AN EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN ZIMBABWE: A CASE OF ZINWA

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to evaluate the effectiveness of public procurement procedures and practices in Zimbabwe’s public sector using Zimbabwe National Water Authority as a case study. The study adopted the case study research design. Data collection tools included questionnaires, interviews, document reviews and observations. The major findings of the study were that lack of strategic treatment of procurement, few systematic approaches to procurement, lack of communication among parties involved, corruption, political interference and inadequacy of accountability and control mechanisms hampered the smooth implementation of infrastructure projects at Zimbabwe National Water Authority. To better manage public procurement, there was need for genuine political commitment in enforcement and compliance within the government departments, ministries and parastatals. All responsibilities and activities regarding contract awarding, signing and contract management should be transferred to public procuring entities. The State Procurement Board should remain with the responsibility of being a procurement oversight body so as to combat corruption. A procurement reform in Zimbabwe was necessary with a special need to encompass the use of technology in managing procurement processes. The researcher suggested that further studies should be carried out on efficiency and effectiveness of procurement but with emphasis on: Implementation factors in purchasing measures, Challenges encountered when evaluating procurement performance in achieving set goals, or Benefits of measuring purchasing performance in public entities.