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EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC ASSETS ACT (CHAPTER 22: 23) ON ENSURING EFFECTIVE PUBLIC TENDERING: THE CASE OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS OF ZIMBABWE

A RESEARCH

BY

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DECLARATION FORM

I declare that this project is an original copy of my own work and has not been published before or submitted to any other institution/university.

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to God and our saviour Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the ability and life he gave me to conduct this research project.

Abstract

This study aimed to determine the effectiveness of Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering: The case of Rural District Councils of Zimbabwe. In order to achieve the objectives of this study, a mixed research design was employed whereby both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used. A sample of 35 Rural District Councils selected from a population of 60 RDCs was used for collection of data. Descriptive statistics were run using SPSS version 22 to tabulate and analyse the hypotheses given in this study. A pilot study was conducted by the researcher to determine the reliability and validity of the research design and instrument which were used for data collection. Chi-Square tests were used to determine the direction of relationship between the PPDPA Act and effective public tendering. The study found that PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) is effective on ensuring effective public tendering in RDCs of Zimbabwe. The study found a Pearson Chi-Square of .000 and Cramer' s V of .745 which enabled H_2 to be accepted. The study found that the PPDPA Act' s effectiveness is not 100% since the responses to each of questions on the research instrument was never 100%. The study concluded that the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) is effective on ensuring effective public tendering but with some loopholes which have to be adjusted for better results. The study in summary recommended the amendment and elimination of some sections of the Act that are affecting the 100% effectiveness of the Act on ensuring effective public tendering. The study made a recommendation to policy makers to amend some sections of the Act and that the government must boost financial support to RDCs of Zimbabwe.

Key words: Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23), effective public tendering

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

- CEO** - Chief Executive Officer
- COMESA** - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
- GDP** - Gross Domestic Product
- IMF** - International Monetary Fund
- PECG** - Public Entities and Corporate Governance
- PMU** - Procurement Management Unit
- PPDA** - Public Procurement and Disposal Act
- PPDPA** - Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets
- PPOA** - Public Procurement Oversight Authority
- PRAZ** - Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe
- RDCA** - Rural District Councils Act
- RDCs** - Rural District Councils
- SADC** - Southern African Development Community
- SEPs** - State Enterprises and Parastatals
- SMEs** - Small to Medium Enterprises
- SPB** - State Procurement Board
- SPOC** - Special Procurement Oversight Committee
- SPSS** - Statistical Packages for Social Science
- WTO** - World Trade Organisation

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.0 Introduction

Public procurement has developed over the last two decades in a majority of the economies around the globe, but it has remained poorly resourced both in terms of material resources and qualified human resources capable (Ali et al. 2021). Capacity in the public tendering process and high prevalence of corruption has resulted in high profile government scandals which has eroded public confidence (Telgen and Sitar, 2001). This has called for massive reforms in the public tendering process which resulted in the establishment of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) Act in Zimbabwe by means of Statutory Instrument (SI) 152 of 2017. The introduction of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) seeks to improve public confidence, ensure competition among bidders, increase transparency, increase accountability, ensure value for money and ensure sustainability in the procurement processes.

Public Procurement in the world contributes to 18.42 percent of the worldwide Gross Domestic Product as well as 9% and 13% of the GDP of developing nations (Dzuke and Naude, 2015). An estimate of 20 to 25% of Zimbabwe's \$4 billion yearly budget is allocated to public procurement (Munyede and Mapuva, 2020). Generally, every procurement process might it be the tendering process which is not in line with the provisions of the Act is considered ineffective. According to De Lange (2011), poor administration of public procurement regulations has led to large financial losses each year due to corruption and misuse of public funds. Therefore, it is vital to manage staff in the public sector of Zimbabwe so that they adhere to the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) to ensure effective use of public funds.

1.1 Background of study

The existence of the purchasing function, which is an essential part of modern procurement, dates back to the beginning of organised trading, indicating the lengthy history of procurement

(Thai et al. 2001). A variety of forms and literary works, particularly the 18th-century silk trading between China and the Greek territories give evidence of early forms of procurement (Fuwei, 1996). United States of America procurement regulations were copied from English common laws and its procurement systems in the military (Keeney, 2007). Keeney (2007) found that commissaries during these years were responsible for the purchase of military equipment when needed but were doing so not under a contract but under commission.

A secret committee that was founded in 1775 to control trade when there was English trade embargo was accountable for defense forces equipment procurement and procurement at the time was a trial-and-error system (Nuxoll, 2006). The first procurement regulations were approved by United States congress in 1792. This was prompted by the irregularities of early purchasing practices. From 1798 to the early 19th century, a number of common procurement procedures were put in place as a response to challenges related to supply of troops on the Western frontier. The first tender in Japan was made public in the year 1678 for a bridge construction which was located at Reigarijima and Minamikayabacho along with a tender for the maintenance of Edo trunk road (Isohata, 2009).

World Bank together with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), contributed to procurement policies and regulations development in Africa through supporting the development of public procurement reforms (Agaba and Shipman, 2007). Odhiambo and Kamau (2003) highlighted that, procurement in Africa, particularly in developing nations, was predominately governed by confusing laws that were susceptible to misapplication. The goal of procurement reforms is to create effective non-confusing legal frameworks and improving value for money (Basheka and Kabatereine, 2013).

The PPPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) was introduced to bring procurement regulations into compliance with Zimbabwean constitution's Section 315 and to promote accountability, transparency, competition, professionalism and cost effectiveness. Public procurement system in Zimbabwe is similar to other African countries in which centralised public procurement system is plagued with high levels of corruption, bureaucracy, and delays in tender awards to bidders (Adewole, 2014). Nigeria' s Procurement Act was considered a proactive reform process intended for reinforcing institutions in order for them to offer services effectively (Adwole,

2014). Non-compliance to key principles such as value for money, cost-effectiveness, quality service delivery, transparency and competitiveness, leads to effectiveness of public procurement remain in question.

Before PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) was introduced, the State Procurement Board was ineffective which resulted in bidders complaining about delays in tender award (Musanzikwa, 2013). According to Tsabora (2014), ineffective public procurement system breeds high levels of corruption, high levels of poverty, the misappropriation funds, and resultantly economic decline. Particularly with regard to the way that tenders were being awarded, Musanzikwa (2013) criticised Zimbabwe's then-public procurement system for being opaque. Musanzikwa (2013), insists that public procurement system in Zimbabwe had a number of problems including, lack of fairness in awarding tenders, high levels of corruption, political interference and lack of procurement skills.

The procurement reform process made substantial progress on improving public procurement system in Zimbabwe through the establishment of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23). In order to enforce the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23), the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) has been put in place in January 2018. The ushering of training materials to boost knowledge of this Act was a significant step forward. There was a plan that sought quick wins in 100 days from the day the Act was enforced and there was a strategic plan from 2019 to 2023, which identifies five goals, including targeted capacity building of those participating in public market, increasing competition from private sector, improve value for money, ensuring accountability and improving transparency. Therefore, this study focuses on the effectiveness of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering in Rural District Councils (RDCs) of Zimbabwe.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Zimbabwe public procurement system had a number of challenges such as, inefficiency, political meddling and delayed contracts. The former legal frameworks for Zimbabwean public procurement system came with risk of high levels of corruption, compromised standards of prompt payment, poor governance in relation to tender awards, and favoritism in awarding

tenders. Current procurement functions tendering process in RDCs have challenges arising from some of the PPDA Act sections including, long lead times that is 14 days period on section 55(2) of the Act, delays in making payments that is a problem associated with bid validity which ranges from 30 days to 60 days, conflict of interest on section 54(2) for inclusion of Auditor-General on Special Procurement Oversight Committee (SPOC) review team and misunderstanding of procurement policies.

1.3 Research Objectives

Below are the primary and secondary objectives of this study:

1.3.1 Primary Objective

The primary objective of this research is determining the effectiveness of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering.

1.3.2 Secondary Objectives

The study seeks to meet the specific objectives which follows:

- i. To determine the level of awareness of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) in Rural District Councils of Zimbabwe.
- ii. To determine the effectiveness of Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe on ensuring effective public tendering.
- iii. To establish the effectiveness of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) provisions on competitive and restrictive bidding on ensuring effective public tendering.
- iv. To find out the major challenge associated with the implementation of PPDA Act on ensuring effective public tendering.

1.4 Research Questions

The study seeks to answer the following questions;

- i. What is the level of awareness of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act in Rural District Councils of Zimbabwe?

- ii. How effective is the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) on ensuring effective public tendering?
- iii. How effective are the provisions of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) on restrictive and competitive bidding on ensuring effective public tendering?
- iv. What is the major challenge associated with the implementation of Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering?

1.5 Hypotheses

The following were the hypotheses of the study:

H₁: The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) improves the effectiveness of public tendering.

H₂: There is a strong relationship between the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) and effective public tendering.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Mushanyuri (2014), observed that decisions regarding public procurement have a considerable impact on public service delivery in local authorities, given that, public procurement in Zimbabwe accounts for 60% of the government spending. There is a small body of research on the effectiveness of PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering. Therefore, this study aims to make critical contribution toward arousing interest to policy developing agencies as well as public procurement stakeholders about how effective is the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering. This study gives a ground to future studies to further knowledge base on the effectiveness of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23).

The results of the study will also assist local authorities in implementing the best practices that were suggested all along. The results will guarantee work improvements and result in improved public procurement and tendering legislation at both the functional and organisational levels. This study will help identify further strategies to enhance the effectiveness of procurement

functions, which will benefit the private sector as well. The study's findings will help improve awareness of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) in Zimbabwean public sector.

1.7 Assumptions of the study

The researcher conducted this study assuming that:

- The study was conducted in good faith and with correct data.
- Sample was the true representative of the population.
- Information gathered was accurate and not deceptive.
- Participants were honest when answering questionnaires.

1.8 Scope of the study

The study focused on public sector because it is an essential sector with greater effect on delivery of public services to Zimbabwean citizenry. The research looks specifically on registered RDCs of Zimbabwe. This study is focused on the effectiveness of Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering.

