GCC Clause 1	Mr. Aachilles Bayano of San Francisco Association of Differently-Abled Person Multi-Purpose Cooperative asked if there is an allocation for the rental of the suppliers for the warehouse in case the pick up of DepEd Logistics would take longer.	After the notification from the supplier of its readiness for inspection and delivery, the logistics and pre-inspection team will coordinate with the bidder. The BAC cannot provide the specific days for the inspection and delivery for hauling.	N
GCC Clause 1	Mr. Joven Tiu of Sta. Rita Enterprises clarified about the warehousing because in	The BAC Secretariat stated that the transportation/	N

	<p>the bidding documents it is included in the transportation provision that the supplier shall be upon the notice by DepEd, ensure that items/goods are made available for inspection at its warehouse, which should be located in NCR, Region 3 or Region 4-A; or for items to be delivered in Visayas, in a warehouse in Cebu; and for items to be delivered in Mindanao, in a warehouse in Davao or Cagayan De Oro.</p>	<p>warehousing provision will be further clarified with the logistics team.</p>	
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<i>Schedule of Requirements</i>			
<i>Provision</i>	<i>Questions/Queries/Clarifications</i>	<i>BAC's Response</i>	<i>For Bid Bulletin (Y/N)</i>
	<p>Ms. Rose Ann Dionisio of Willie Mart asked regarding the engineered bamboo, if the areas of the items to be distributed are not indicated in the schedule of requirements.</p>	<p>Engr. Purisima answered that nothing is stated in the bidding documents because the delivery is to the DepEd warehouse. He added that the items are allocated to Regions 3, 6, and 10 to be specific. DepEd will deliver the items to the regions and schools.</p>	N
	<p>Mr. Alsee Bello of Bigay Buhay Multipurpose Cooperative asked if the 90 Calendar Days for the delivery period can be extended from 150 to 180 days. 90 days is a short period considering that Persons with Disability (PWD) will make the items.</p>	<p>Ms. Nicolas answered that the delivery period for the 10% allocation for cooperative/s of PWD is until March 15, 2022.</p> <p>The BAC I Chairperson added that the delivery period is dependent on the life of the fund. The delivery period</p>	N

		was set due to the life of the fund and cannot be extended because if it is extended, DepEd will not have the fund to pay.	
	<p>Mr. Leonardo Gabalfin of Metro Mobilia Corporation stated that since the delivery period is not extendable what is the target issuance of the Notice to Proceed so that they can estimate the delivery period?</p> <p>He also asked since the inspection is in the warehouse, how many days will it take for the DepEd to pick up the items after the inspection?</p> <p>Lastly, he suggested regarding the manual and video if it is possible to access thru online links like YouTube to make it more accessible.</p>	<p>Ms. Nicolas said there is none however, by the time that the Notice to Award and duly signed contract are done, the Notice to Proceed will be issued.</p> <p>The BAC I Chairperson answered that it will be determined by the inspectorate team and the warehouse. Ms. Nicolas added that a notice from the bidder will be issued to notify the DepEd if the items are ready to be delivered and the logistics team and inspectorate team will notify for the schedule of the pre-inspection.</p> <p>The BAC I Chairperson answered that DepEd will provide for online access as long as the supplier will provide for the manual and video.</p>	N
	Mr. Richard Arseño of Bigay Buhay Multipurpose Cooperative reiterated the request to extend the production period from 90 days to 150 days.	The BAC I Chairperson answered that the delivery period is based on the life of the fund. And for the allocation, that is the	N

		recommendation of the end-user unit based on the suggestions of prospective bidders and the proposal of the clustering became the response of the end-user unit approved by the BAC.	
118 119	Ms. Shiela Gale of Asia Prime Commodities Corp. clarified the inconsistencies as stated in the Invitation to Bid and Schedule of Requirements on the allocation titles.	Ms. Nicolas stated that the allocation titles will be revised for consistency purposes.	Y

