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FINANCING AND PRACTICES INDUCING COMPLIANCE WITH DUE PROCESSES IN THE PROCUREMENT OF PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN NIGERIA'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: A CASE STUDY OF MISAU COUNCIL, BAUCHI STATE

Suleiman Shehu

Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Maiduguri-Nigeria
suleimanshehu088@unimaid.edu.ng
+2347066251215

ABSTRACT

For years due to institutional and constitutional issues, Nigeria's Local Government Areas, a third-tier arm of executive governance in the country, were experiencing a downward spiral in carrying out their democratic and statutory responsibilities. This study examined the state of financing and due process compliance practices related to public construction procurement in Nigeria's Local Government Areas (LGA). This study employs a mixed-methods research approach, majorly collecting data through semi-structured interviews and observation of documents as instrument for data collection. This research is a case study and was conducted in Misau council, Bauchi State. Findings revealed that, majority of public construction projects were funded by legislators as part of constituency initiatives; the federal executive government; corporations; and donor organizations respectively. The results also showed that: maintaining effective procurement record management; enforcing compliance with public procurement rules and regulations; guaranteeing that sufficient time is allowed for preparing bids; employing skilled procurement staff; guaranteeing familiarity with public procurement guidelines; avoiding conflicts of interest; ensuring professionalism by all parties; and training and retraining of procurement staff, are basically the most effective practices influencing compliance with due processes in LGA's construction procurement. Thus, this study recommends the enforcement of existing laws in the constitution and new ones should also be enacted that will ensure and assure the financial and democratic autonomy for the Local Government administration system of governance in Nigeria that will benefit rural communities.

Keywords: *Due processes, Construction projects, Financing, Public procurement, Local Government Areas*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

There is an assertion that Nigeria's public procurement system has been severely abused, resulting in massive resource losses and majority of construction projects were alleged to be characterized by delays, overspending, intrinsic poor quality, outright abandonment, low return on investment and value for money, an increase in claims and lawsuits, and other issues. Poor management, disregard for public procurement rules, and a lack of stakeholder participation, according to Shehu and Shehu (2022), can all lead to issues that result in poorly executed building projects. However, to deliver a successful project, a strong project financing and procurement mechanism must be in place. Examples of these mechanisms include the construction method, contractual arrangement, and contractors chosen to carry out the projects (Shehu & Shehu, 2022).

In Nigeria, the local government system was introduced in 1970s as a third-tier executive government saddled with the primary objective of providing services and development to communities majorly at the rural areas. Seven hundred and seventy four (774) Local Government Areas (LGA) make up Nigeria's 36 states plus the Federal Capital Territory. Yet, due to institutional and constitutional issues, Nigeria's LGAs has seen a decline in carrying out their major statutory responsibilities especially since the commencement of the fourth republic in 1999. According to Alao et al. (2015), the obstacles impeding effective service delivery in Nigeria's LGA's administrations include: excessive intrusion by state government, structural issues, corruption, and excessive focus on politics inside the administration. As a result, majority of newly constructed public buildings as well as the repairs and upkeep of existing ones in rural communities, which are officially under the control and jurisdiction of LGA administration in Nigeria, have been taken over in terms of funding by corporate, donor, and other tiers of government, respectively. Though, the bulk of Nigeria's infrastructure projects are now majorly financed via loans, debt instruments, and budgetary allocations, as claimed by (Business Day, 2022). The catalyst required for the local government authorities to execute and complete development projects on time is the availability of sufficient cash combined with effective financial management (Ojo, 2009). However, majority of LGA's in Nigeria, hardly have access to their statutory monthly allocations disbursed from the Federation accounts, nor have access to their internally generated revenue, due to the reported interference and forceful implementation of joint account practices by most State governments. Though on 11th July 2024, The

Nigerian Supreme Court, in a case brought by the Federal Government of Nigeria against the 36-state government, unanimously upheld the financial autonomy of the country's 774 LGAs. However, the Apex court's laudable judgement is experiencing poor implementation across the federation till date.