1.9 Limitations of the study

The limitations of this study were as follows:

- Financial sources were a problem. Questionnaires have been employed by the researcher to get data from respondents in order to overcome the limitation of financial resources. Questionnaires are economical and they consist of standardized replies that make it simple for researchers to evaluate and analyse data (Hair et al, 2003).
- The researcher sent questionnaires to those responding through email in order to get around a time constraint. Answered questionnaires were returned through the email. Sekaran (2003) supported this notion by arguing that emails are inexpensive, nearly quick, and have the added advantage of quick submission by the respondents.
- In Zimbabwe, legal matters are kept confidential and publicising of legal issues is strictly prohibited. Therefore, the researcher wrote letters to RDCs asking for permission to carry

out research for academic purposes only. This idea was backed by Walliman (2011), who insist that researchers must be clear about the conduction of the inquiry and the level to which confidentiality shall be observed.

1.10 Definition of terms

Tendering: This is a procurement method where potential bidders are given an equal chance to be invited to make offers which consist of price and technical specifications and when the offer is accepted, a contract is therefore signed (Lysons and Farrington, 2015).

Public procurement: This is the acquisition of goods and services as well as construction works for the general public using public resources (Van Weele, 2014).

Public asset: This can be either a corporeal or incorporeal asset owned by the procuring entity (Khan, 2018), but those assets excluded by section 3 subsection 8 of the Act are not included as public assets.

1.11 Summary of the chapter

Chapter two reviews related literatures that have been researched by other researchers and it covers theoretical review, empirical evidence and gap analysis. Chapter three looks at the methodology used to collect data. It covers research design, target population, sample techniques, research instruments, data analysis and presentation. Chapter four covers presentation of data that would have been collected, analysis and discussions. Lastly, chapter five covers the summary, conclusions and recommendations and it concludes the research findings and discussions.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter consists of five sections which are theoretical review, empirical studies, conceptual framework, gap analysis and chapter summary. The first section of this chapter will look at theoretical review which consists of the explanation of public procurement system theories and conceptual framework. The second section of this chapter will look at empirical evidence which is the studies which were conducted by other researchers related to the topic. Lastly, gap analysis followed by a chapter summary is provided at the end of this chapter.

2.1 Theoretical Review

The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) has it that procurement is the acquisition using any method of construction works, goods and services including the disposal of any asset. The PPDPA Act was introduced to improve public procurement in the government and public organisations which were plagued with high levels of corruption and massive kickbacks that costed billions of dollars. The PPDPA Act's main objectives are outlined in Section 4(1), which include, ensuring transparency, improve competition, ensuring cost-effectiveness, equal treatment of tender participants, fostering integrity and ensuring that the public is confident of public procurement processes. There are many theories which are relevant to this study which are, Agency theory, Contingency theory, McGregor's theory X and Y, Institutional theory, and Legitimacy theory. These theories facilitate building critical concerns regarding the subject of this study.

2.1.1 Agency Theory

A situation whereby the principal assigns work to the agent who accomplishes it, is described by agency theory (Eisenhardt, 1989). Given that the principal and agent may have opposing goals, conflict may arise between two parties. According to researchers, the theory can be applied to a variety of relationships, including those between an employer and employee, a buyer and a supplier, and other agency relationships. In this study, the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe serves as the principal because it assigns the procuring entities a responsibility to comply with the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23). Eisenhardt (1989), argued that, this theory is

applicable when principals and agents face substantial objective disparities and unclear outcomes that cause the theory's risk implications to take effect.

In the public sector, the government serves as both the principal, delegating obligations to state-owned businesses and departments. Eisenhardt (1989) has it that if there is a long-term relationship between the principal and the agent, the two parties came to a level of understanding each other's behaviour deeply. Long-term relationships with suppliers may eventually result in increased effectiveness (Ngari, 2012). This is because the durability of the relationship is reliant on minimisation of goals conflict. Sharma (1987) has expanded this theory and explained about the principal-professional association and in this study, procurement officers are considered professionals who seek directions from the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe.

2.1.2 Theory X and Theory Y

According to Lysons and Farrington (2010), Douglas McGregor's X theory, is based on the assumption that the typical worker is lazy, dislikes work, does little as possible, does not have an ambition, and tries to escape responsibilities. As a result, managers will try to exert as much control as possible over the employee behavior (Lysons and Farrington, 2010). This theory gives attributes of procurement officers who are not objective motivated. If the workers in the procuring entity are characterised with Theory X, the level of compliance to the PPDPA Act will be low. According to Lysons and Farrington (2010), Theory Y postulates that the workplace environment affects whether employees view their jobs as a source of satisfaction. Close behavioural supervision of employees is unnecessary when work is a source of fulfillment for them since they will practice self-control and be dedicated to the organisation's objectives (Lysons and Farrington, 2010). This theory is applicable in this study in the sense that, it defines the attributes of procurement personnel who are objective motivated and can comply to the PPDPA Act.

2.1.3 Legitimacy Theory

This theory provides that organisations are required to make their stakeholders updated of its operations and the advantages to societies (Wilmshurst and Frost, 2000). According to Suchman (1995), legitimacy is the idea that an organisation's actions fit within the boundaries of the social norms that surround it. Therefore, legitimacy theory contributes to a better understanding of

government procurement procedures. The social contract that exists between the public and the government can be broken, according to the concept of legitimacy. Due to problems like corruption that may compromise the legitimacy of the procedure in government procurement, the PPDPA Act assures the legality of public tendering. According to Ngari (2012), this theory states that government officials' choices of legitimising strategies of implementation are centered on the accuracy of interpretation of procurement regulations. Government officials are likely to have different ideas concerning what is expected from them by the public and agent is viewed by the society as complying with the requirements that the legitimacy theory states.

2.1.4 The Contingency Theory

This theory contends that there is no ideal structure for an organisation to manage and make decisions. Action that can be taken depends on the trends of both internal and external environmental conditions. In the past, contingency theory has tried to make broad generalisations about the formal arrangements that come along with using certain technologies. The perspective has its roots in Woodward (1958), cited in Munzhedzi (2016) who argued that differences in organisational characteristics like span of control, centralisation, as well as the standards and procedures formalisation are directly influenced by technologies. Contingency theory is used by Mohsini and Davidson (1986) to investigate how structure and environment affect performance as assessed by the conflict concept. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) is a component of the legal environment that influences the effectiveness of tendering processes in RDCs, hence this theory is pertinent to this study.

2.1.5 Institutional theory

The institutional theory is an important theory to understand organisational behaviour. The institutional theory has been utilised to understand how entities respond to ever increasing pressures for the better control of both internal and external environment in which they function. Chandler and Hwang (2015), has it that the institutional theory offers a clarification of how organisations respond to external pressures in ways that promote standardisation across industries. This theory highlights the effect of the external environment on organisations, including the improvement of an organisations' formal structures, practices, systems and procedures put into practice. In order to be regarded compliant to rules and regulations,

procuring entities implement numerous practices, systems, as well as policies and social norms that have evolved and become institutionalised in the external environment.

This idea is pertinent to this study since the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (chapter 22: 23) effectiveness is affected by dynamic legal business environment. The necessity for bench-marking of successful methods from other industries is critical to the success of an organisation (Kauppi, 2013). The PPDPA Act serves as a standard for the procuring organisation to compare with its practices. Mimetic isomorphism refers to the practice of organisations modeling themselves after businesses that are more successful than they are, especially in advanced technology (DiMaggio and Powell, 1983).

2.2 Public procurement practices in Zimbabwe

Public procurement involves the use of funds which is obtained from the general public and businesses through means of taxations to acquire goods and services for the benefit of the public (Munyede and Mapuva, 2020). Zimbabwe is comparable to South Africa which was characterized with Apartheid imbalances in service delivery which was only benefiting the minority group (Munyede and Mapuva, 2020). In order to address these imbalances, Zimbabwe had to adopt a preferential system that would benefit the disadvantaged groups through the procurement reform process. Zimbabwe engaged itself in the procurement reform process among many African nations to improve competition, promote professionalism, promote transparency and ensure value for money. The government of Nigeria introduced the Procurement Act in 2007 to discard the centralised system which was characterized by tender award delays and corruption (Adewole, 2014) and these were the same problems Zimbabwe was facing before they engage in the procurement reform processes.

Public procurement in Kenya evolved from being centralised to decentralization through the establishment of the Public Procurement and Disposal Act of 2005 (Munyede and Mapuva, 2020) and this process of evolution is similar to that of Zimbabwe. In order to achieve public procurement development agenda, procurement processes must be decentralised to local governments which speed up implementation of the procurement reforms (Musanzikwa, 2013). Therefore, decentralising the procurement function was a more effective strategy to hasten the procurement reform process in Zimbabwe. Researchers in all of the aforementioned nations

agreed that public procurement was essential since it is one way for governments to address economic and social issues that have an impact on communities. On the other hand, Adewole (2014) noted that although central government ministries had made significant progress in implementing public procurement reforms, local governments had struggled to implement the same reforms due to a lack of institutional ability, a lack of political will, and a failure to interpret the new laws.

2.3 Local government procurement in Zimbabwe

Chapter 14 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, establishes local governments as constitutional authorities. Local councils are the means through which quality goods and services are delivered to communities, hence their ability to carry out tasks becomes crucial (Munyede and Mapuva, 2020). All local councils are given authority to manage the use of funds and provisions of quality services to the communities in which they are established subject to the provisions of any Act or the Zimbabwean constitution (Mushamba, 2010). Section 264 of the Zimbabwean constitution mandates the devolution of authority to local authorities in order to improve the quality of services delivered to communities. Mapuva and Miti (2019) agreed when he said that local governments were going to gain from devolution because they will have power of decision making which is effective than relying on centralised decision making.

Rural District Councils in Zimbabwe derive authority from Section 29 (13) of the Rural District Councils Act (RDCA). Chiappinelli (2017) observed that, the decentralisation effort has been seriously hampered by the worsening macroeconomic circumstances with regard to rural local authorities. Poor ratepayers are not providing enough money to local governments. The technical and procurement functions of RDCs severely lack trained and experienced personnel. The quality of local authorities' service delivery has further declined in the absence of proper funding, which has made it more difficult for them to perform increasingly decentralised tasks.

