

Rules to Strengthen Transparency, Accountability and Efficiency: Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi, MD PPRA

ISLAMABAD, September 28, 2026: The Public Procurement Rules, 2026 have been formally notified through the official Gazette of Pakistan and have come into force with immediate effect. The Federal Cabinet ratified the new Rules on the recommendation of the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC), which repeal the Public Procurement Rules, 2004.

This revision of the procurement regulatory framework was a major milestone in the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority's (PPRA) ongoing reform journey, which was achieved after extensive stakeholder deliberations and approval from multiple fora. Initiated in line with the Prime Minister's vision of Digital Pakistan, the reforms are designed to ensure transparency in public expenditure, promote ease of doing business, and align Pakistan's procurement practices with international best standards.

Made under Section 26 of the PPRA Ordinance, 2002, the new rules have come into immediate effect, with procurement cases initiated prior to the commencement of the new rules will continue under the 2004 framework, while all new processes will be governed by the Public Procurement Rules, 2026.

The Public Procurement Rules, 2026 provide a more comprehensive framework focusing to make public procurement efficient, fair and transparent that should deliver value for money. The new rules make the use of e-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS) mandatory for public procurement and disposal by federal procuring agencies, provide for the establishment of dedicated Procurement Cells, and introduce mechanisms to discourage conflicts of interest through third party validation, evaluation, and pre shipment inspection for large procurements.

The new Rules further strengthen the enforcement mechanism through the provision of blacklisting and cross-debarment, independent grievance redressal committees with an appellate mechanism at PPRA, and clearly identify material deviations and mis-procurement, including deliberate procurement outside EPADS, failure to constitute prescribed committees, tailor-made specifications, violation of advertisement and response-time requirements, and failure to follow prescribed evaluation criteria.

The Rules introduce innovative and more efficient methods of procurement such as gallop tendering and alternative procurement methods, including shopping and negotiated tendering, subject to specified conditions. Efficiency measures have been embedded in the framework, reducing response times, shortening standstill periods, and streamlining tender processing cycles to enable faster contract awards.

The rules also emphasize sustainable procurement, encouraging inclusiveness of SMEs and marginalized groups, and aligning procurement practices with environmental policy.

Managing Director, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi, said that the Public Procurement Rules, 2026 provide a modern regulatory framework designed to strengthen transparency, competition, accountability, efficiency and value for money in public procurement. He said the new Rules introduce a range of measures to strengthen oversight throughout the procurement cycle, from procurement planning and bidding to contract management, performance evaluation and closure. The emphasis on digital procurement, independent oversight, open disclosure and clear accountability mechanisms will strengthen public confidence in the procurement process and contribute to better management of public resources, he hoped.

On this occasion, MD PPRA highly acknowledged the valuable guidance provided by the PPRA Board and the facilitation extended by the Cabinet Division. He noted that these efforts played an important role in approval of the Public Procurement Rules, 2026, which provide a comprehensive and internationally aligned framework for public procurement.