

Public Participation in Contract Administration for Sustainable Procurement Management in Devolved System of Governments in Kenya

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Abstract

The Public Participation framework, 2013 in Kenya under the 47 county governments envisages stakeholders to participate in community-based infrastructural projects through involvement in procurement planning, monitoring and evaluating project performance, risk management, contract management and policy making process. It envisages a sustainable approach to project management. Purchasing and supply management professionals can only deliver sustainable procurement through ongoing engagement and collaboration with internal stakeholders, budget holders and key suppliers to reach the most effective solution. Contract management is a multi-stage process that goes on through the entire duration of the contract and ensures that the parties meet their contractual obligations in order to deliver the specific objectives provided in the contract. The study adopted a descriptive survey design to assess the influence of contract administration on sustainable procurement management. A Sample of 348 respondents identified through Slovin's formulae was drawn from a target of 1146 in Makueni, Machakos and Kitui Counties through stratified sampling method. Data was collected using a semi structured questionnaire. Collected data was analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistics. The results indicate that, the community is involved in contract administration to a great extent through; supplier identification, project negotiations, actual supplying of local available materials and ascertaining compliance to contractual terms and conditions by the contractors. The study concludes that there is significant positive relationship between contract administration and Sustainable procurement management. The study recommended that, both national and county governments in Kenya need to promote public participation through contract administration to achieve high sustainable procurement management levels in community-based infrastructural projects.

Key words: Contract, Devolution, Public participation, Public procurement, open government, green procurement, Sustainability.