2.4 Methods of public tendering

According to David Farmer et al., (2008), as all interested suppliers are encouraged to tender, the practice of competitive tendering raises the degree of interest and competition to the highest extent possible. Because of the few known accessible suppliers, this method of procurement is effective where the procuring entity predicts that competition will likely be relatively limited

(Farmer et al., 2008). This method of procurement is provided for on Section 38 of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) also highlighted on section 31(1) of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23).

According to Van Weele (2014), restricted tendering acknowledges two distinct stages that is, the stage of selecting suppliers that are interested and the stage in which the pre-selected suppliers are invited to tender. Restricted tendering helps to minimise negative effects by allowing procuring entities to choose those vendors they feel best meet the requirements and legally reject other vendors. Therefore, competitive tendering has considerable resource and time consequences as compared to restrictive tendering (Farmer et al., 2008). The restricted bidding method of procurement, as defined by section 32(1) of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23), is a procedure in which the bidders are restricted to those who have been chosen or invited by the purchasing entity.

2.5 Provisions for public tendering in Zimbabwe

The provisions of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23) states that, a public entity may not accept communication from bidders which is not in writing in order to comply with Section 36 of the Act. Section 37 of the Act provides that, the procuring entity must publish a bidding document in order to solicit offers. A tender must be announced in the national newspaper or the government gazette in Zimbabwe in accordance with section 38(2). Section 39(1) states that the bidding period will start on the day the invitation to tender is advertised in the Gazette in accordance with section 38 (2). A purchasing entity may ask bidders to submit bid security under section 44(1) in order to discourage reckless bids and this reduces the amount of time and money needed for proposal evaluation.

According to Section 45(1), a bidder may withdraw a bid by giving the procuring entity notice of the withdrawal. Section 46(2) has it that, bid opening meeting must be public and anyone must be given a chance to attend it especially bidders who tender. This will guarantee public tendering is fair, transparent, and open. According to Section 50(1), the procuring organisation must analyse the offers that have not been rejected after reviewing the opened bids to establish an equal foundation for comparison. The Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe and its committees must conduct their functions as provided on Section 54 of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23). During evaluation, the PPDPA Act states that, it is important to take into account three

main criteria, that is, the supplier's technical capability to perform, minimum economic and financial standing, and legality to operate as a supplier.

2.6 The functions and powers of the Authority (PRAZ)

The Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) is a recognized authority that can bring legal actions and be sued on its own name as provided on Section 5 of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23). In accordance with Section 6 of PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23), this authority is responsible for a variety of duties to ensure high levels of adherence to the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) which includes, monitoring procuring entities, issuing guidelines regarding the interpretation and implementation of this Act, creating standard bidding documents, promoting the training and professional development of those involved in public procurement, registration of bidders, advising procuring entities upon request, interaction with stakeholders to gauge their view of the system and to suggest changes to the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23).

2.7 Challenges of new PPDPA Act (chapter 22: 23).

Ruswa (2021) is of the opinion that, it has become clear that the PPDPA Act current provisions are insufficient to address the needs of the populace at this time, as well as the need for flexibility in a dynamic economic environment and adoption of best procurement practices from other countries. According to Snell (2006), who is mentioned by Ngari (2012), 83% of public procurement experts are unqualified to produce the desired result through public procurement. The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22:23) problems are principally brought on by the necessity for public bodies to adopt and implement it (Munyede and Mapuva, 2020). Costs associated with the implementation of the Act are the main barriers to comply with the provisions outlined in the PPDPA Act (Madziva et al, 2023). The PPDPA Act's cost-effectiveness viability are anticipated to play a significant influence; nevertheless, because necessary processes and procedures are costly, public entities may not be able to fully implement the PPDPA Act (Mazikana, 2018). Guidelines under the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) are inherently complex rules, and procurement professionals might not be skilled enough to effectively implement those regulations.

The PPDPA Act offers procurement exemptions but it hasn't addressed procurement for state-owned businesses that compete in the competitive market. The Act includes penalties for breaking procurement laws, but there is no section which provides for civil fines if they break the law. The regulator is permitted by Section 3(7) of the Act to exclude some procurement entities from the implementation of any of its rules, but this is insufficient to place these mentioned State Enterprises and Parastatals on an even playing field with their counterparts in operating private owned businesses. The provision of paragraph 132 of the First Schedule to the PPDPA Act, advises the board to appoint an experienced secretary of the company capable of maintaining international best practice, which conflict with this provision the Public Entities and Corporate Governance (PECG) Act [Chapter 10: 31].

Section 29 of the PPDPA Act encourage the development of Zimbabwean suppliers and manufacturers by giving indigenous output priority over imports but this section makes this preference optional than making it mandatory. According to PPDPA Act Section 54 (2), the Special Procurement Oversight Committee (SPOC) comprised of the Attorney General, the Auditor General, the Accountant General, and the Principal Director of Works must be established for the purpose of reviewing contracts. However, it is argued that the Auditor-General withdrew in year 2018 after realising the conflict of interest which was present because she was unable to take part in the processes she would later assess and audit.

2.8 Conceptual Framework

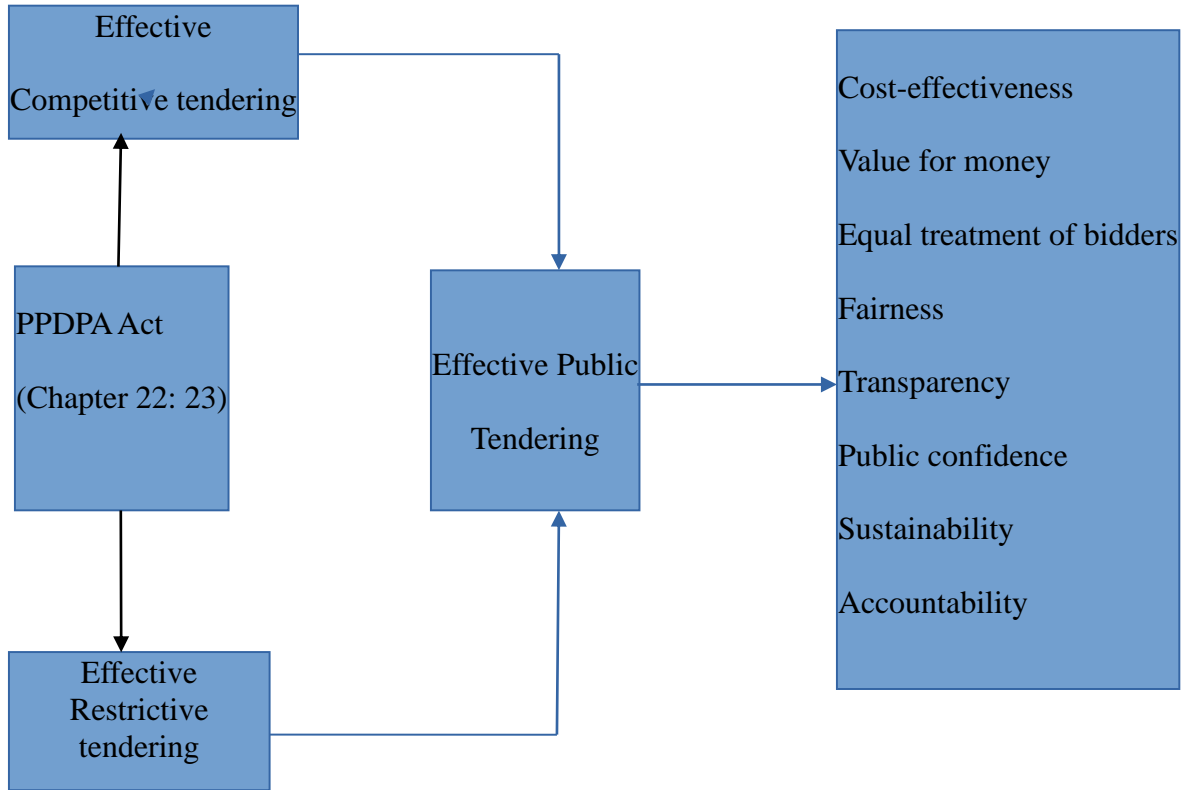


Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework

Source: Author (2023)

2.8 Empirical Review

In a country where reforms on public procurement were dormant for a number of years, it is highly difficult in the implementation of systematic reforms on legal frameworks governing procurement in the public sector (Hunja, 2011). By giving the public access to information about public purchases, transparency concerning public finances usage will be improved since the public will know how the public funds are being used for the welfare of the public (Uromi, 2014). Public procurement has a long history and is significant, but there hasn't been much specialised research on it until lately (Brulhart & Trionfetti, 2004). Many studies have outlined the differences between the various categories of public procurement and insisted that it is an

important instrument for advancing societal goals more broadly. The importance of public procurement on enhancing a prosperous economy is a key issue that have emerged from research on the topic (Brulhart and Trionfetti, 2004).

In the study conducted in Southeast Asia by Jones (2007), the main objective was to explain the weaknesses that have been persisting in Public Procurement Act which have been greatly emanating for lack of compliance and close monitoring of both transparency and integrity. The findings of the study also highlighted that lack of skills and expertise; absence of competitive tendering particularly for international suppliers, corruption practices and lack of transparency were the most dominant root causes to continuous deterioration of Procurement Act execution. Secondary data analysis was used on data collected about scandals that took place in Cambodia and Vietnam with a comparison to how well Malaysia and Singapore were regulated. The study concluded that government's inability to put in place compliance and monitoring instruments lead to ignorance by procurement professionals to be individual who execute their duties based on integrity and transparency.

A study on the effect of public procurement regulation on competition and cost effectiveness was conducted in Italy by Bedri Kamil Onur Tas in 2019. The main objective of the study was to investigate the impact of public procurement regulation quality on competition and cost effectiveness. The World Bank's Bench-marking Public Procurement quality scores were used in the study. Contracts amounting to 412,491 from 31 European Single Market nations were evaluated in the study. The study discovered that better regulatory quality has good benefits and that stiff competition as well as the cost-effectiveness are linked to better quality scores. The study found that, higher regulation quality greatly increases the pool of eligible bidders and lowers the price of the procurement requirement to an amount below predicted costs. The study concluded that, countries with quality regulations have more competitive tenders, and those with high quality ratings are more likely to use competitive tendering.

