

DEVELOPING A PROJECT MONITORING INFORMATION SYSTEM

(A CASE STUDY OF KENYA)

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ABSTRACT

The research study on Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) has two key objectives:

- To come up with procedures for collecting and collating data on implementation of development projects at macro level for institutions like government departments which have overall management responsibility

- Design a system to undertake data processing, analysis and preparation of reports for feedback information to support strategic level decision making, which are delegated to the project managers on the ground. Kenya is used as a case study.

The literature survey indicates that much of the failures in development projects is due to lack of efficient project monitoring procedures. The erstwhile efforts have only endeavoured to devise management methodologies (including project management software) based on the classical approach where a project manager appears to be in total control of resources for individual projects. The new development approach acknowledges that project management teams on the ground do not constitute the **whole** of the management. The project belongs to and must be managed at the top level by the client, hence the need for PMIS for continuous review of the project status. Due to time and funding constraints, the research exercise has only concentrated on designing and demonstrating a prototype of partial functionality of a proposed full-fledged system.

The study will therefore form the foundation for further system development and later implementation by the client ministry of planning (MPND) in Kenya. At the end, establishment of PMIS is seen as overcoming the current inadequacy of project management software - a basically closed control tool for field project managers, by being able to provide timely information crucial for enhancing efficiency in public investment and development planning.

In the new development agenda, PMIS may set a pace for development of project monitoring software packages with modern window facilities to assist many institutions in this forgotten area by software designers.