Section VII (Technical Specifications)			
<i>Provision</i>	<i>Questions/ Queries/ Clarifications</i>	<i>BAC's Response</i>	<i>For Bid Bulletin (Y/N)</i>
	Ms. Girlie Mancera of Empresa Metalcraft Corp. asked regarding the specifications of armchairs. She said that technically, when they submitted their bids for the cancelled bidding of furniture last October 2021, they were not ready with the technical specifications but they tried their best and also wanted to know who will qualify among the bidders in relation to the technical specifications. She added that information as to the technical specifications should only be known upon the start of the issuance of the bidding documents or during the Pre-bid Conference, thus, she asked, in connection with the statement made by Ms. Salazar	The BAC I Chairperson instructed the BAC Secretariat to gather all the questions and will be answered as a whole.	N

	<p>of Ma. Gracia Furniture and General Merchandise regarding the alleged leakage of the technical specification way back in June 2021 as to how did this happen because she felt that it was unfair to some bidders. She requested if they can offer steel and wood including chairs because they don't have a mold for blow-molded seat as their offered specification is injected PP. Knowing that they may be disqualified outright, they still submitted their bids. She stated that 95% of the bidders who participated were not ready but still submitted their bids. From that submission, they will know who among the bidders are qualified and who possibly got the early information in relation to the technical specifications.</p> <p>Lastly, she asked if the implementation of the hauling of DepEd is more advantageous to the government.</p> <p>She reiterated her request that the previous specifications wherein the bidder can offer items readily available in the market be returned and the specification to be wood and steel.</p>		
	Mr. Reynaldo Pallon of Handicapped Persons Producers Cooperative	The BAC I Chairperson answered that assembled but with regards to the delivery of	N

	asked if the sample to be presented during the bid opening is knocked down or assembled	the items they preferred it to be knocked down	
	Mr. Leonardo Reyes of RDY 3 General Merchandise asked regarding the technical specifications of the backrest and seat if they will put a tolerance value for the support.	The BAC I Chairperson said that it will be determined during the testing of the DOST if it failed to pass the test, it is implied that it is not tolerant.	N
	Ms. Girlie Mancera of Empresa Metalcraft Corp. asked regarding the technical specifications given by the engineer if they are the ones who made the drawings, and if the chair loses some part, what will happen to the items, also what is the definition of the end-user to a durable chair.	The BAC I Chairperson stated that the chair is durable in accordance with DepEd specifications and passes the DOST testing thus the accountability for the handling in delivering the items will be DepEd, not the suppliers, and for the actual delivery inspection, the inspectorate team of DepEd will ensure that everything is complete.	N
	Ms. Emelita Salazar of Ma. Gracia Furniture and Gen. Merchandise presented the letter from Judel of Ergo. According to the letter read by Ms. Salazar, Ergo said that the information was given by somebody from DepEd. She stated that the drawing given to her by Ergo prior to the posting of the bidding documents was the same as in the released bidding documents. She said that not one question from the bidders was given a good answer. She wrote a letter and emailed twice to the	The BAC I Chairperson stated that this will be answered in a while.	N

	<p>BAC Secretariat to clarify the issue brought up during the pre-bid conference. Even the legal counsel that she consulted sent an email to the BAC Secretariat but no answer came from the DepEd. She felt it to be unfair. She asked what is the reason because no answer can be given. She prepared pieces of evidence. As to the specification with the required color and embossed logo, she brought the samples to the DOST Los Baños for testing but per the DOST there is no issue with the color and the logo of the samples, the important thing is the durability. She said that DOST Cebu attested to that.</p> <p>She also called the attention of the Commission on Audit to examine and investigate the issue. She suggested reconsidering their suggestions. Moreover, she said that they are seeking justice for the poor laborers of their company.</p>		
	<p>Mr. Restie Inaldo of Bedmaster Manufacturing Corporation suggested if wood can be used for the chair since HPL is more durable and will not be affected by woodborers. Mr. Inaldo also agreed with the suggestion of Empresa Corp. and Ma. Gracia Furniture.</p>	<p>The BAC I Chairperson said that the proposal of Mr. Inaldo is contradictory to his own findings. The BAC I Chairperson added that they chose the plastic because it will not be affected by woodborers.</p> <p>The BAC I Chairperson reiterated that the pre-bid conference, clarification letters and cancelled bid opening and</p>	N