In the year 2021, in the United Kingdom, a study on supplier satisfaction with public sector competitive tendering process was conducted. The main objective of the study was to explore the supplier perspective on competitive tendering processes and builds on an increasing and developing interest in supplier satisfaction with public sector procurement activities. Twenty

interviews with different suppliers in the UK public sector were used to gather qualitative data, which was then analysed using Nvivo to provide a number of hypotheses that could be experimentally tested. The study demonstrates how supplier discontent can have detrimental effects on public sector purchasing organisations by limiting the pool of candidates, fostering interpersonal obstacles, and creating a gap between the services requested in the tender and what is actually delivered. The paper acknowledges a lack of research on supplier satisfaction in public procurement.

Alahmadi and Alghaseb (2022) conducted a Delphi analysis in Saudi Arabia on challenging tendering phase factors in public construction projects. The main objective of the study was to explore challenges that were hindering contractors' participation in the tendering phase of public construction projects in light of the new legislations and authorities. There was an option for respondents to include new difficult elements on the Delphi survey questionnaires. These difficult elements were identified and given a priority using a descriptive methodology. The results showed that awarding contracts to lowest bidders, weak specifications, poor contractual technical specifications, and poor cost-estimating processes were the major obstacles. The author came to the conclusion that these findings were crucial in revealing the absence of associations between the construction industry, regulations, and stakeholders for strong partnerships, which increases fair competition through stimulation of participation from bidders.

A study was carried out by Ayoti (2012), in Central Region in the Nyeri County. The study was on the factors influencing effectiveness in tendering process in public sector. The main objective of the research was to investigate the factors influencing the effectiveness in tendering process. In order to characterise the existing situations, terminology, or relationships pertaining to particular field concerns, a descriptive survey which is a scientific method of investigation was used to gather and analyse data. The study found that, tendering processes were effectively handled and their duration had a big impact on how effective they were. Favoritism, tribalism, and politics were uncommon, although they were evident during the procurement process. Additionally, occasionally, government tendering procedures were broken. The study's findings led the researcher to urge that all personnel involved in the tendering process should continue their education, especially those who have only completed their high school levels.

Migosi et al., (2013) conducted a study on the determinants of non-compliance of public procurement regulations in Kenyan Secondary Schools. The study sought to examine determinants of Non-compliance to the Public Procurement Regulations in Kenyan Secondary Schools. The study used a descriptive survey research. A sample of twelve (12) schools was utilized in this study from a population of thirty-three (33) registered public secondary schools in Kitui Central District. The target population was the Public Secondary School Tendering Committees' members; the suppliers and the principals of the twelve (12) Public Secondary Schools were adopted for this study. Stratified random sampling was adopted in this study. The tendering committees yielded 120 respondents, school principals were 12 and the total number of suppliers was 60. Structured self-administered questionnaires, interview guides and document analysis were used in data collection. Findings in this study revealed that most respondents in this study were not familiar with the new procurement rules and regulations. The study recommended government and public institutions to lay emphasis on familiarization of the new procurement rules and regulations and to intensify continuous education among the procurement stakeholders in the public procurement process particularly at the secondary school level.

Mukura et al., (2016) carried out a study on the roles of Public Procurement Oversight Authority's (PPOA) on procurement regulations in Kenyan State Corporations. At the KenGen Stima Plaza offices in Nairobi, the study was conducted. The study sought to determine the level to which the Kenya Electricity Generating Company's (KenGen) procurement systems are impacted by the PPOA's monitoring, policy initiation and review, compliance, and implementation of public Procurement regulations. Workers in the power generating sector made up the sample population for the descriptive research, which was used. Both open-ended and closed-ended questionnaires were employed in the study. To guarantee the validity and dependability of the instruments, pilot testing was conducted. The SPSS version 23 was used for the statistical analysis. It was discovered that KenGen procurement activities are impacted by PPOA's compliance with the application of the procurement regulations. The paper makes recommendations for additional research in areas like how corruption affects how well the PPOA functions are carried out in public organisations.

Senzu and Ndebugri (2017) conducted a study in Ghana on the effectiveness of Procurement Acts in public financial administration. The main objective of of the study was to evaluate the

effectiveness and economic impact of the procurement law on procurement systems in public sector administration. The study adopted a descriptive survey method. The study was non-interventional and had the purpose of examining the impact of the Procurement Act 633 (2003). Purposive sampling was used in this qualitative research. The Public Sector Institutions in Ghana were used to calculate the sample size of 100, and semi-structured data collection methods were used for the empirical analysis. It was discovered that a key reason for the low compliance with the Act was a lack of skilled people, and that the majority of procurement contracts inside public institutions were given out through national competitive bidding. According to the study, the Procurement Act enhances accountability and openness while reducing corruption. The report suggests amending the PPA, 2003(Act 663) to include measures for sustainable procurement concerns and electronic procurement.

A study on the influences of procurement skills on the application of procurement law was conducted by Biraori and Embeli (2022) in Kenya. This study looked at how procurement expertise affected how the Public Procurement and Disposal Act (PPDA, 2015) and its associated regulations were applied. The study population consisted of 900 members of the tender assessment committee. Purposive sampling was used in the study to select a sample of 60 people to whom questionnaires were sent. The hypothesis was examined using the Chi-square test. The study did not accept the null hypothesis since the computed P-value was 5.005 which is smaller than the critical P-value which was 7.815 tested using a 0.05 significance level. The study found a link between procurement expertise and the implementation of the PPDA of 2015 and its pertinent laws. The study suggests that the school administration train their procurement officials to develop procurement skills that will promote the successful application of the procurement rules.

Ngari (2022) conducted a study in Kenya. The study looked on the effects of Public Procurement and Disposal Act on procurement in Parastatals. The study's main objective was to look at the effects of PPDA on public procurement in Parastatals in Kenya. The study adopted a descriptive research design. The study's sample size was 30 participants, and 22 of them completed and returned the questionnaires, yielding a response rate of 70%. The study came to the conclusion that PPDA increases the procurement process's competitiveness among parastatals. The report suggests that, the government and policy makers must step up their efforts to address the

PPDPA's difficulties and the removal of every corrupt personnel operating the public procurement system.

Daniel Chigudu (2014) conducted a study in Zimbabwe on Public procurement in Zimbabwe: Issues and Challenges. The main objective of the study was to explore challenges and issues that were militating against public sector procurement in Zimbabwe. The investigation was carried out using content analysis of national procurement laws and statutes. The study found that there were several obstacles to overcome: lack of interest from politicians to address the challenges; a lack of knowledge and expertise; lack of capacity; a lack of effective legal tools; a lack of effective legal enforcement; and a negative impact of indigenisation policy. The study discovered that public officials rig procurement processes for their own benefit despite the existence of some rules. The study suggested that Zimbabwe's government pursue best practices in public procurement.

Mazikana (2018) conducted research on reducing contract management challenges in the public sector procurement in Zimbabwe. The main objective of the study was to investigate the public procurement process in Zimbabwe, identifying procurement challenges in Zimbabwe public sector that detract from service delivery and suggest strategies to reduce contract management challenges in public sector procurement. The study employed a mixed research design. The SPSS version 20 was adopted to analyse quantitative data while the reduction method was used for qualitative data. The findings of the study reveal that there was no accepted definition of contract management in public sector procurement. Electronic procurement was suggested as a potential solution to avoid service delivery delays because it can increase the efficiency and coherence of the policy-making process. The study advises public sector organisations to approach contract management procedures strategically.

Exploring public procurement reforms in rural local authorities in Zimbabwe was the focus of a study by Munyede & Mapuva (2020) conducted in Zimbabwe. Before the PPDPA Act was enforced, Zimbabwe's procurement system was centrally bureaucratic and susceptible to high levels of corruption (Munyede and Mapuva, 2020). The main objective of their study was to call focus on the effects of the reforms being implemented by Zimbabwe's rural local councils. The study employed a desktop approach to review relevant literature and adopted a qualitative

research design. The results show that the numerous reforms constitute a positive advancement in public procurement. The study found that, there are challenges limiting RDCs capacity to provide timely services to residents such as long lead times, therefore, delaying the achievement of sustainable development in Zimbabwe's rural districts.

Madziva et al. (2023) carried out a research on Procurement reforms in Zimbabwe: Emerging issues and impact on service delivery in the public sector. The study's main objective was to analyse the effects of a number of recent issues, including natural disasters, pandemics, regulatory changes, value for money, currency distortions causing high levels of inflation, the Buy Zimbabwe campaign, trade agreements like SADC and COMESA, globalisation, the geopolitical environment, and supplier blacklisting. The study adopted a qualitative analysis of various legislative frameworks and instruments completed through a desktop examination. The study also conducted a thorough review of other works that have already been published and examined print media as well as government policies and circulars. The study discovered that the environment for public procurement was negatively impacted by rising issues. The study suggested that in order to prevent misalignment in policy stances and interpretations, substantial dialogues amongst government agencies should take place before directives are released.

2.10 Gap analysis

Between this study and those other researchers have previously undertaken, there is a significant gap. Other scholars haven't ever looked at the subject of this study, especially for Zimbabwe's RDCs. The instance of RDCs in Zimbabwe served as a focal point for the discussion of the PPDPA Act's effectiveness on ensuring effective public tendering. A mixed research design is adopted in this study. Other studies that were summarised as empirical evidence adopted other research designs, such as the descriptive research design. The goals of this study are distinct from the goals that other scholars have pursued in the past. The cited researches demonstrate that for those studies conducted outside of Zimbabwe, the researchers used abductive technique, quality scores, purposive sampling, Chi-Square, and descriptive methodologies. Content analysis and mixed methodologies were used in Zimbabwean studies, primarily for public sector researches, but not for the same topic under this study.