Due process is a tool for making sure that the rules and processes that should govern contract award are strictly followed in terms of transparency, competition, cost accuracy, and other factors, according to Bureau for Public Procurement [BPP] (2007). Therefore, best practices are essential for increasing due process compliance in public procurement procedures. In their research, scholars such as Shehu et al. (2023) have highlighted sustainable practices as essential for the successful and efficient completion of construction projects. These practices include economic, management, and motivational strategies. Consequently, given the persistent difficulties that Nigeria's local government system continues to encounter. This study examined the financing and due process compliance procedures related to public construction project procurement in Nigeria's LGA's. Therefore, it is important to investigate the current situation of local government procurement system administration considering the ongoing struggle towards ensuring full financial and democratic autonomy for Nigeria's LGA's. This study is limited to Bauchi state, a case study of Misau council. The following are the study's particular goals:

i. To access the extent of entities/or organizations financing procurement of public construction projects in the case study area.
ii. To assess how well practices are impacting on due process compliance when public construction projects are being procured in the case study area.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Public Procurement and Due Process Compliance in Local Government Areas in Nigeria

At the local government level, procurement typically refers to all the procedures involved in creating and putting into practice plans for managing public spending in a way that advances the organization's overarching objectives of maximizing value for money and lowering total cost of ownership. Efficient public procurement systems are characterized by their economy, fairness, dependability, accountability, openness, and ethical norms (Bureau for Public Procurement [BPP], 2007). Furthermore, in Nigeria, the fundamental issues guiding procurement strategies are to: ensure that goods and services needed are procured with due attention to economy and efficiency; ensure that

public funds are used to buy only those goods and services needed for national development; give all qualified bidders an equal opportunity to compete for contracts; encourage development of local contractors and manufacturers; and ensure that the procurement process is transparent.

Due process is a tool that helps generate optimal results and guarantees the best use of limited resources (Aliyu & Bambale, 2014). It is also regarded as a system for guaranteeing compliance with defined standards, rules, and engagement procedures globally. Scholars have documented numerous instances of non-compliance with established due process practices in the delivery of public construction projects. These issues have included a lack of professionalism, a shortage of skilled and competent procurement personnel, unfamiliarity with public procurement guidelines, personalization and favouritism, a lack of transparency and accountability, poor leadership, and poor strategy and budget implementation management, among other things.

2.2 Practices Inducing Compliance with Due Processes in Public Procurement

Nigeria's limited public resources must be managed effectively, which requires a strong public procurement system. At the LGA's level, which is the level nearest to the grassroots or rural communities, a good public procurement system is essential for a sustained development of public building projects. Respecting public procurement regulations at the local government levels in Nigeria will significantly increase the amount of funding that sponsors, corporations, and other foreign donors are willing to provide for developmental initiatives. But according to BPP (2007), there were clear violations of the law when it comes to awarding and carrying out public contracts in Nigeria because of excessive billing, rising contract fees, the number of low-priority projects, and the misappropriation of public funds through various contract system manipulations. In his research, Aduda (2007) discovered several phases of unethical procurement practices, which include:

a) Invitation to tender: At this point, certain officials might make sure that the invitations are sent to a select few of the invited organizations. This becomes even more effective when time constraints are included. The duration of the call for bids and the public acquisition may be brief, allowing only the company or companies already notified enough time to compile their offer documents.

b) Bids/tender document preparation: Here is where certain knowledgeable and eager agency employees could help interested contractors and organizations prepare the bid/tender paperwork in exchange for a fixed fee or a portion of the procurement contract.

c) Pre-qualification and short-listing: At this point, unethical behaviours do occasionally happen when the criteria are developed to benefit a certain company or corporations with vested interests at the expense of other companies.

d) Others include: Collusion with external consultants; contract/price modifications done to maximized unimaginable forecast profit; divulging confidential information to some selected privileged bidders; and some technical experts of the procurement department/unit can be bribed to ignore work that is left out of the contract.

