



ASSESSING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PERFORMANCE IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (OPM) UGANDA

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to determine the efficiency, accountability and transparency in implementing procurement activities at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). The study population comprised of 47 staff from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) including Accounting officer, Contracts Committee members, PDU and Heads of department (OPM Annual, 2014-2015). The study involved such respondents because they are responsible for public procurement performance in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Accordingly therefore, from a population of 47 staff, a sample of 44 staff were determined using Krejcie and Morgan table, (1970).

According to the results, the overall performance of procurement at OPM was merely average (Grand mean = 3.29, S.D = 1.28). Whereas the level of transparency was high (mean = 3.602, S.D = 1.12), this came with low levels of *efficiency* (mean = 3.20, S.D = 1.11) and *accountability* (mean = 3.09, S.D = 1.62). The findings suggest that the overall performance of procurement at OPM was largely undermined by low levels of efficiency and accountability.

The study recommends that there is need to enhance efficiency and accountability in the procurement process at OPM. Accountability constitutes a central pillar of any public procurement system. Without transparent and accountable systems enabling governments and

citizens to engage in a mutually responsive way, the vast resources channeled through public procurement systems run the danger of increased corruption and misuse of funds. This could be addressed through improved procurement planning, budgeting and contract management.