2.11 Chapter Summary

This chapter focused on the theoretical literature on public procurement regulations, tendering, tendering methods, concepts of public tendering, local government procurement processes, the Procurement Act (Chapter 22:14) and the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) and procurement regulation provisions in the World, Africa and in Zimbabwe. This chapter discussed the challenges associated with the PPDPA Act and public procurement in general. The chapter explained the public procurement theories that support the topic under study, empirical review, conceptual framework, and a research gap.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The aim of this chapter is to explain the methodology which was adopted to attain the objectives of the study. This chapter focuses on the methodology adopted to collect data for analysis. This chapter explains the research design, target population, validity and reliability of data, sampling techniques, research instruments, methods of data presentation and analysis, ethics and chapter summary.

3.1 Research Design

This research design serves as the study's blueprint for the analysis, measurement, and presentation of the data gathered (Creswell, 2014). A mixed research approach was used for this study. A mixed method of inquiry involves the gathering of both quantitative and qualitative data. Comparatively to employing a quantitative or qualitative technique alone, a mixed strategy offers a thorough grasp of the study problem (Creswell, 2014). The meaning that different people or groups assign to human and environmental problems can be explored and understood using a qualitative method (Creswell, 2014). This approach provides the benefit of a flexible structure with a focus on inductive style and individual meaning in the final written report, which is a benefit. However, since the researcher is the one who chooses the questions, he may ask them in a way that is biased toward both the researcher and the respondents (Akers, 2019).

A quantitative research is a strategy for testing objective ideas by looking at the relationship between variables that can be quantified in order to analyse numerical data using statistical methods (Creswell, 2014). The benefit of this type of inquiry is that it makes assumptions about the ability to generalise and replicate results, protect against bias, adjust for alternative hypotheses, and test theories deductively (Creswell, 2014). However, quantitative approach doesn't explain why anything might be happening; simply what is happening is revealed (Akers, 2019). The results of hypothesis testing are also vulnerable to change because they are dependent on assumptions, which means that it will be necessary to conduct periodic research to assess emerging trends.

3.2 Target Population

The totality of respondents who satisfy the specified set of criteria comprise the target population (Saunders et al., 2016). There are 60 Rural District Councils and 32 Urban District Councils in Zimbabwe (Mushamba, 2022). Therefore, the target population of this study were sixty (60) registered Rural District Councils in Zimbabwe. The researcher targets in these RDCs procurement officers and other staff taking part in the implementation of the PPDPA Act. The researcher is certain that these officials will provide sufficient and trustworthy information to conduct an analysis on the effectiveness of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering.

3.3 Sample size

Yang (2013) states that sampling is the selection of a number of elements that gives dependable and valid characteristics of the population under investigation. Random sampling was used to select respondents from the target population. According to Adam and Ariel (2019), random sampling allows all the units in the population to have an equal chance of being selected to approximate what would have been obtained if the entire population had been measured. Each observation measures one or more characteristics of observable bodies that are identified as distinct things or people, such as weight, position, or color. According to Cooper and Schindler (2008), a study's sample size should not be lower than 30% of the population in order for it to be considered valid and credible. Therefore, a sample of 35 RDCs were selected using random sampling method. The sample was therefore, 58.3% of the target population agreeing with the argument stated above. Nachimas (2016) argued that taking a small sample from the population is convenient enough to do away with time and costs constrains.

3.4 Data Sources

The vast majority of data gathered was primarily of a natural character, with questionnaires serving as the primary data collection instrument. Due to its direct relevance to the issue at hand and the researcher's ability to manage the degree of inaccuracy for correctness, primary data was chosen (Kumar, 2005). A primary source like a questionnaire, in Mugenda's opinion (1999), ensures a more thorough response and is simpler and less expensive to administer. However, the researcher encountered several difficulties when attempting to use primary data due to the time and expense involved in data collection.

3.5 Data Collection Instrument

To gather information from a chosen sample of population, a questionnaire was created and distributed. On demographic data, it included two open-ended questions about respondents' ages and work experiences, as well as closed-ended questions about respondents' departments, levels of education, and positions, still, there are questions to determine the effectiveness of PPDPA Act. Questionnaires were used because they are cost effective and they provide standardised responses which makes it easy for the researcher to interpret data (Hair et al., 2003). A Likert scale with a range of 1 to 2 points has been used to organise structured questions on demographics (female = 2 and male = 1), and a scale with a range of 1 to 5 points has been used for other variables (strongly disagree = 1, disagree = 2, uncertain = 3, agree = 4, strongly agree = 5).

3.6 Data Collection Procedure

The researcher first requested permission to conduct the study by writing letters to RDCs. These letters explained the study's objective and that collected data would only be used for academic purposes. Bradley (2023) insists that, a permission letter to conduct a research helps the researcher to explain why the research is worth to be conducted. The researcher then handed out questionnaires to 35 respondents, via the email and some in person. The researcher then received completed copies of the questionnaires via email, and some were also collected in person.

3.7 Methods of data analysis

Data analysis was done using data from the completed and submitted questionnaires. Collected data from primary sources were presented using tables, charts, and percentages using the SPSS version 22. Analysing data using the SPSS version 22 helped the researcher to understand the researched data through data coding, capturing, processing and analysis. According to Willian (2022), SPSS offers reliable and fast answers, it is dynamic and has useful tables and graphs and is useful for both qualitative and quantitative data.

3.8 Validity and reliability

According to National Institutes of Health, a pilot study is a trail study carried out before a research design is finalised to define research questions and test the feasibility, reliability, and validity of the study design. A pilot study was conducted with some public procurement professionals and experienced staff in public procurement to check on ambiguity of questions,

scope of the research questions, unclear phrases and jargon language. Generally, one can argue that, validity shows whether the research actually measures the intended variables. The researcher tested validity by asking procurement professionals participating in public procurement questions about all related studies. This was done to ensure content validity which is connected to accuracy of questions the researcher asked to gather the information which was intended to be gathered. Questionnaire was tested of its contents validity through giving the questionnaire to the academic research supervisor for making corrections.

The extent to which results will be consistent over a period of time and the extent to which the sample used represent the target population determines the level of reliability (Joppe, 2000). It is argued that if the results of the research are capable to be reproduced using the same methodology, the research instrument is considered reliable. Reliability was measured using time consistency test, people's responses consistency and judgmental consistency (Price, Jhangiani, & Chiang, 2019). The information gathered were reliable since each question was phrased through the pilot study conducted removing ambiguous questions, unclear jargon language and question errors as well as ensuring that all questions' scope were in line with the research topic.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

According to Bhandari (2022), ethical considerations help to protect rights of research participants, enhance research validity and maintain academic integrity. First, the researcher asked for permission to conduct the study from all sixty (60) RDCs in Zimbabwe. He also explained that the study's data collected was for academic purposes. This was done in accordance with Walliman (2011), who contends that researchers must get the managers' or other individuals' permission and make clear the study's objectives. Additionally, the researcher gave RDCs the assurance that any information received from them would be handled confidential. This supports Patten's (2009) argument that researchers have to observe the principle of confidentiality in the use of information from participants and use it for the intended purpose only.

The researcher also gave the respondents a directive to not put their names on the questionnaires. The need to secure participant identities was critical because the data collected was for internal use. This agrees with the argument made by Morrison et al., (2011) that participants must be

assured by researchers of their identities to enable them to participate freely and give accurate information to the researcher. Last but not least, neither this study was copied from anyone else nor was it plagiarised. Ezikiel (2008) defined plagiarism as presenting someone's ideas as your own. The complete body of research and the organisational framework were cited and listed in the references section.

3.10 Chapter Summary

The study's methodology, in particular the approach used, target population, sample size, data source, data collection instrument, data collection procedure, methods for data presentation, data analysis, validity and reliability testing and ethical considerations, have all been covered in this chapter. The presentation, analysis, and discussion of data are covered in the chapter that follows.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to analyse, present and discuss data collected. The analysis of the response rate of the distributed questionnaires is covered in this chapter. Demographic data is analysed, presented and discussed in this chapter. The findings from the questionnaires are analysed using the SPSS version 22. The results show the effectiveness of the PPDPA Act on ensuring effective public tendering and the direction of a relationship between the PPDPA Act and effective public tendering.

4.1 Questionnaire Response Rate

Table 4.1 Shows response rate to questionnaires

Instrument	Expected	Actual	Percentage (%)
Questionnaire	35	30	85.7

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.1 shows that 35 questionnaires were distributed to registered RDCs of Zimbabwe and 30 questionnaires were successfully responded in time. The rate of response is adequate as it was supported by Ray (2012) who argued that 75% response rate and above is a fortunate rate of return since mostly researches obtains lower response rates.

4.2 Demographic Data

Demographic data of respondents was discussed in terms of gender, level of education, age, respondents work position, respondents' experience and organizational department of the respondents. The results are shown in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2 Demographic Summary Statistics

Item	N	Min	Max	Sum	Mean	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
Age	30	27	52	1230	41.00	41.50	45	6.978
Work Experience	30	1	18	151	5.03	3.00	2 ^a	4.484

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.2 above shows a mean of 41.00 and a standard deviation of 6.978 for age of respondents. The most appearing age is 45 years and the middle age of all ages of respondents after they are arranged in order is 41.50. The most aged person among the respondents has 52 years and the youngest has 27 years. The mean of age shows that most respondents are 41 years old. This implies that the sample contained mature people who can make informed judgements before responding.

Table 4.2 shows that work experience of the respondents has a mean of 5.03 and a standard deviation of 4.484. This standard deviation means that most of the respondents has a work experience of 5 years. This shows that most of the workers in RDCs are experienced. This is supported by Braxton (2008) who argued that experienced respondents provide reliable data on the subject matter.

