

Implementation of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act” in the Province of Batangas: Basis for enhancement

Maneja, Paulita M. 

Graduate School, Lyceum of the Philippines University - Batangas, Philippines

Tamayo, Ma. Rosario B.

Graduate School, Lyceum of the Philippines University - Batangas, Philippines



ISSN: 2243-7770

Online ISSN: 2243-7789

OPEN ACCESS

Received: 18 June 2023

Revised: 20 July 2023

Accepted: 18 August 2023

Available Online: 25 August 2023

DOI: 10.5861/ijrsm.2023.1099

Abstract

The study aimed to assess implementation of the RA 9184 often known as the Government Procurement Act in the Province of Batangas as to governing principles on government procurement, procurement planning, procurement by electronic means, composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee; preparation of bidding, receipt of the opening of the Bids & evaluation, post qualification and awards, and alternative method of procurement. The study also identified the problems encountered in implementation of RA 9184. It also examined the test the significant difference between the implementation and issues that came up; provide a strategy to improve the implementation of RA 9184 in the Province of Batangas. The study made use survey-descriptive technique to the 384 respondents from 8 municipalities of Batangas. The respondents are the local elected officials, vendors/supplies and the end users. Based from the results, the implementation of RA 9184 with regard to procurement planning, receipt & opening of bids and evaluation, post qualification and award and alternative method of procurement are highly implemented However, in terms of governing principles in government procurement, procurement by electronic means, compositions and functions of bids and awards committee and preparation of bidding documents and invitation to bid were assessed as implemented by the respondents. The LGU suggest that they should sustain equal opportunity to eligible and qualified contracting parties to participate in public bidding.

Keywords: Republic Act 9184, reform act, local government unit, procurement, government code

Implementation of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act” in the Province of Batangas: Basis for enhancement

1. Introduction

Management of property and supplies in local government units (LGUs) plays a crucial role in ensuring the smart and efficient use of government funds. The Local Government Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 7160) or the Local Government Code 1991 consist of provisions that outline the responsibilities and processes involved in property and supply management within LGUs.

One of the fundamental principles of property and supply management is the accountability of LGUs for the proper administration, utilization, and disposition of public property and supplies. In the Local Government Code, it emphasizes the responsibility, placing the onus on LGUs to manage and control government property and supplies within their jurisdiction.

To fulfill this responsibility, LGUs are required to conduct and maintain a comprehensive inventory of all properties and supplies under their control, as stipulated in the sections under the Management of property and supplies in the Local Government Unit. This inventory should encompass detailed information such as descriptions, quantities, acquisition costs, current values, locations, and conditions of each item. By maintaining an accurate inventory, LGUs can track their assets, assess their condition and ensure proper allocation and utilization.

To oversee property and supply management, LGUs are mandated to designate a Property and Supply Officer (PSO), as stated in the LGC. The PSO is responsible for the recording, safekeeping, and disposal of government property and supplies. This role ensures that there is a dedicated focal point for managing and safeguarding public resources, promoting accountability, and preventing loss or misuse.

Regarding the disposal of property, LGC provides LGUs with the authority to dispose of real or personal property through various means, such as sale, lease, or exchange. However, the Local Government Code emphasizes the importance of transparency and fair competition by requiring public auction or competitive bidding, except in specific circumstances outlined in the law.

In terms of procurement of supplies, LGUs must adhere to the guidelines and procedures established in the Government Procurement Reform Act R.A 9184, as mentioned. This ensures that procurement activities follow transparent and accountable processes, including competitive bidding or alternative methods of procurement. By promoting fair competition, LGUs can obtain services and products at the greatest price for money while fostering a level playing field for suppliers.

To facilitate the procurement process, LGUs are necessary to establish a Bids and Awards Committee/BAC. The BAC is in charge of controlling the purchasing process, assessing bids and deciding who gets the job for products, construction initiatives, and consultation services. This committee plays a crucial part in upholding the integrity and fairness of the procurement procedure.

Furthermore, Local Government Code allows LGUs to establish a Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) to enhance property and supply management practices. The SPMO serves as a centralized unit accountable on ensuring the systematic management and control of government property and supplies. By consolidating these responsibilities, LGUs can streamline operations, improve accountability, and achieve greater efficiency in managing resources.