		this pre-bid conference are all consultation processes. The BAC will not answer individual queries and letters. The queries that were raised during BAC meetings or letters will be addressed through the issuance of Bid Bulletin approved by the BAC members.	
	Mr. Richard Arceño of Bigay Buhay Multipurpose Cooperative suggested that it will be easier for the PWD to use marine plywood rather than engineered bamboo	The BAC I Chairperson answered that with regard to engineered bamboo it is required by the law, and covered by an Executive Order.	N
	Mr. Aachilles Bayano of San Francisco Association of Differently-Abled Persons Multi-Purpose Cooperative their concern is with regard to the 10% allocation, they are hoping that the wood and steel will be considered.	The BAC will take note of the suggestion.	N
	Mr. Joven Tiu of Sta. Rita Enterprises suggested that the materials be all wood and steel as also will be suggested by majority bidders. He added that the BAC may use this as an opportunity to listen to the requests of the bidders.	The BAC I Chairperson said that the prospective bidders need to understand that the procurement process is always on the preference of the end-user unit or the Procuring Entity. This also should be taken into consideration by the prospective bidders as well. The BAC considered all the factors, and the suggestions of the prospective bidders is one of them. The technical specifications were based on the investigations conducted from the previously procured items of school furniture. Just like the changing of the technical specifications of laptops and SME and TVL items due to changing standards.	N
	Ms. Girlie Mancera of Empresa Metalcraft Corp. asked regarding	The BAC I Chairperson stated that it is a durable chair if it is in accordance with DepEd	N

	<p>the technical specifications given by the engineers of the end-user if they are the ones who made the drawings. From the previous drawings, they are very consistent with the durability and support. Based on their observation with the new technical specification, if a student weighing 150kgs, it will break as it does not have support. She added that for the logistics, what will happen if during the transit, some parts of the items get lost. She asked for the definition of durability.</p>	<p>specifications and passes the DOST testing. As to cases of loss during delivery, DepEd is accountable for the handling of delivery the items, not the suppliers. For the actual delivery inspection, the inspectorate team of DepEd will ensure that everything is complete.</p>	
	<p>Ms. Emelita Salazar of Ma. Gracia Furniture and Gen. Merchandise asked who is the liar, the previous BAC, or the current one, or them (the bidders) in relation to the technical specifications. She added that she is challenging the TWG and end-user to double-check the technical specifications.</p>	<p>The BAC I Chairperson answered that he cannot answer as to who is the liar but it is very clear that the BAC is not lying. He reiterated that they should not ruin the integrity of the BAC, because the procedure of the BAC is always in accordance with the law and the policy of the agency. The BAC cannot accept being called liars. The BAC pleaded to be heard. For two years, DepEd investigated all schools and delivered items. The designs were changed several times because DepEd wanted to get the perfect design and durability of the items. It's not possible to stick with one design as the designs adopted by the previous BAC are not conducive for today's times. The previously designed plastics are brittle and easily breakable, thus, needed to be changed. When the plastic specification was changed into all wood, the problem was that</p>	N

	<p>the items were affected by woodborers. Thus, constant change in the technical specification is necessary. He added that there's no law or arrangement that says that specifications and designs cannot be changed as it is a call of time and need of DepEd. For example, before, one table and two chairs, but due to the pandemic, this set up will not be appropriate, thus was changed into one table one chair. Also, before items were composed of desk but due to limited supply of wood, became plastic and steel. These are only a few of the conditions considered why there is a need to change the specifications and design. That is why, suppliers cannot assert the previous specifications because based from the investigation for the period of two years, DepEd saw the needed changes to be implemented.</p> <p>The question on the durability of the designs will be backed-up/supported by the testing to be conducted by the DOST if it passes the said testing.</p> <p>As to the hauling services, this was also a result of several studies and part of the reforms needed by DepEd.</p>	
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Other Matters			
Provision	Questions/ Queries/ Clarifications	BAC's Response	For Bid Bulletin (Y/N)
	Ms. Emelita Salazar of Ma. Gracia Furniture and Gen. Merchandise stated that she is reluctant to speak to avoid being muted again, the same as what happened last Pre-bid Conference.	The BAC I Chairperson answered that for clarification Ms. Salazar was not muted. To put on record, the BAC Secretariat explained that during the pre-bid conference,	N

