

**FACTORS AFFECTING PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES IN PUBLIC
INSTITUTIONS: A CASE STUDY OF KENYA AGRICULTURAL AND
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH ORGANIZATION**

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Abstract

Public Procurement is concerned with how public Institutions spend public funds on goods and services. Effective public procurement systems are systems that offer a high level of transparency, accountability, fairness, and value for money in the application of procurement budgets. The purpose of this study was to establish the factors affecting the procurement procedure in Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO). The study sought to establish how ethics affect procurement procedure in KALRO; determine how employee competence affects public procurement procedure in KALRO; investigate how accountability and transparency affects procurement procedure in KALRO and assess how ICT affects procurement procedures in KALRO. The study was guided by institutional theory and socio-economic theory which are the traditional approaches that are used to examine elements of public procurement. The study used descriptive survey method and the study was carried out at KARLO Kabete branch. The target population included 50 respondents from different departments who deal majorly with procurement issues. The study used purposive sampling to select the case and stratified sampling to select the respondents. The sample was 50 respondents sampled from the target population. The data was collected using the questionnaire and analysis done using excel spread sheet. The study findings indicated that 50 percent of the respondents said that ethical behaviour support openness and accountability in procurement. Those who said does not support were 16 percent while 30 percent said might support. The remaining 4 percent of the respondents said that they didn't know. The results of the study indicated that at least more than half of the respondents said that competency was a capability of an individual which relates to superior performance as indicated by 86 percent of the respondents. The findings of the study indicated that 40 percent of the respondents were of the opinion that dedicated, energetic, and ethical employees were always hard to find while 30 percent said it was hard. Those respondents who argued that dedicated, energetic, and ethical employees were not hard to find were 16 percent of the respondents and those who were not sure were 14 percent. Findings of the study indicated that 50 percent of the respondents said that maintaining integrity in public procurement was very important in modern procurement systems while 30 percent said it was important. Those respondents who argued that maintaining integrity in public procurement was less important in modern procurement systems were 4 percent and those who were not sure were 16 percent. The findings of the study showed that over half of the respondents who were 70 percent agreed that ICT was an enabler for information sharing in the procurement system while 30 percent of the respondents said ICT it was not an enabler for information sharing in the procurement system. From the findings it was inferred that ethical behaviour support openness and accountability in procurement as supported by 50 percent of the respondents. The study concluded that most of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that organizations like individuals have ethical standards and ethical codes as supported by 32 percent and 38 percent of the respondents respectively. From the findings it was deduced that accountability constituted a central pillar of any public procurement system as supported by 58 percent of the respondents. It was concluded from the findings that maintaining integrity in public procurement was very important in modern procurement systems as mentioned by 50 percent of the respondents. The study concluded that ensuring the accountability of procurement officials was essential aspect in procurement as supported by 34 percent and 40 percent of the respondents respectively.