In conclusion, property and supply management in LGUs, as governed by the Local Government Code, is

vital for responsible governance and the effective use of public resources. Through accurate inventory, designated officers, transparent procurement processes, and dedicated management offices, LGUs can ensure the proper administration, utilization, and disposition of government property and supplies. By upholding accountability and promoting transparency, LGUs contribute to efficient public service delivery and the responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds.

R.A No. 9184, the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), is a regulation that passed in the Philippines in 2003. The GPRA aims to enhance the government's purchasing process by encouraging openness, competition, and responsibility.

Since the implementation of RA 9184, government procurement has improved. Decreased in the number of corruption cases involving government procurement has been lessened. The law made the government procurement system more transparent, competitive and accountable. The GPRA has also ensured the government gets the most for its money when it makes purchases of products and services. Findings from the study conducted by Castaneda et al., (2023) entitled The Government Procurement Law and its IRR provide conclusive evidence that the Procurement law and its IRR have an impact on then procurement process.

The mechanism provided by procurement allows for the coordination of the flow of materials between consumers and suppliers and serves as a vital link between the many businesses in the supply chain. Using backwards communication, procurement explains what consumers desire and forwards to communicate what the suppliers have at every stage of the supply chain.

The purchase of appropriate goods and/or services at a price that will satisfy the buyer's needs in terms of quality, quantity, time, and location is the conventional definition of purchasing. The procurement process formally begins when it is determined that a purchase is necessary to achieve a goal, and it concludes when the product has been consumed, sold, or completely provided for under a service contract, and the supplier has been paid in full. In order to maintain procurement operations, organizations can plan, buy, and distribute the resources they require, from paper and pens to mobility equipment, security agreements, IT systems and applications, and consulting services. Procurement is the largest or second-largest category of spending in every firm. In modern corporate jargon, the phrase "procurement" is an "umbrella" term that includes concepts like sourcing and outsourcing, management of the supply chain, operations, logistics, and inventory, and eBidding within its sphere of influence. An important role in determining corporate strategy and profitability is procurement.

Every company aspires to have effective procurement procedures, which include getting the most value for money or buying things that are practical while considering the total cost. A smart procurement procedure should be carried out quickly to save the parties concerned money and time.

The largest consumers of goods and services are governments; hence, procurement is another crucial task performed by the government. In the Philippines, the government spends hundreds of billions of pesos annually on the supplies and services required to run the bureaucracy, finish projects, and offer services to the general public. The World Bank states that during the past four years, government procurement processes have resulted in an average yearly expenditure of Php 121 billion, or 15% of the national budget, on infrastructure, equipment, components, supplies, and services.

The procurement process is used by the Philippine government to fulfill all of its priorities, including the provision of free drugs and medicines to public hospitals, desks and chairs in public educational institutions, weapons and ammunition implemented by the police and military, and technological devices that supported the nation's recently concluded automated elections.

The nation's purchasing system used to be described as being difficult and susceptible to corruption due to the various out-of-date and contradicting legislation and multiple organizations responsible for creating

regulations and processes in procurement. Ineffectiveness, fraud, and a lack of openness were widely believed to exist in government procurement. As a result, there was not much trust and confidence in the public procurement system.

The GPRA is still the primary procurement law in the Philippines. However, there have been a number of amendments to the GPRA since it was enacted. These amendments have been designed to address some of the challenges that have been identified with the procurement process. The history of procurement law in the Philippines is a long and complex one. However, the GPRA has been a significant step forward in the effort to increase the procurement process's efficiency and openness.

Magtalas et al.'s (2019) "Assessing the Transparency Practices in Public Bidding of Philippine Rice Research Institute in the Philippines" study discovered that the agency adheres to transparency in its procurement procedures and that information about the tendering processes is readily available and downloadable through the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System-PhilGEPS and the agency's official website. The Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184's standard procedure for implementing procurement operations is rigorously adhered to. To ascertain whether procurement policies are being followed in the public sector, the researchers suggested that the same evaluation be conducted in some additional government bodies.

Stipulated in the 2016 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations, Rule IV, Section 10, the process by which the procurement organization submits a public bid or competitive bid in an effort to receive the most favorable offer from competing businesses. Each government organization that issues a bid is obligated by law to follow this procedure. It establishes an environment that is fair and transparent. In essence, it implies that any organization, as long as they meet all the standards mentioned in the IRR, they will be enthusiastically welcomed to the bidding process and will be given a fair opportunity to contend with the rest of the field regardless of their size, yearly income, or other characteristics. But even after the Procurement Act was passed, many people still have questions about the processes involved in purchasing government services. Even in the lack of adequate evidence, many people have harbored unfavorable opinions about the procedure. Therefore, the study is carried out to compare the theory to practice and observation in the actual public context.

