



EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION
TO THE PHILIPPINES

Friedrich Naumann
FOUNDATION

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ABAD: MAKE PROCUREMENT MORE EFFICIENT

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Butch Abad sees the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA) as a major milestone in the Philippine history. "It had removed major loopholes in government procurement systems, increased competition, and enabled more transparency," said Abad. "I dare say that we are better off with the GPRA than without it, but I also dare say that we still have a lot of work to do to make public procurement more efficient, responsive and accountable," he added.

Abad will keynote the forum entitled Fair Competition, Transparency, and Procurement Reform on Tuesday, 17 February 2015, 9 a.m. at The Mind Museum in Bonifacio Global City.

Abad has always pushed for open data and the participation of civil society in government budgeting and project implementation. He had also earlier suggested that assigning full-time support staff in government departments' Bids and Award Committees (BAC) "will go a long way in expediting the procurement process for implementing agencies."

The status of the Philippines' accession to the Hague Apostille Convention, the Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents and in acquiring an observer status in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO GPA) will also be reviewed in the forum.

The activity is co-organized by the European Union Delegation to the Philippines and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF), a German foundation promoting free trade. Over 100 participants are expected to attend. Registration is free of charge.

"The EU, as the largest foreign investor in the Philippines, is encouraged by the current ambitious reform agenda in the Philippines covering competition, public procurement and customs. The early adoption of new legislation in these areas will further attract European investors in the Philippines," said EU Ambassador Guy Ledoux.

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**FAIR COMPETITION
TRANSPARENCY &
PROCUREMENT
REFORM**
Attracting European Investments
to the Philippines

17 February 2015
The Mind Museum, BGC