2.3 Financing of Public Construction Project in Local Government Areas in Nigeria

Basically, the key to any successful public building project is effective funding. Therefore, funding is essential to all public construction procurements. The primary funding sources for building projects, according to Okereke et al. (2022) are: supplier credit, bank loans, bank overdrafts, individual savings, and retained profit. However, over 90% of the crucial public construction projects carried out by the majority of Nigeria's Local Government administrations are funded by outside sources as a result of the persistent financial difficulties they are facing. On his part, Murana (2016) states that, the funding sources available to Nigeria's LGA's are through the: Federation monthly allocation, portion of its internally generated revenue, special capital awards, and financial assistance and support from individuals and organizations respectively. However, it has been alleged that, majority of important public building projects undertaken in Nigeria's LGA's these days are reportedly funded through grants and other intervention programs.

2.4 Local Government in Nigeria

According to FGN (1976) in "The Guidelines for Local Government Reform" defines local government as: 'Government exercised through a representative council that is legally created to exercise certain functions within a designated territory. Together with the staff, institutional, and financial authority to start and oversee service delivery and decide what the state and federal governments will do locally, these powers should give the council significant control over local affairs. They should also guarantee that local initiative and response to local needs and conditions are maximized through the devolution of functions to these councils and the active participation of the populace and their traditional institutions'. However, since the commencement of Nigeria's fourth republic in 1999 and up to date, persistent issues, most notably, improper meddling by various state governments in its finances and electoral democratic structures, have all rendered the local

government, which is the closest to the majority of the population at the grassroots level, incapable of carrying out their supposed statutory functions. For instance, Obumneke and Omaamaka (2019) identified issues with local government administration in Igbo-Etiti LGA in Enugu state, such as: insufficient and egregious mismanagement of funds, inadequate due diligence, an unskilled workforce, a lack of work ethics and discipline, and an undemocratic process for Local Government council elections. This view is also, echoed by Egwu and Obiorah (2017) where they outlined factors including: conflict between inter-governmental relations, a bloated workforce, high levels of partisanship, joint-account with state sovernment syndrome, lack of autonomy, scarce funding, and non-periodic elections among others as preventing the local government system from operating effectively as possible in order to achieve rural development. On their part, Alao et al. (2015) claimed that most state government in Nigeria used Section 7(1) and (6) of the 1999 constitution to forcefully impose a Joint Allocation Account on LGs, there by denying them the financial resources due to them and making them incapable of carrying out their mandated responsibilities.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study takes a qualitative-quantitative mixed-methods research approach, collecting data through semi-structured interviews and observation of documents; this technique was used in previous studies, for instance Shehu et al. (2025). One important advantage of interviews, as stated by Andipakula (2017), Umar et al. (2025) is that participants feel more at ease with the researcher than they would have been when completing a survey. An in-depth interviewing technique involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of respondents, in order to explore their perspective on a particular idea, or situation (Shehu et al., 2025; Boyce & Neale, 2006). To comprehend the structure of the research problems, objectives, and the study variables, a thorough literature review was equally conducted. The study is a case study, which is a highly common type of qualitative analysis that entails a thorough and meticulous observation of a social unit setting, which could be an individual, a family, an organization, a cultural group, or even an entire community (Kothari, 2004).

The study participants were interviewed in-depth about their personal working experiences using a well-structured set of an opened and closed-ended questions. Participants were asked to rate certain traits on a scale of 1-6, where '1' represents the least and '6' represents the highest, in response to two of the questions covering the study's primary research objectives; this rating approach in a qualitative case study was used by scholars, including Andipakula (2017), Shehu et al. (2025) contending that

rating questions are more efficient than open-ended questions. These questions included phrases like "In your opinion, to what extent does, according to effectiveness, and how will respectively." The interviewer is therefore implicitly posing these kinds of questions so that participants can respond with responses based on their familiarity with and understanding of the relevant topics. An effectively crafted open-ended inquiry essentially invites the interviewee to share the kinds of experiences they had and to convey their perceptions in a natural way (Lee & Cronin, 2016). In order to ascertain the level of funding and/or sponsors for these projects, physical inspection of construction contract documents, such as bill of quantities and working drawings of ongoing as well as finished projects was carried out.