It is in this context that the researcher as the Department Head of General Service Office in the Provincial Government of Batangas, the President of PAGSO Batangas and PAGSO CALABARZON, Vice President of PAGSO National and a Doctor of Public Administration student would like to conduct the study. Results of the research would help the researcher recommend programs and activities to enhance the implementation of the Government Procurement Reform Act RA 9184 in the Province of Batangas.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

The study's objective was to assess how well RA 9184, often known as the Government Procurement Act, had been implemented in the Province of Batangas.

To be more precise: characterize the respondents' profile in terms of category, classification and class; assess the implementation of RA 9184 with regards to: governing principles on government procurement, procurement planning, procurement by electronic means, composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee; preparation of bidding, receipt of the opening of the Bids & evaluation, post qualification and awards ,and alternative method of procurement; identify the problems encountered in the implementation of RA 9184; test the significant difference in the implementation of RA 9184 and regarding issues that came up when respondents were classified in accordance with profile characteristics; determine whether there is a meaningful connection between the implementation and issues that came up; and provide a strategy to improve the implementation of RA 9184 in the Province of Batangas.

2. Methods

The survey-descriptive technique of study was used by the researcher because it offers descriptive information on the current status of the implementation of RA9184 in the various LGUs in the province of Batangas. According to Jackson (2011), the core concept of the survey method is "questioning people on a topic or topics and then evaluating their responses." The descriptive approach is also employed in the social sciences and in the majority of scientific fields. In a descriptive research, data are gathered without modifying the environment. It is used to define "what exists" with regard to the factors present in a situation and to learn more about the present state of the phenomenon (Posinasetti, 2014).

The research study was carried out in the province of Batangas. Participants were composed of three (3) groups namely: local elected officials (Mayors, Vice-mayors, Councilors), Vendors/suppliers and end users from the different municipalities and five (5) component cities. The overall number of respondents under the Province of Batangas is from the chosen municipalities namely, San Jose, Sta. Teresita, Rosario, Lemery, Mataas na Kahoy, Bauan, San Luis, and Calaca. Eight municipalities in the Province of Batangas, 133 respondents are LGU Officials, 160 are Vendors/Suppliers and 91 are end users for a total of 384 respondents.

The study made use of a questionnaire created by the researcher based on the implementing rules and regulations of RA 9184. It was provided and guided with clear direction to help in answering. The questionnaire composed Part 1 about the profile of the respondents; Part 2, the implementation of RA 9184 and Part 3, the problems encountered in the implementation.

Before the collecting data gathering activity, a letter requesting authorization to carry out the survey along with the approved survey questionnaire was submitted to the different LCE offices in the different LGUs in the province. Next, the printed copies of the survey questionnaire that were distributed were individually retrieved by the researchers using the same procedure. In accordance with the frequency numbers for the given choices, the results of the re-collected copies were reported and categorized. The information was then processed and analyzed.

The target participants were visited and briefed about the purpose, content and outcome of the paper. An informed consent was discussed with them, likewise, questions raised were addressed properly. The respondents were given the assurance that the information collected would be treated with the strictest confidentiality and used only for research. An informed consent was presented and signed by the respondents as these were used for educational purposes, they are also protected the confidentiality of the data.

The following statistical tools were used to investigate the data. The demographic information of the respondents was described using the distribution of frequency and percentage in terms of category, classification and class. Weighted means and ranking were used to assess the implementation of RA 9184 with regards to: governing principles on government procurement, procurement planning, procurement by electronic means, composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee; preparation of bidding, receipt of the opening of the Bids & evaluation, post qualification and awards, and alternative method of procurement; identify the problems encountered in the implementation of RA 9184. The Shapiro-Wilk Test result showed that the main variable's p-values were less than 0.05, indicating that the evidence set is not regularly distributed. Therefore, the non-parametric tests employed to identify the significant differences included the Mann Whitney U test for both groups and the Kruskal Wallis test for three groups. Spearman rho was also utilized to check whether the treated variables had a meaningful association. Additionally, all data were processed using IBM SPSS version 29 statistical software to further understand the study's findings using an alpha level of 0.05 and 0.01.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1