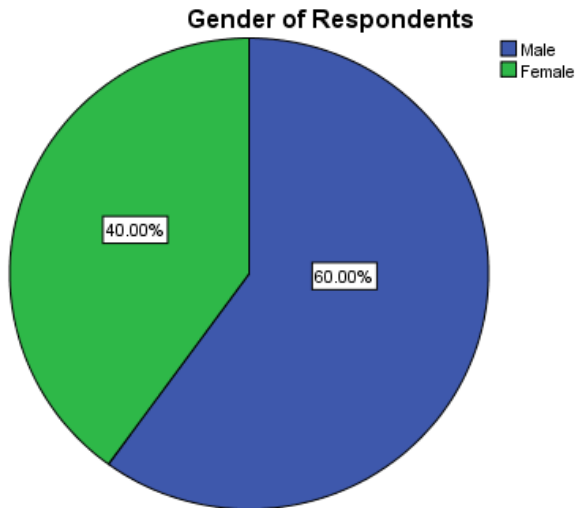


Figure 4.1 Gender distribution of respondents

Source: Primary data (2023)

The Figure 4.1 shows percentages of gender of respondents. The findings shows that males are more than females which is against gender equality in RDCs of Zimbabwe. This means that females composed 40.00% whilst males composed 60.00% of workers in the RDCs of Zimbabwe. This unbalanced distribution of gender means that the RDCs are dominated by males despite the fact that Zimbabwe’s population is composed of more females as compared to males.

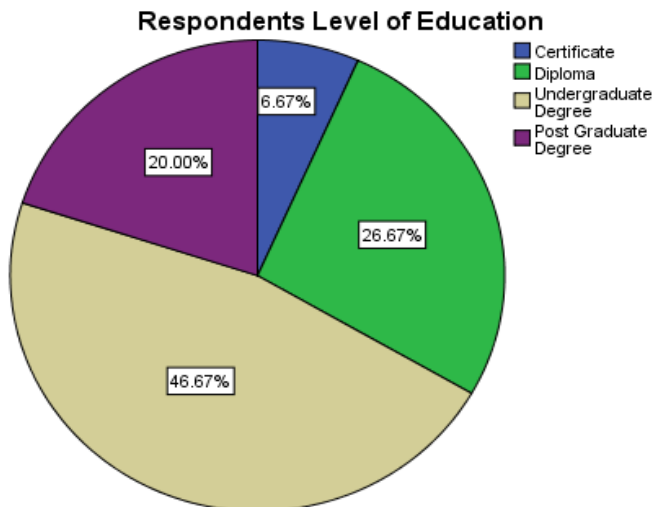


Figure 4.2 Level of education of respondents

Source: Primary data (2023)

Figure 4.2 shows that, 20.00% are holders of post graduate degree, 6.67% are holders of a certificate, 26.67% are holders of a diploma and 46.67% are holders of an undergraduate degree. The findings agree with the rate of literacy in Zimbabwe. The majority according to the results understands the topic under this study and the PPDPA Act. The results are supported by Joppe (200) who insist that when conducting a research, if respondents are educated and understand the topic, reliable data will be gathered.

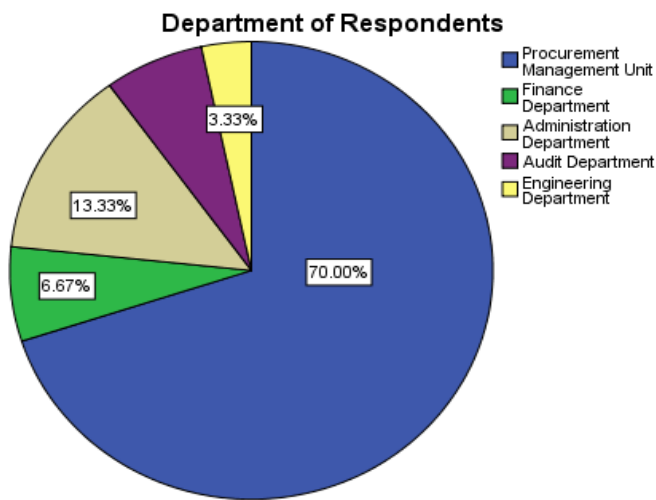


Figure 4.3 Department of respondents

Source: Primary data (2023)

As shown by the Figure 4.3 above, the departments of respondents determines if the respondents were being involved in major departments concerned with the use of the PPDPA Act in RDCs. A majority of 70.00% work under the Procurement Management Unit being directly involved in the implementation of the PPDPA Act. This has facilitated the researcher to gather reliable data which was analysed to determine the effectiveness of the PPDPA Act on ensuring effective public tendering.

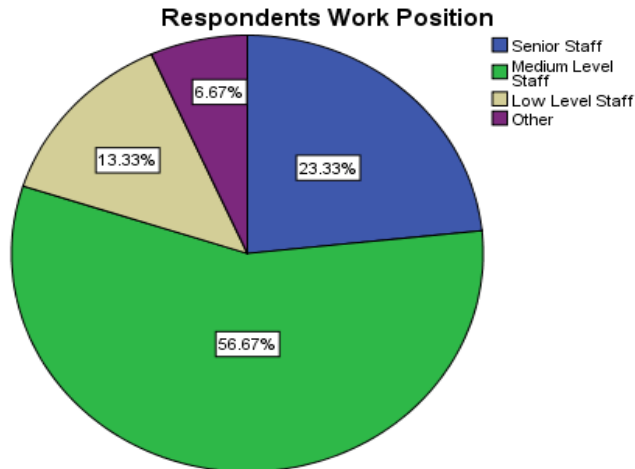


Figure 4.4 Work position of respondents

Source: Primary Data (2023)

Figure 4.4 shows job positions of respondents in RDCs. The results shown above indicate that 56.67% are medium level staff, 23.33% are senior staff, 6.67% are other staff and 13.33% are low level staff. The findings shows that 80.00% is composed of senior and medium level staff which were regarded as vital as they determine the quality of data gathered for the research and understands better the issues under investigation.

4.3 The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) effectiveness

Table 4.3 Level of Awareness of the PPDPA Act

Likert scale	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1				
2				
3				
4	3	10.0	10.0	10.0
5	27	90.0	90.0	100
Total	30	100	100	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.3 indicates that where (N=30), 10% agreed and 90% strongly agreed that they were aware of the PPDPA Act. This shows that the respondents were aware of the PPDPA Act and its

provisions. This is in line with Biraori and Embeli (2022) who found a link between procurement expertise and the implementation of procurement regulations. The findings in Table 4.3 are contradictory to the findings by Migosti (2013) who found that the majority of respondents in his study, were not familiar with the new procurement laws and regulations.

Table 4.4 Tendering methods used by RDCs

Construct	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Competitive	7	23.3	23.3	23.3
Restrictive	3	10.0	10.0	33.3
Both	20	66.7	66.7	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.4 shows that given (N=30), 66.7% of RDCs uses both competitive and restrictive bidding methods, 23.3% uses competitive bidding and 10.0% uses restrictive tendering method. This shows that competition in RDCs in Zimbabwe has been assured through the use of PPDPA Act. The responses have shown that there are other methods used by the Rural District Councils, for instance, consolidation of procurement requirements stated on Section 19 of the PPDPA Act. The findings support the findings by Senzu and Ndebugri (2017) who found that the majority of procurement contracts inside public institutions were given out through national competitive bidding. The results are supported by Bedri Kamil Onur Tas (2019) who found that countries with quality regulations have more competitive tenders, and those with high quality ratings are more likely to use competitive tendering.

Table 4.5 Changes brought by the introduction of the PPDPA Act

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Introduction of standard bidding document	3	10.0	10.0	10.0
Establishment of Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe	5	16.7	16.7	26.7
Decentralisation through removal of State Procurement Board	11	36.7	36.7	63.3
Professionalism through establishment of Procurement Management Unit	9	30.0	30.0	93.3
New reporting structure	2	6.7	6.7	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.5 shows that given (N=30), 36.7% were of the opinion that decentralisation through removal of the State Procurement Board was a major effective change brought to RDCs in Zimbabwe. Professionalism through establishment of PMU was believed by 30.0% of respondents to be an effective procurement reform. Establishment of PRAZ was believed by 16.7% of respondents to be a major reform step in public procurement. Introduction of standard bidding document was believed by 10.0% of respondents to be another effective reform step in public procurement and the new reporting structure was supported by 6.7% of respondents to be an effective change brought by the introduction of the PPDPA Act. The findings are supported by Munyede and Mapuva (2020) who argued that, before the introduction of the PPDPA Act, the procurement system in Zimbabwe was centralised being vulnerable to susceptible to corruption, delays in tender awards, lack of transparency, lack of accountability, poor levels of competition, absence of professionalism and cost-ineffectiveness until decentralisation effected through the introduction of the PPDPA Act.

Table 4.6 Effectiveness of PPDPA Act on ensuring effective public tendering.

Likert Scale	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	2	6.7	6.7	6.7
2	3	10.0	10.0	16.7
3	1	3.3	3.3	20.0
4	6	20.0	20.0	40.0
5	18	60.0	60.0	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.6 above indicates that given (N=30), 20.0% agreed, 10.0% disagreed, 60.0% strongly agreed, 6.7% strongly disagreed and 3.3% were uncertain on whether the provisions of the PPDPA Act has been effective or not. This is supported by Ali (2019), a World Bank Procurement Specialist, who said insisted that the old legal arrangements as compared to the new PPDPA Act in Zimbabwe procurement processes have been ruined by the risk of corruption in public procurement, irregular payments as well as issues of governance in tender awards, favouritism in tender awards were common and public funds were being diverted for other purpose making the new reforms more effective as compared to the old procurement legal systems.

Table 4.7 Effectiveness of Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe on transparency.

Likert Scale	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	1	3.3	3.3	3.3
2	2	6.7	6.7	10.0
3	4			
4	5	16.7	16.7	26.7
5	22	73.3	73.3	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.7 shows that given (N=30), 16.7% agreed, 6.7 disagreed, 73.3% strongly agreed and 3.3 % strongly disagreed that PRAZ is effective on ensuring transparency in public tendering. A 73.3 % of respondents who strongly agreed to the question indicates that PRAZ is effective in ensuring transparency in public tendering. The findings agree with Mukura et al., (2016) who found that procurement activities are impacted by PPOA's compliance with the application of the procurement regulations to ensure transparency.