The study was conducted in Misau council in Bauchi state Nigeria. It was created in 1975, its administrative headquarters in the town of Misau. And it has ten political council wards (INEC, 2023) and a population estimated at 299,493 (NBS, 2011), Misau council spans 1,275.19 km^2 and includes border LGAs such as Gwaram council in neighbouring Jigawa state and Katagum, Darazo, Damban, and Giade councils all in Bauchi state (National Population Commission, [NPC] 2010).

Procurement administrators and construction experts with expertise in architecture, building, engineering, and quantity surveying who are working or has a working experience in Misau council are among the study participants. Due to small population of respondents in the case study location, a convenience sampling technique was used to purposefully select eight participants. According to Shehu et al. (2025) an in-depth interview was an ideal method for data collection where the total population size is not that substantial to support a questionnaire survey base research approach. In a similar case study research, Andipakula (2017) interviewed nine participants to collect data in her studies. In this mixed-methods study, interviews were recorded by the interviewer taking notes on a semi-structured, open-ended interview question sheet with check-boxes that was created for the study. As a result, it promotes mutual trust between the interviewer and the interviewee about privacy and the possibility of discussing topics with third parties, which could happen if the interviewer defaults. To improve privacy and secrecy, each participant was also given an alphabetical label, such as "Interviewee A to H."

Table 1: Rating Remarks on Study Variables

Grading	Level of Impacts	Level of effectiveness
< 1	Negligible	Negligible
1-1.49	Very low	Slightly effective
1.50-2.49	Low	Somewhat effective
2.50-3.49	Moderate	Moderately effective

3.50-4.49	High	Effective
≥ 4.50	Very high	Very effective

Source: Adapted: Shehu and Shehu (2023a), Shehu (2024)

Thematic analysis was used to examine the interviewed data after a thorough examination to identify any material that was missing. After reviewing the interview transcripts, content analysis was done. To discover the major themes that emerge from the responses provided by the respondents or the observation notes created by the interviewer, content analysis entails examining the contents of interviews or observational field notes (Shehu, 2021). One fundamental benefit of using content analysis in qualitative research is that it provides a window of opportunity for the display of data using some simple descriptive statistics, such as mean averages, frequencies, and percentages. Remarks assigned to components based on participant ratings are shown in Table 1.

4.0 ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Analysis of Demographics

The analysis of the study participants' biodata features is displayed in Table 2. The results showed that, of the procurement experts who took part in the interview, one each identified with the profession of Business management and Architecture, while two each identified with the following: Engineering, Quantity surveying, and Building technology. The majority of participants held academic qualifications such as, a Higher National Diploma or First Degree. More than Sixty percent of the participants (62.5%) have a minimum of six to ten years of experience working in local government construction project procurement. Regarding the management hierarchy, every participant indicated that they belonged to either the "middle or top" level when it came to making decisions in their individual organization. In order to prevent bias, a representative sample of nearly equal numbers of participants were chosen from the contractor, client, and consultant organizations respectively. Additionally, only those with ongoing projects or clear evidence of participation in local government construction procurement projects were included in the case study LGA took part in the current investigation. The study's demographic considerations were comparable to those of earlier research, such as Shehu and Shehu (2023b).

