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**FACTORS AFFECTING THE UTILISATION OF RESEARCH PRODUCED BY ZIMBABWE
ECONOMIC POLICY ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH UNIT FOR ECONOMIC POLICY
DEVELOPMENT**

BY

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF
THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

YEAR 2017



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ABSTRACT

Research plays a crucial role in supporting the development and implementation of policies in developing countries. It is viewed as a backbone of any successful policy making process hence this study sought to assess the factors that affect research utilisation using the World Health Organisation Translating Research into Practice (WHO/TRIP) framework (2004). This assessment was in view of the minimal utilisation of research produced by Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis and Research Unit (ZEPARU) for economic policy development, with the Ministry of Macro Economic Planning and Investment Promotion being selected as a case understudy. A mixed methods approach was adopted. A questionnaire was administered via electronic mail to collect quantitative data from 24 policymakers while interviews were conducted to gather qualitative data from 8 ZEPARU researchers. The utilisation of ZEPARU research was revealed to be more conceptual, a form of research utilisation that is not traceable or measurable. The ZEPARU communication strategy was found to be fairly effective because it concentrated on post research stage instead of the whole research process. Major factors at play in the external environments that affect the use of research in the economic policy making process were revealed to be the prevailing political and economic conditions. Based on these findings, the researcher recommended ZEPARU to engage in collaborative research, use of convectional media like radio and television in communicating its findings, and undertaking environmental scans to detect threats in the external environment that might hinder the utilisation of research in the economic policymaking process.