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FACULTY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

DEPARTMENT OF QUANTITY SURVEYING

An Analysis on the Implementation of the Small to Medium Enterprises (SME) Policy Objectives on the Growth of Construction Companies in Zimbabwe.

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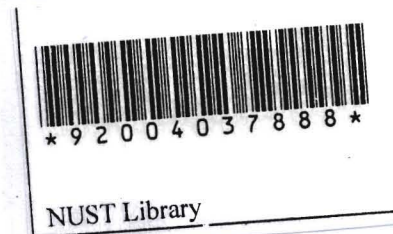
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ABSTRACT

This research investigated the influence of the implementation of the Small to Medium Enterprises (SME) policy objectives on the growth of construction companies presently operating in the Zimbabwean market. The successful implementation of the policy objectives is bound to ensure growth and development of SMEs operating within the construction sector. As such the research sought to investigate whether this was the case in reality. Presently, the local contractors have been overshadowed by foreign contractors who have since taken up most of the market share because of their liquidity and cost efficiency. Successful implementation of the SME policy objectives is meant to counter these negative effects and ensure greater participation of the SME contractors in the main stream construction industry. The sample in this research consisted of various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the SME policy. Using simple random sampling, questionnaires were distributed amongst 30 contractors as the intended beneficiaries of the policy objectives, and 25 were returned. Purposive sampling was also employed to carry out interviews with representatives of SMEDCO, the Ministry of Small to Medium Enterprises and CIFOZ. The key findings and conclusions from literature review and the analysis of results of questionnaires issued showed that the SME policy has largely failed to impact positively on the operations of SME contractors. Its successful implementation has been hindered by several challenges with the main challenge being highlighted as the lack of finance on the part of the implementer, Government. Thus contractors have sought other sources of assistance to stimulate their growth.