Implementation of RA 9184

Indicator	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. Governing Principles in Government Procurement	3.40	Implemented	7
2. Procurement Planning	3.57	Highly Implemented	3
3. Procurement by Electronic Means	3.41	Implemented	6
4. Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	3.45	Implemented	5
5. Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	3.35	Implemented	8
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	3.65	Highly Implemented	1
7. post-Qualification and award	3.56	Highly Implemented	4
8. Alternative Methods of Procurement	3.59	Highly Implemented	2
Composite Mean	3.50	Highly Implemented	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Highly Implemented; 2.50 – 3.49 = Implemented; 1.50 – 2.49 = Less Implemented; 1.00 - 1.49 = Not Implemented

Table 1 presents the summary table on the implementation of Republic Act 9184. The overall composite mean of 3.50 indicates that it is highly implemented in general. Among the domains, receipt and opening of bids and evaluation got the highest weighted mean of 3.65. This indicates that it is highly implemented from the start of the receiving of the bid and concludes when the bids are subject for further evaluation. Having two separate envelopes to be submitted by the bidders, accompanied by a bid security, the BAC opens the bids immediately after the deadline for submission and receipt of bids, and the approved budget of the contract must be the upper limit or ceiling for acceptable bid prices are some indicators why a successful implementation of the bidding process happens. There is transparency and clarity from the beginning until the end of the procedure. According to Nyasulu (2018), implementing accurate receipts, and maintaining transparency and accountability promotes efficiency and minimizes the risk associated with the procurement process. Receipts, opening of bids, and evaluation are highly implemented in the procurement process which involves the practice of transparency and accountability, competition and fairness, compliance with regulations and policies, evaluation of supplier capabilities, cost and value optimization, and documentation and audit trail.

Moreover, the preparation of bidding documents and invitation to bid ranked the least with a weighted mean of 3.35. This suggests that brand names are not allowed, for them to keep their identity in the awarding of public bidding. Every bid should be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general worldwide circulation and it should also be posted in the PhilGEPS. Since it is called a public bidding, bidders must be aware of the invitation to bid. When it comes to contracts to be bid with an approved budget of One Million Pesos or more, the BAC shall convene at least one pre-bid conference. Behind that is to explain and clarify the requirements, terms and conditions, and specifications specified in the bidding documents. The preparation of bidding documents and the invitation to bid are implemented in the procurement process for the contracting parties to have a clear communication and set a standard on the procurement process. By practicing transparency and fairness, there will be a supplier selection where potential suppliers must be eligible to participate. Chen et al., (2021) stated that the employer should prepare the pre-qualification documents in order to justify who are the qualified bidders, which usually includes an invitation for bids. Once the bids are submitted, it will be evaluated by the bid-evaluation committee to check the conformity and completeness of the submitted bid and later the employer awards the contract to the highest bidder based on the best value they can offer.

Table 2

Problems encountered in the implementation of RA 9184

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. Governing Principles in Government Procurement	3.25	Agree	1
2. Procurement Planning	2.20	Disagree	6
3. Procurement by Electronic Means	1.83	Disagree	8
4. Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	2.57	Agree	3
5. Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	2.13	Disagree	7
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	2.22	Disagree	5
7. post-Qualification and award	2.45	Disagree	4
8. Alternative Methods of Procurement	2.73	Agree	2
Composite Mean	2.42	Disagree	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Strongly Agree; 2.50 – 3.49 = Agree; 1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree; 1.00 - 1.49 = Strongly Disagree

Table 2 illustrates the summary on the problems encountered in the implementation of RA 9184. The composite mean of 2.42 indicates that they disagreed in general. However, domains like Governing Principles in Government Procurement (3.25), Alternative Methods of Procurement (2.73) and Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee (2.57) were considered a problem. Finding the ideal balance between improved transparency and procedural efficiency is one of the implementation's problems. The implementation of regulations must be carefully monitored to make sure that it does not cause delays in contract awards and supplemental administrative expenses. Government contracts may result in errors, irregularities, fraud, and corruption or incidents of public monies being misused. By providing public procurement officers with sufficient training, some of these issues can be avoided. According to Smith (2016), governing principles in government procurement can be seen as problematic when there is lack of adherence; the government is subject to complex regulations, insufficient competition, inadequate transparency, and capacity constraints. By addressing these issues, the effectiveness of governing principles can be enhanced, leading to improved public procurement practices.