Table 4.8 Whether tendering provisions are helping RDCs

Likert Scale	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1				
2	2	6.7	6.7	6.7
3	4	13.3	13.3	20.0
4	8	26.7	26.7	46.7
5	16	53.3	53.3	100
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.8 indicates that provided that (N=30), 26.7% agreed, 6.7% disagreed, 53.3% strongly agreed and 13.3% were uncertain that the provisions of the PPDPA Act on both competitive and restrictive bidding are effective on public tendering processes. By combining those who agreed and those who strongly agreed, 80 % of respondents agreed that the provisions are effective. This is supported by Bongani Mushanyuri (2014) who insisted that, the new PPDPA Act advocates public entities to benefit from: Competitiveness as well as value for money creation, reduction in violation of procedures of procurement by political figures, Section 16(1-2) which provides that the CEO of public entities must resist external influence from politicians to violate the provisions of the Act and Section 19 of the Act that encourages procuring entities to pursue order consolidation.

Table 4.9 Objection of RDCs submissions by SPOC.

Likert Scale	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	8	26.7	26.7	26.7
2	2	6.7	6.7	33.4
3				
4	6	20.0	20.0	53.3
5	14	46.7	46.7	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.9 shows that, where (N= 30), 20% agreed, 6.7% disagreed, 46.7% strongly agreed and 26.7% strongly disagreed that the submissions of RDCs to SPOC for scrutiny have been objected by SPOC in the last (2) years. Combining those who agreed and those who strongly agreed gives 66.7% of agreement which means that SPOC has been effective in its operations. The results were not found in any direction by the empirical researchers in this study but are supported by The News Hawks article published on 29 March 2021 in which SPOC was credited of doing its best to avoid negative results due to unethical companies who were duping local authorities and convincing suppliers to have price groups and to offer late delivery to public entities.

Table 4.10 Challenge of RDCs procurement processes by bidders.

Likert Scale	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	17	56.7	56.7	56.7
2	5	16.7	16.7	73.4
3	3	10.0	10.0	83.4
4	4	13.3	13.3	96.7
5	1	3.3	3.3	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.10 above shows that given that (N= 30), 13.3% agreed, 16.7% disagreed, 3.3% strongly agreed, 56.7% strongly disagreed and 10.0% were uncertain that the tendering processes of RDCs of Zimbabwe were challenged by bidders in the last (2) years. Combining those who disagreed and those who strongly disagreed, 73.4% disagreed that the RDCs of Zimbabwe tendering proceedings have been challenged by bidders in the last (2) years. The findings are supported by Muringi and Mugadza (2023) who insisted that Section 73 of the Act provides for the challenge of the procurement proceedings of any public entity by a bidder and review must be done by the Review Panel in accordance to Section 74 of the act to enhance fairness and objectivity in public procurement dispute resolution.

Table 4.11 Level of effectiveness of the PPDPA Act

Likert Scale	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	5	16.7	16.7	16.7
2	2	6.7	6.7	23.4
3	3	10.0	10.0	33.4
4	4	13.3	13.3	46.7
5	16	53.3	53.3	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.11 above shows that given (N=30), 13.3% agreed, 6.7% disagreed, 53.3% strongly agreed, 16.7% strongly disagreed and 10.0% were uncertain that the implementation of the PPDPA Act has been effective on ensuring effective public tendering in RDCs of Zimbabwe. Those who agreed with the question composed 66.6 percent of respondents, meaning, the Act is effective to the greater extent. Ngari (2022) found that the PPDPA in Kenya increased the procurement process' competitiveness among parastatals, and this supports the findings of this study. The findings also agree with Senzu and Ndebugri (2017) who found that the Procurement Act in Ghana enhanced accountability and openness whilst reducing corruption.

Table 4.12 Contribution made by the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) to RDCs in Zimbabwe

Contribution	N	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly agree
The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has increased competition among bidders.	30			3(10.0%)	2(6.7%)	25(83.3%)
The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has been cost-effective and improved value for money in the tendering process.	30			5(16.7%)	8(26.7%)	17(56.7%)
The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has improved transparency and fair treatment of bidders in the tendering process.	30		2(6.7%)	3(10.0%)	4(13.3%)	21(70.0%)
The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has ensured accountability in the tendering process.	30	3(10.0%)	1(3.3%)	5(16.7%)	8(26.7%)	13(43.3%)
The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has ensured sustainability in public tendering.	30	1(3.3%)	1(3.3%)	2(6.7%)	10(33.3%)	16(53.3%)
The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has boosted public confidence in tendering process.	30			7(23.3%)	3(10.0%)	20(66.7%)

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.12 above shows that 6.7% agreed, 83.3% strongly agreed and 10.0% were uncertain that the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has increased competition amongst bidders where (N=30). This agrees with Ngari (2022) who found that procurement regulations increase the procurement process's competitiveness among parastatals. However, participation is restricted to Zimbabwean bidders given the threshold is below that which is prescribed on Section 10 (3) of the Act.

Table 4.12 indicates that 26.7% agreed, 56.7% strongly agreed and 16.7% were uncertain that the PPDP Act has been cost effective and has improved value for money in the public tendering processes of RDCs. The findings agree with Tas (2019) who discovered that better regulatory quality has good benefits and that stiff competition as well as the cost-effectiveness are linked to better quality scores. Higher regulation quality greatly increases the pool of eligible bidders and lowers the price of the procurement requirement to an amount below predicted costs (Tas, 2019).

Table 4.12 above indicates that 13.3% agreed, 6.7% disagreed, 70% strongly agreed and 10.0% were uncertain that there is transparency and fair treatment of bidders in RDCs. The findings are contradictory to Jones (2007) who has it that, lack of expertise, absence of competitive tendering, corruption and lack of transparency were the most dominant characteristics of public procurement. The findings are also contradicted by the findings of Chigudu (2014) who found that public officials rig procurement process for their own benefit despite the existence of some rules.

Table 4.12 above indicates that given (N= 30), 26.7% agreed, 3.3% disagreed, 43.3% strongly agreed, 10% strongly disagreed and 16.7% were uncertain on whether the PPDP Act ensured accountability in public tendering processes in RDCs. The total of those who agreed (70%) is more than those who disagreed (13.3%). The margin of difference between those who agreed and those who disagreed is strong enough to establish that the Act ensures accountability in RDCs procurement processes. The results are supported by Senzu and Ndebugri (2017) who found that procurement regulations enhance accountability and openness while reducing corruption.

Table 4.12 above shows that given that (N=30), 33.3% agreed, 3.3% disagreed, 53.3% strongly agreed, 3.3% strongly disagreed and 6.7% were uncertain that the Act has ensured sustainability in public tendering processes. A total of 86.6% agreed that the Act ensures sustainability in the procurement processes of RDCs. The result contradicts the findings by Munyede and Mapuva (2020) who found that there are difficulties in Rural District Councils of Zimbabwe which limits their capacity to provide timely services to residents, delaying the achievement of sustainable development in Zimbabwe local communities. The presence of sustainability according to the

findings confirms a suggestion by Senzu and Ndebugri (2017), who suggests that the procurement regulations amendment must include measures for sustainable procurement concerns and electronic procurement.

Table 4.12 above summaries the responses on whether the use of the PPDP Act (Chapter 22: 23) has boosted public confidence in the procurement processes of RDCs of Zimbabwe. The findings shows that where (N= 30), 10.0% agreed, 66.7% strongly agreed and 23.3% were uncertain concerning the question on public confidence in RDCs procurement processes. The findings shows that 76.7% agreed that there is public confidence in the procurement processes of RDCs of Zimbabwe. This is in line with Uromi (2014) who found that giving the public access to information about public purchases, public confidence and transparency concerning public finances usage will be improved since the public will know how the public funds are being used for the welfare of the public.

Table 4.13 Problems of the PPDP Act

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Conflict of interest	3	10.0	10.0	10.0
High inflation	4	13.3	13.3	23.3
Lack of administrative sanctions	1	3.3	3.3	26.7
Lack of civil penalties	1	3.3	3.3	30.0
Lack of financial resources	8	26.7	26.7	56.7
Lack of preference for woman businesses	3	10.0	10.0	66.7
Long lead time	6	20.0	20.0	86.7
Misunderstanding of the Act	1	3.3	3.3	90.0
Unclear definition of a family member during disposal	3	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2023)

Table 4.13 above shows that many RDCs are lacking financial resources in their processes of implementing the PPDPA Act. The findings show that, 26.7% of responses were supporting that lack of financial resources is a major problem faced by RDCs in Zimbabwe. This is supported by Chilunjika (2013) who argued that RDCs are financed by land-owners' taxes, mining businesses and licensed businesses who are not paying their dues as expected. The persistence of challenges in public sector are supported by Chigudu (2014) who found that, procurement officials in public sectors rig procurement processes for their personal gain despite the presents of regulations.

The findings contradict Alahmadi and Alghaseb (2022) who found that awarding lowest bidder contracts, weak specifications, poor contractual technical specifications, and poor cost-estimating processes are the major challenges in public procurement. Long lead time is another major problem associated with PPDPA Act implementation because of a standing 14 days period and was agreed to be a major challenge by 20.0% of respondents. Inflation is another problem faced by RDCs since 13.3% of respondents agreed that they are facing this problem. This agrees with Mushuku et al (2012) who found that inflation in 2008 had left Chivi RDC in financial deficit and the council failed to pay its workers and deliver quality services to the community. Therefore, when making cost analysis in public procurement challenges, it is vital to deal with the problem with highest effect (Chigudu, 2014).

Table 4.14 Chi-Square test of the relationship between the PPDPA Act and effective public tendering.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	16.667 ^a	1	.000		
Continuity Correction ^b	10.667	1	.001		
Likelihood Ratio	12.775	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.002	.002
N of Valid Cases	30				

- a. 3 cells (75.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .50.
- b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

The Chi-Square Asymp.Sig shown in Table 4.14 above (0.000) shows that the relationship between the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) and effective public tendering is not due to chance but the relationship really exists. It is argued that if Asymp.Sig is in the range $0 \leq 0.05$, the independent variable is significantly related to the dependent variable. It is argued that if Asymp.Sig is >0.05 , the significance of relationship between variables is due to chance. Therefore, basing on the Chi-Square tests results, H_2 is accepted.

Table 4.15 Phi Cramer's V test of the relationship between the PPDPA Act and effective public tendering.