Table 2: Bio-Data Characteristics of Participants

Participants	**Area of procurement**	**Academic Qualification**	**Years of Experience**	**Level of Management**	**Procurement Organization**

Interviewee A	Engineering	HND/Degree	6-10	Top	Client
Interviewee B	Building Technology	HND/Degree	6-10	Middle	Contractors
Interviewee C	Engineering	PGD/Master's	1-5	Middle	Consultants
Interviewee D	Business Management	HND/Degree	11-15	Top	Client
Interviewee E	Building Technology	HND/Degree	11-15	Middle	Client
Interviewee F	Quantity Surveying	HND/Degree	6-10	Top	Contractors
Interviewee G	Architecture	HND/Degree	6-10	Middle	Consultants
Interviewee H	Quantity Surveying	PGD/Master's	6-10	Middle	Consultants

4.2 Main Research Objective Questions

Questions one: *In your opinion, to what extent does the following entities and or organizations financed public construction project in the case study council? Please rate on a scale of 'impact' 1-6, with 1 being the least rate and 6 being the highest rate.*

Table 3: Entities/Organizations Financing Public Construction Projects in LGA

Funding Entities/Organizations	**Int. A**	**Int. B**	**Int. C**	**Int. D**	**Int. E**	**Int. F**	**Int. G**	**Int. H**	**Mean**	**Rank**	**Remark**
• Other donors	5	4	6	6	5	6	6	4	**5.3**	1	Very high
• Federal government authorities	6	6	5	4	5	5	5	5	**5.1**	2	Very high
• International agencies	4	5	6	6	4	6	5	4	**5.0**	3	Very high
• Legislative authorities	6	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	**4.8**	4	Very high
• Corporate organizations	5	5	4	5	5	6	4	4	**4.8**	4	Very high
• State government authorities	5	5	4	5	5	4	4	3	**4.4**	6	High
• Local government authorities	5	4	3	5	4	3	4	2	**3.8**	7	High

Table 3, presents the results expressed by the participants on the extent of financing public construction projects in the case study council. Findings revealed that, most public construction projects in LGA's in Nigeria were been financed through sponsors with a 'very high impact' with majority being from, other donors, rated 5.3 point average by the participants and was ranked "first"; The federal government authorities, rated 5.1point average by the participants and was ranked "Second" and International NGO's, rated 5.0point average and was ranked "Third"; while the least ranked financiers of public construction procurement at the LGA level, are: The state and local government authorities respectively. The least rating of '2' was recorded for local government authorities, which was subscribed by Interviewee (Int.) H.

Questions Two: *In your opinion, according to effectiveness, how will the following practices induce compliance with Due Process in the Procurement of Local Government Construction Projects? Please rate using scale of 1-6, with 1 being the least effective rate and 6 being the most effective rate.*

Table 4: Practices Inducing Compliance with Due Process in Construction Procurement

Practices	Int. A	Int. B	Int. C	Int. D	Int. E	Int. F	Int. G	Int. H	Mean	Rank	Remark
• Ensuring effective procurement record management.	6	6	5	6	6	5	6	5	**5.6**	1	Very Effective
• Enforcement of public procurement rules and regulations.	6	5	6	5	5	5	5	6	**5.4**	2	Effective
• Ensuring adequate time is allow for preparing offers/or bids.	5	5	6	6	6	5	4	5	**5.3**	3	Effective
• Employment of skilled procurement staff.	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	**5.1**	4	Effective
• Ensuring familiarity with public procurement guidelines.	6	4	6	6	5	5	4	5	**5.1**	4	Effective
• Avoiding conflict of interest.	5	5	5	6	4	5	5	6	**5.1**	4	Effective
• Ensuring professionalism by all parties.	5	6	6	5	4	5	4	5	**5.0**	7	Effective
• Training and retraining of procurement staff.	6	6	5	5	6	4	4	4	**5.0**	7	Effective
• Avoid entering collusive quotation agreement with prospective bidders.	4	4	6	5	6	4	5	6	**5.0**	7	Effective
• Avoid fraudulent act such as bribery, corruption & bid-rigging to favour a Particular Contractor.	6	4	4	6	4	5	5	6	**5.0**	7	Effective
• Ensuring ethics and protecting the interest of all parties.	5	4	5	5	4	6	4	6	**4.9**	11	Effective
• Ensuring commitment and providing good leadership direction.	5	5	4	6	5	4	5	5	**4.9**	11	Effective
• Ensuring transparency, accountability and integrity in the bid processes.	5	5	4	5	4	4	5	6	**4.8**	13	Effective
• Top management support in procurement processes.	5	5	5	6	5	5	3	4	**4.8**	13	Effective
• Awarding bid to the right bidders.	5	4	5	5	4	2	4	6	**4.4**	15	Moderately Effective
• Effective involvement of all stakeholders.	4	5	4	5	4	3	5	2	**4.0**	16	Moderately Effective

