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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ICT RISKS OF THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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“A THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
DEGREE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS”

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

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ABSTRACT

The research evaluated the ICT risk assessment in the PFMS through identifying ICT risks in the PFMS system, determining ICT risk gaps within the PFMS system, evaluating and prioritising the risks in the PFMS system and providing solutions to the ICT risks. The research adopted a qualitative methodology helps researchers explore the practice of ICT risk assessment in an organisations. Qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings. The researcher had the opportunity of enjoying the natural settings of the PFMS system which helped in understanding the risks. The research design used was the exploratory because it is aimed at gaining additional information about a topic and generating possible hypothesis to test. The research adopted an exploratory research design because it provided the researcher with better ideas and insights into broader ICT risk assessment in the PFMS environment. Exploratory research is systematic, but it is very flexible in that it allows the researcher to investigate whatever sources he or she desires and to the extent he or she feels is necessary in order to gain a good feel for the problem at hand. The research involves talking to technical operatives to assess the ICT risks in the PFMS environment which is the reason why exploratory research design is used. The study established that risk assessment strategies exist in the PFMS system but the strategies are not continually being reviewed, monitored and enforced on the system. The study concluded that strategies were made on the PFMS system to address the risks, however monitoring and enforcement of the strategies by senior management is lacking. The study concluded that risk gaps exist in the PFMS system e.g. there is need for creation of Service Level Guarantee (SLG) by the ministry with the technical partners of the PFMS system. There is a need to provide a framework for assessing risks in the PFMS system. The study noted the existence of draft Business Continuity Plan for the PFMS system. The researcher recommended the finalisation; implementation of the BCP and financial resources supporting critical operations to maintain business processes after a disaster be put in place as a matter of urgency