Symmetric Measures

	Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Phi	-.745	.000
Nominal Cramer's	.745	.000
N of Valid Cases	30	

- a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.
- b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

In the Tables 4.15 above, the Cramer's V of (.745) in the positive direction and Phi (-.745) in the negative direction shows that there is a strong relationship between the PPDPA Act and effective public tendering. It is argued that if a symmetric measure of Cramer's V is in the range $0 \leq 0.30$, there is no relationship between the variables. If the Cramer's V falls in the range $0.31 \leq 0.70$, the relationship is weak and if the Cramer's V falls in the range $0.71 \leq 1.0$, there is a strong relationship between the independent and dependent variables. A strong relationship means that if one knows the independent variable of a respondent, he or she will be given a good reason to

guess the dependent variable and week relationship gives not much confidence in guessing the respondent's dependent variable. Therefore, basing on the findings, H_2 is accepted.

4.4 Chapter summary

The chapter contained the presentation, interpretation and discussion of the findings on the questionnaires which were distributed to RDCs in Zimbabwe. Data was presented using pie charts, graphs and tables. The analysis and discussion of the findings were done below each and every pie chart, and table. The chapter below will summarise the findings, giving conclusion and recommendations basing on the findings and contents of this study.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Introduction

The primary objective of this study was to determine the effectiveness of PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering. The background of this study has it that public entities are not gaining what is expected from the use of the PPDPA Act due to problems associated with public procurement system in Zimbabwe. In addition, RDCs of Zimbabwe are not reaching the objectives of the PPDPA Act due to some of the problems in the new reforms in the public procurement systems. Lack of financial resources is a major negative factor leading to ineffectiveness of the PPDPA Act. The centralised procurement system which was replaced with the decentralised system after the PPDPA Act came into effect was full of problems. Basing on the fact that no one knows if the new PPDPA Act is performing well, the researcher conducted this study on the effectiveness of the PPDPA Act on ensuring effective public tendering. Therefore, this chapter is a summary of major findings, conclusion and recommendations.

5.1 Summary of research findings

This study aims to make an analysis of the effectiveness of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering. This study targeted 60 registered RDCs of Zimbabwe. This study adopted a mixed research approach and used the SPSS descriptive statistics for data analysis. The researcher found that there is a strong relationship between the PPDPA Act and effective public tendering. The study found that, PRAZ is effective in exercising its functions, RDCs of Zimbabwe workers are aware of the PPDPA Act, the procedures on competitive and restrictive tendering in the Act are effective, decentralization through the removal of the State Procurement Board is a major effective change brought by the PPDPA Act and that financial resources is the main problems faced by most RDCs to reach all the objectives of the act. The study found that there is a strong relationship between the PPDPA Act and effective public tendering. The findings of the study enabled the researcher to accept the H₁ and H₂ of this study.

5.2 Conclusions

In this research, empirical justifications were given and relevant theories that support the study. Four secondary objectives were identified and analysed using answers provided by respondents

on the awareness of the Act, effectiveness of PRAZ, changes brought by the PPDPA Act, the relationship between the PPDPA Act, effectiveness of the Act's provisions on tendering and the major challenges faced by RDCs of Zimbabwe. Based on the responses given on the questionnaires distributed and questions on the relationship between the PPDPA Act and effective public tendering, the H₁ and H₂ were accepted. Findings have shown that all the research questions and objectives were answered and results were discussed comparing to evidence from written studies and publications on the same subject.

5.3 Recommendations

The researcher made the following recommendations:

- The policy makers are recommended to take action and adjust some sections of the Act to align the Act with the reforms on Ease of Doing Business and international best procurement practices and include provisions on civil penalties for public entities for violation of the provisions of the Act.
- Some of the Act's provisions on Section 3(7) designed to improve transparency have to be adjusted to regulate private sector businesses, that is, placing State Enterprises and Parastatals competing with private sector businesses at a considerable advantage.
- Section 55(2) of the Act must be amended to shorten the bidding period, to allow the PPDPA Act address emergency situations in tendering processes and Section 93 of the Act to broaden its coverage to include close family members of the procuring entity's employees, members of the board and its committees.
- A recommendation is made to include on Section 94 of the Act administrative sanctions to increase compliance with the PPDPA Act and to delete the role given the CEO as the secretary of the board which violates paragraph 132 of the First Schedule to the Public Entities and Corporate Governance Act (Chapter 10:31).
- A recommendation is made to adjust wording of Section 29 of the Act to make it mandatory for procuring entities to accord local suppliers a preferential treatment during the evaluation of bids and the removal of Auditor-General on Section 54(2) of the Act.

5.4 Recommendations for future research

The researcher recommends that future studies should focus on:

- The effects of public procurement committees on improving value for money in the procurement processes.
- The effects of procurement reforms on service delivery in the public sector in Zimbabwe.
- Impact of the PPPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) on private sector supplier satisfaction.
- The impact of the PPDPA (Chapter 22: 23) Act on the living standards of people in the communities of Zimbabwe.
- The effectiveness of Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe on ensuring compliance to the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23).
- The effects of Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission on curbing corruption during the implementation of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23).

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Introductory Letter

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Dear Participant

I am a student at Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) undertaking a research project in partial fulfilment for a Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Purchasing and Supply. I am researching on the topic: Effectiveness of PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) on ensuring effective public tendering in Rural District Councils of Zimbabwe.

I would greatly appreciate if you spare your important time to attend to the questions of this questionnaire. May you kindly read the questions carefully before giving your dependable honest and trustworthy opinions on the provided questions.

Take note that this research is for academic purposes only. Please be assured of confidentiality to be observed in this study by not writing your name on any part of this questionnaire.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Marvellous Mageya Melusi

Contact Numbers: 0778994262

Email address: melusimageya1@gmail.com

Appendix 2 Questionnaire

SECTION A : Demographic information

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please use the check boxes to give your answer.
- Give one answer to each question.
- Do not write your name on this questionnaire

1. Gender

Male	01
Female	02

2. How old are you?

3. Level of education

Certificate	01
Diploma	02
Undergraduate	03
Post graduate	04

4. Department

Procurement Management Unit	01
Finance Department	02
Administration Department	03
Audit Department	04
Engineering Department	05

5. Position

Senior Staff	01
Medium Level staff	02
Low Level Staff	03
Other	04

6. What is your work experience in public sector procurement?

SECTION B

INSTRUCTIONS

- Carefully respond to all questions using the check boxes provided
- Use the following scales where applicable to respond:

1= Strongly disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Uncertain, 4= Agree, 5= Strongly agree

7. Are you aware of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22: 23)?

Strongly disagree	1
Disagree	2
Uncertain	3
Agree	4
Strongly agree	5

8. What are the tendering methods you have used since the PPDPA Act was enforced at your Rural District Council?

Competitive tendering	1
-----------------------	---

Competitive tendering	1
Restrictive tendering	2
Both Competitive and Restrictive tendering	3

Other (Please specify)

9. What are the major public tendering provisions changes that have been brought by the introduction of PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) in your organisation procurement processes?

Introduction of standard bidding document	1
Establishment of Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe	2
Decentralisation through removal of State Procurement Board	3
Professionalism through establishment of Procurement Management Unit	4
New Reporting Structure	5

11. Do you think the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) provisions on public tendering have been effective on ensuring effective public tendering?

Strongly disagree	1
Disagree	2
Uncertain	3
Agree	4
Strongly Agree	5

12. Do you think the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe has been effective in ensuring transparency in public tendering processes?

Strongly disagree	1
Disagree	2
Uncertain	3
Agree	4
Strongly agree	5

13. Do you think the Act's provisions on competitive and restrictive tendering/bidding processes are helping Rural Local Authorities to ensure effective tendering process?

Strongly Disagree	1
Disagree	2
Uncertain	3
Agree	4
Strongly agree	5

14. Has the Special Procurement and Oversight Committee (SPOC) objected to any of your submissions in the last two (2) years?

Strongly disagree	1
Disagree	2
Uncertain	3
Agree	4
Strongly agree	5

15. Was any of your tendering processes been challenged by bidders in the last two (2) years?

Strongly disagree	1
Disagree	2
Uncertain	3
Agree	4
Strongly agree	5

16. Do you think the implementation of the new PPDP Act (Chapter 22: 23) has ensured effective public tendering process?

Strongly disagree	1
Disagree	2
Uncertain	3
Agree	4
Strongly agree	5

Question: What was your experience with the use of the PPDP Act (Chapter 22: 23) during tendering processes?

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
17	The PPDP Act (Chapter 22: 23) has increased competition and fairness amongst bidders					
18	The PPDP Act (Chapter 22: 23) has been cost effective and improved value for money in the tendering process					
29	The PPDP Act (Chapter 22: 23) has improved					

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
	transparency and fair treatment of all bidders in the tendering process					
20	The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has ensured accountability in the tendering process					
21	The PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has ensured sustainability in public tendering					
22	The use of PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) has boosted public confidence in tendering process					

Question: What is the major problem associated with the use of the PPDPA Act (Chapter 22: 23) in your Rural District Councils?

No.	Challenge	1	2	3	4	5
24	Long lead time					
25	Conflict of interest					
26	Lack of civil penalties					
27	Unclear definition of a family member during disposal					
28	Misunderstanding of the Act					

No.	Challenge	1	2	3	4	5
29	Lack of preference for woman businesses					
30	Lack of administrative sanctions					
31	Lack of financial resources					
32	High inflation					

33. Do you think from your experience that there is a relationship between the use of the PPDPA Act and effective public tendering?

Yes	1
No	2

THANK YOU!

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**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF COMMERCE
ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT**

12 June 2023

To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO COLLECT DATA

This letter serves to inform you that Mr. Melusi Marvellous (B93124B) is pursuing Bachelor of Commerce in Purchasing and Supply Degree with our Department. Please assist him with data for his dissertation titled "Effectiveness of Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act. (Chapter 22:23) on ensuring effective public tendering." "A case study of Rural District Councils in Zimbabwe".

The information gathered from this research will be used purely for academic purposes and your response will be classified as private and confidential.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Mutsvangwa'.

Dr. S. Mutsvangwa (Chairperson)

