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ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION
Nation's Conscience

"I WILL NOT BE CORRUPT AND I WILL NOT TOLERATE CORRUPTION IN OTHERS"



MEDIA RELEASE

Mandatory Requirement of Integrity Vetting for High Value Public Procurement to Strengthen Integrity and Accountability

Thimphu, 19 June 2025

Towards strengthening integrity and accountability in the public procurement process, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will be enforcing **mandatory Integrity Vetting Reports (IVR)** for high-value contract works and consultancy services through the open tendering method, with effect from **1 July 2025**.

This requirement was notified to all budgetary agencies and State-Owned Enterprises (SoE) vide Notification No. *ACC/DoPS/CFD-01/10695* dated *19 June 2025*, in keeping with the *Rules for Integrity Vetting 2024*, which require IVRs for "the award of a public contract or entry into a contractual relationship where the contract value involves the minimum threshold limit for open bidding, as prescribed under the *Procurement Rules and Regulation (PRR)*".

While the legal provision already existed, the ACC, following the formal introduction of the Integrity Vetting System (IVS) on 30 December 2022 vide Executive Order No. *ACC/COM-11/2746* dated *30 December 2022*, adopted a phased implementation approach to ensure institutional readiness and smooth adoption of the integrity vetting mechanism. The IVR requirement was initially enforced on mandatory basis for:

- recruitment, promotion, and appointment of public officials, including those at P1 level and above;
- nomination to the Board of Directors; and
- election to the House of Parliament or Local Government.

Given that the public procurement accounts for a significant share of public expenditure, the inclusion of award of a public contract or entry into a contractual relationship now marks the next major category under the integrity vetting framework. While the requirement provided for under the Rules was not notified as being mandatory, only 270 IVRs were sought in relation to public procurement over the past two years. In contrast, over 22,700 IVRs were issued for personnel-related decisions between 31 December 2022 and 18 June 2025, demonstrating much greater compliance in the HR processes. Hence, it is now being made mandatory for all budgetary agencies and SoEs to obtain an IVR from the ACC for:

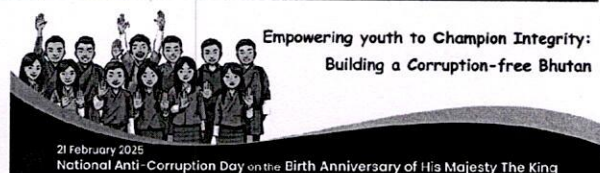
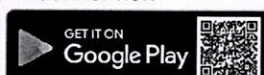
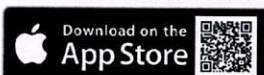
- any open tendering of works involving contract value of above **Ngultrum Five million (Nu. 5,000,000.00)**; and/or
- for procurement of consultancy services involving contract value of above **Ngultrum One million (Nu. 1,000,000.00)**.

For tenders **below the above-mentioned thresholds**, agencies are encouraged to request an IVR on a voluntary basis, for which the ACC will continue to provide support and facilitation.

Page 1 of 2

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To support smooth implementation of this requirement, the ACC has already conducted a series of awareness sessions to the budgetary agencies and SoEs across the country, focusing on the process of generating an IVR through the IVS. The process essentially includes the following:

- The Head of the procuring agency nominates a **Focal Person** from the agency for registration with the ACC;
- The ACC verifies the nomination and assigns secure **user credentials** to the designated, registered focal person;
- The focal person submits **IVR requests** via the IVS Portal, along with the relevant information on the individual or firm;
- The ACC conducts a review on the request and generates the **IVR for use** by the agency in the evaluation and contract award process.

All requesting agencies must note that all IVR requests must be routed exclusively through the designated focal officer to maintain security and ensure proper documentation.

Based on *Section 24(1)(a), Section 24(1)(j), and Section 25(1)(h)* of the *Anti-Corruption Act of Bhutan 2011*, the mandatory requirement of IVR is part of a broader strategy to promote individuals and entities with the highest standards of integrity and institutionalize anti-corruption measures as an integral aspect of overall governance. By making integrity vetting a non-negotiable element in decision-making process, the ACC aims to bring a paradigm shift in the integrity culture, from compliance to proactive due diligence and ethical responsibility, fostering fair, accountable, and trustworthy governance.

For any clarification, agencies may contact the Department of Professional Support at 17120186 or email <dmchhetri@acc.org.bt>.

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Page 2 of 2

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21 February 2025
National Anti-Corruption Day on the Birth Anniversary of His Majesty The King