However, post-qualification and award, receipt and opening of bids and evaluation, procurement planning, preparation of bidding documents and invitation to bid and procurement by electronic means were assessed as disagree. One of the most valued advantages of procurement planning is the potential cost savings that can result from carefully selecting products and providers as part of the procurement plan. It can be much simpler to talk price with suppliers and possibly lower the cost of things if one uses the planning time to do so and have the luxury of not being under a strict deadline. In contrast, when collecting estimates, it can compare rates with those of other vendors and the going rate without feeling as much pressure. On the other hand, common supply issues include pricing errors, order duplication, inventory shortages, inventory excesses, and order omissions are controlled and helped to decrease through e-procurement. According to Matunga et al., (2013), procurement by electronic means is not considered as a problem as the efficiency of the procurement process increases, there is a wide access to information, and there is improved data analysis and reporting. Thus, electronic procurement is a beneficial approach to modernizing and improving public procurement practices.

Table 3*Relationship between the implementation of RA 9184 and the Problems Encountered in the Implementation*

Governing Principles in Government Procurement	rho-value	p-value	Interpretation
Governing Principles in Government Procurement	.151**	0.003	Significant
Procurement Planning	0.071	0.162	Not Significant
Procurement by Electronic Means	.193**	<.001	Highly Significant
Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	.312**	<.001	Highly Significant
Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	.168**	<.001	Highly Significant
Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	0.081	0.115	Not Significant
post-Qualification and award	0.071	0.166	Not Significant
Alternative Methods of Procurement	0.074	0.147	Not Significant
Procurement Planning			
Governing Principles in Government Procurement	0.03	0.558	Not Significant
Procurement Planning	-.143**	0.005	Significant
Procurement by Electronic Means	-.102*	0.046	Significant
Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	.284**	<.001	Highly Significant
Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	-0.025	0.622	Not Significant
Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	.105*	0.040	Significant
post-Qualification and award	.349**	<.001	Highly Significant
Alternative Methods of Procurement	.386**	<.001	Highly Significant
Procurement by Electronic Means			
Governing Principles in Government Procurement	-0.1	0.051	Not Significant
Procurement Planning	-.132**	0.010	Significant
Procurement by Electronic Means	-.297**	<.001	Highly Significant
Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	-0.067	0.189	Not Significant
Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	-.133**	0.009	Significant
Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	.132**	0.009	Significant
post-Qualification and award	.309**	<.001	Highly Significant
Alternative Methods of Procurement	.325**	<.001	Highly Significant
Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee			
Governing Principles in Government Procurement	0.000	0.996	Not Significant
Procurement Planning	.270**	<.001	Highly Significant
Procurement by Electronic Means	.359**	<.001	Highly Significant
Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	.373**	<.001	Highly Significant
Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	.463**	<.001	Highly Significant
Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	0.085	0.097	Not Significant
post-Qualification and award	.106*	0.039	Highly Significant
Alternative Methods of Procurement	-0.09	0.079	Highly Significant

Implementation of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act”

Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid			
Governing Principles in Government Procurement	-.189**	<.001	Highly Significant
Procurement Planning	.101*	0.049	Highly Significant
Procurement by Electronic Means	-0.031	0.547	Not Significant
Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	0.018	0.729	Not Significant
Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	.176**	<.001	Highly Significant
Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	0.07	0.170	Not Significant
post-Qualification and award	.200**	<.001	Highly Significant
Alternative Methods of Procurement	0.086	0.091	Not Significant
Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation			
Governing Principles in Government Procurement	0.094	0.065	Not Significant
Procurement Planning	-.118*	0.021	Significant
Procurement by Electronic Means	-0.011	0.832	Not Significant
Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	.281**	<.001	Highly Significant
Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	0.039	0.447	Not Significant
Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	-.132**	0.010	Significant
post-Qualification and award	0.055	0.278	Not Significant
Alternative Methods of Procurement	.164**	0.001	Significant
post-Qualification and award			
Governing Principles in Government Procurement	-.175**	<.001	Highly Significant
Procurement Planning	-.287**	<.001	Highly Significant
Procurement by Electronic Means	-.570**	<.001	Highly Significant
Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	-.177**	<.001	Highly Significant
Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	-.310**	<.001	Highly Significant
Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	0.032	0.534	Highly Significant
post-Qualification and award	.289**	<.001	Highly Significant
Alternative Methods of Procurement	.325**	<.001	Highly Significant
Alternative Methods of Procurement			
Governing Principles in Government Procurement	0.059	0.247	Not Significant
Procurement Planning	-.414**	<.001	Highly Significant
Procurement by Electronic Means	-.446**	<.001	Highly Significant
Composition and functions of Bids & Awards Committee	-.310**	<.001	Highly Significant
Preparation of Bidding Documents and Invitation to Bid	-.488**	<.001	Highly Significant
Receipt and Opening of Bids and Evaluation	-0.048	0.352	Not Significant
post-Qualification and award	-0.054	0.293	Not Significant
Alternative Methods of Procurement	.173**	<.001	Highly Significant