	<p>prospective bidders were talking at the same time, thus, muting of all the participants was necessarily done to provide order to the discussion and this is the official statement of the BAC.</p> <p>The BAC I Chairperson added that this matter has been responded to several times and should never be brought up again.</p>	
121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135	<p>Mr. Arthur De Guzman of Ergo Contracts Phils., Inc. expressed that they wanted to convey to all participants of the pre-bid conference with respect to the false allegations made to them. Their legal team will clarify everything for the settlement of the issue.</p> <p>Ms. Salazar of Ma. Gracia replied that there is no need for Ergo to clarify the matter to them as she is not questioning the company and it is the prerogative of the supplier. Ergo needs to clarify it to DepEd and the DepEd will explain to the suppliers.</p>	N

In addition, the BAC I Chairperson mentioned that the design and technical specifications of School Furniture are final since these were based on the field investigations conducted for the last two years. Reports and recommendations were made as a result of the field investigations. Moreover, the warehousing/logistics program of DepEd is one of the major reforms made and adopted by DepEd. This is a step to avoid slip through of substandard items delivered directly to the schools and so that suppliers will not have difficulty in delivering the items. The delivery will be in the warehouses and designated areas and not directly to schools to ensure compliance with the specifications, standards and alleviate the suppliers from the hassle of delivering to the schools. As to the time to prepare, this should not be an issue anymore as the prospective bidders were given ample time to prepare including the requirement of submission of samples during the opening of bids based on correct color and specifications. The time

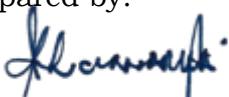
136 should not be a factor for this present procurement unlike before. The
137 difficulty in obtaining the test certificate from DOST was also considered,
138 thus, the said requirement was revised. The clustering was also based on the
139 consultations and end-user's recommendation that a complete set should be
140 delivered per classroom, thus, the bundling of items into sets. The durability
141 and strength whether welded, fully welded, or stackable and other support
142 were considered in coming up with the new design and specifications. The
143 testing in DOST will prove the durability and strength of the items as
144 complied with the specifications required by DepEd.
145

146 Moreover, the BAC I Chairperson added that Ergo Contract Phils. Inc.
147 should be the one to answer the issues raised against them. The Department
148 of Education does not release advance information and specifications that
149 are not final and not from the BAC. End-users may release drawings and
150 designs for market survey or canvassing purposes in order to come up with
151 the final and right ABC. The official specifications are those issued by the
152 BAC and signed by the Undersecretary, end-user unit, and other officials of
153 the Department of Education.
154

155 The BAC I Chairperson announced that having exhausted most of the
156 queries and issues, the prospective bidders may write a letter of clarification
157 which may be sent via the BAC Secretariat e-mail address within 48 hrs
158 Furthermore, the BAC I Chairperson stated that the BAC will issue a Bid
159 Bulletin if necessary.
160

161 Having no other matters to discuss, the pre-bid conference was adjourned at
162 1:30 P.M.
163
164
165

166 Prepared by:
167



168 **JENIECA C. MARILLA**
169 Technical Assistant II
170 BAC Secretariat Division
171

Reviewed by:



172 **CHRISTA O. NICOLAS**
173 Senior Technical Assistant II
174 BAC Secretariat Division
175
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Noted by:



178 **JAMES RONALD G. YBIERNAS**
179 Supervising Administrative Officer
180 OIC, BAC Secretariat Division
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Minutes of Pre-Bid Conference

195 Project No. : **2021c-AdmS4(001to005&14)-BI-CB-031**
196 Project : **Supply and Delivery of School Furniture for Elementary,**
197 **Junior, Senior High Schools CY 2021 School Furniture**
198 **Program**
199
200 ABC : **PhP1,720,659,347.70**
201 End-User : **Education Facilities Division**
202
203 Date & Time : **November 15, 2021; 10AM**
204 Venue : **Video Conferencing via Microsoft (MS) Teams**

Concurred by:

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE I



ALAIN DE B. PASCUA
Undersecretary and Chairperson

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SAMUEL R. SOLIVEN

Villanueva
Arch. FELIX F. VILLANUEVA, Jr.
Provisional Member

Mr. ADOLF P. AGUILAR
Provisional Member