Table 3 illustrates the relationship between the implementation of RA 9184 and the problems encountered in the implementation. It was observed that the computed r-values indicate a moderate direct / indirect correlation and the results of the p-values were less than the alpha t-level except on the items that were not significant. This means that there is a significant relationship that exists and it implies that the better the implementation, the lesser the problems will be encountered.

It is said that by understanding the governing principles in government procurement, the more transparent the involved parties are, it is more likely for a bid to be successful and no further questions of disintegrity will arise. Procurement planning and procurement by electronic means is somehow related to each other. When a bidder is vying for the contract, they are also processed for their bidding requirements and qualifications to enter the PhilGEPS. In the receipt and opening of bids and evaluation, procurement planning is involved. In addition, there is always an option in the planning process, looking for an alternative just in case that the main option won't be feasible. The rest of the indicators are not significant to other factors since they won't be affecting too much of the implementation.

The involved parties may encounter problems or challenges during implementation, but those issues are also addressed immediately by providing remedies to their shortcomings. Canonigo et al. (2020) asserted that to guarantee improved communication and good conduct of the remaining stages of the bidding process, it is essential that the agency encourage prospective bidders' presence at the infrastructure project meetings. The post-qualification process will be carried out more efficiently, resulting in a reduction in the length of the overall bidding process, thanks to better organization and uniformity of document submission. The posting of performance security, one of those with discoveries, is established by the act to ensure the contractors' faithful performance. The timely and effective handling of the bidding process is also crucial if we are to enjoy the benefits of the government projects in immediate time possible.

Table 4

Proposed Plan of Action to Enhance the Implementation of Government Procurement Reform Act

PPA's	Strategies	Performance Indicator	Persons Involved
1. Adopt/Establish a short time Policy in Procurement Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the Local Executives of the 8 municipalities through the Bids & awards committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short time policy on the procurement process is adopted/established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Chief Executive BAC Committee
2. Strict adherence to the government process in accordance with the APP/PPMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the Local Executives of the 8 municipalities through the Bids & awards committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government process in accordance with APP/PPMP is strictly adhered to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Chief Executive BAC Committee
3. Establish a workable info and Communication Technology for utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the Local Executives of the 8 municipalities through the Bids & awards committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workable info and Communication Technology is established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Chief Executive BAC Committee
4. Strict adherence and implementation to advertised implemented plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the Local Executives of the 8 municipalities through the Bids & awards committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertised Implementation plan is strictly adhered and implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Chief Executive BAC Committee
5. Reorganize/Activate Bidding Office responsible for documentation and inventory to update submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the Local Executives of the 8 municipalities through the Bids & awards committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bidding Officer reorganized/activated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Chief Executive BAC Committee
6. PPAs create/establish a regular or flexible bidding calendar for unseen events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the Local Executives of the 8 municipalities through the Bids & awards committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular or flexible bidding calendar or schedule is created/established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Chief Executive BAC Committee
7. Adopt/establish a flexible or accommodating Bid Policy pursuant to RA 9184 for qualified bidders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the Local Executives of the 8 municipalities through the Bids & awards committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible/accommodating policy is adopted/established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Chief Executive BAC Committee

<p>8. Formulate clear policy guidelines to avoid repeat orders resulting in small amounts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the Local Executives of the 8 municipalities through the Bids & awards committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear policy guidelines is formulated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Chief Executive • BAC Committee
---	---	---	--

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the results, respondents equally represented (48) the 8 subject municipalities, majority representing the vendors and supplier group. The implementation of RA 9184 with regard to procurement planning, receipt & opening of bids and evaluation, post qualification and award and alternative method of procurement are highly implemented. However, governing principles in government procurement, procurement by electronic means, compositions and functions of bids and awards committee and preparation of bidding documents and invitation to bid were assessed as implemented by the respondents. The respondents disagree that problems are encountered in the implementation of RA 9184 with regard to procurement planning, procurement by electronic means, preparation of bidding documents and invitation to bid, receipt and opening of bids evaluation and post qualification and award. However, they agree that they are encountering some problems in terms of governing principles in government procurement, composition and functions of bids and awards committee and alternative methods of procurement.

It was observed that there was significant difference in the implementation of RA 9184 when respondents were grouped according to municipality. In terms of the category of the respondents, responses differ on procurement by electronic means and post-qualification and award. With regard to problems encountered in the implementation it was observed that there was significant difference on when grouped according to municipality, it was found out that Mataas na Kahoy encountered greater problem. As to category, responses differ except on governing principles in government procurement, receipt and opening of bids and evaluation and post-qualification and award. There is a significant relationship between the implementation and problems encountered and implies that the better the implementation, the lesser problems encountered. A proposed plan of action is presented to enhance the implementation of the Government Procurement Act or R.A 9184 in the Province of Batangas.

The Local Government of subject municipalities through the BAC-GSO may sustain equal opportunity to eligible and qualified contracting parties to participate in public bidding. The Local Government of subject municipalities through the BAC-GSO may continue to adopt a system of accountability in the procurement contract. The Local Government of subject municipalities through the BAC-GSO, PHILGEPHS may establish a centralized database of stakeholders. The Local Government of subject municipalities through the BAC-GSO and procuring office may designate at least five to seven members of the BAC in the performance of BAC functions. The Local Government of subject municipalities through the BAC-GSO may continue advertising at least once in a newspaper of general circulation and keep on posting in the Philgephs. The proposed plan of action may be tabled for discussion, implementation and evaluation thereafter. Future researchers may conduct researches on the effectiveness of R.A. 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act) implementation.

5. References

Canonigo, J. T., Guisadio, J., & Siega, K. J. D. (2020). The Impact of Government Procurement Reform Act to Infrastructure Development. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*, 8(1), 122–143.

- Castañeda, I. E., Cuntapay, M. C. C., De Guzman, L. R. B., de Vera, A. M. G., Toledo, A. R. L., & De Leon, C. L. (2023). The Government Procurement Law (RA 9184) And Its IRR: Flaws on the Compliance Based on the Observations in the Procurement Bidding Process by the Employees of the Philippine Center for Postharvest and Mechanization Development (PHilMech). *International Journal of Advanced Engineering, Management and Science*, 9(5).
- Chen, Z. S., Zhang, X., Rodríguez, R. M., Pedrycz, W., & Martínez, L. (2021). Expertise-based bid evaluation for construction-contractor selection with generalized comparative linguistic ELECTRE III. *Automation in Construction*, 125, 103578.
- Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB). (2023). Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184. Retrieved from https://www.gppb.gov.ph/assets/pdfs/Updated%202016%20IRR_31%20March%202021.pdf
- Jackson, S. L. (2011). Research methods and statistics: A critical approach. *Cengage Learning*, 17.
- Local Government Code of the Philippines. (1991). Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/1991/10oct/19911010-RA-7160-CCA.pdf>
- Magtalas, A. M. F., Flores, M. J., Domingo, R. D., Musa, C. D. B., & Ramos, V. B. (2019). Assessing the Transparency Practices in Public Bidding of Philippine Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. *International Institute for Science, Technology, and Education*, 9(2).
- Matunga, D. A., Nyanamba, S. O., & Okibo, W. (2013). The effect of e-procurement practices on effective procurement in public hospitals: A case of Kisii level 5 hospital. *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*, 3(8), 103-111.
- Nyasulu, D. C. (2018). *An evaluation of alignment of strategic procurement function in city councils and its impact on compliance levels with public procurement procedures in Malawi: cases of Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu city councils* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Bolton).
- Posinasetti, N. R. (2014). Tech 6292 Research Methods in Technology. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263963829_ResMethods-Nature_of_Research
- Smith, S. R. (2016). Managing the challenges of government contracts. *The Jossey-Bass Handbook of Nonprofit Leadership and Management*, 536-563.