Table 4, shows the results expressed by the interviewed participants on practices inducing compliance with due processes in the procurement of public construction projects in the case study. Findings revealed that, the most important practices and ranked in the order of effectiveness and average scores rate, are: ensuring effective procurement record management, with 5.6 point; ensuring enforcement of public procurement rules and regulations, with 5.4 point; ensuring adequate time is allow for preparing offers/or bids, with 5.3point; employment of skilled procurement staff; ensuring familiarity with public procurement guidelines; and avoiding conflict of interest, were each rated 5.1 points; and ensuring professionalism by all parties; training and retraining of procurement staff; avoid entering collusive quotation agreement with prospective bidders; and avoid fraudulent act such as bribery, corruption and bid-rigging to favour a particular contractor, were each rated 5.0 points. while, the least effective practices as rated by the interviewed participants, are: awarding bids to the right bidders, and effective involvement of all stakeholders respectively.

Further findings revealed that, the interviewed participants rated most of the practices as 'effective'. The least scores of '2' and '3' were recorded for practices 'effective involvement of all stakeholders, awarding bid to the right bidders and top management support in procurement processes' which were subscribed by Interviewee H, F, and G respectively.

4.3 Discussion of findings

According to this study, the primary financiers of basic public construction projects at the Local Government Area (LGA) level of governance in Nigeria are donors which include private citizens, community development associations, traditional council foundations, memorial foundations, foreign countries, and former student organizations respectively. Due to alleged interference by various state governments in the use and appropriation of internally generated revenue and monthly federation statutory allocations meant for Local Government Areas, the supposed statutory functions of LGA in the delivery of services at the grassroots level have been rendered comatose for a very long time. Because of this, majority of the LGA's fundamental construction projects were funded through generous donations and charitable deeds.

Over the years, the Federal Government of Nigeria has periodically financed the procurement for the construction of basic public projects, particularly at Local Government Areas in the country, through presidential intervention, grand and joint ventures with interested other tiers of government through its entities. These entities include: The Central Bank of Nigeria, Various Development Commissions, the Petroleum and Education Trust Fund agencies, among others. For years, various

international organizations, such as: The World Bank, World Health Organization, UNICEF, ECOWAS, African Union, EU, BRICS +, Africa Development Bank among others; through their various grants and interventionist gestures, often sponsored the procurement of mostly health and community development related projects in most LGA's in Nigeria. As noted by earlier researchers, Nigeria's local government level system still faces persistent issues in administration, which has resulted in a severe shortage of public basic infrastructure in rural communities at the grassroots level. The Nigeria Legislative Authorities, through various "Federal and State assemblies' constituency projects and budgetary appropriations," as well as corporate organizations, like commercial banks, telecommunication firms, construction, mining, exploration, production, and manufacturing companies among others were reported to make significant contributions to the procurement of basic public construction projects at the LGAs in Nigeria. It is surprising to learn that in this study, Nigeria's state and local lovernment authorities contribute the least to the funding of essential public construction projects in their various domains which could be attributed to corruption, poor leadership and lack of good governance among others. Even though, a significant change occurred on 11th July 2024, when Nigeria's Supreme Court, in a case brought by the federal government of Nigeria against the 36-state government, unanimously upheld the financial autonomy of the country's 774 LGAs, and till date implementing this laudable judgement is now becoming a call for concern. As a result, most LGAs are left to continuously rely on other branches of government, private donors as well as foreign corporations to fund most of their public infrastructures. Like in other established federating countries across the world, when the Apex court's judgement is put in to full implementation, it could potentially bring about recovery and accelerated infrastructural development across rural communities in Nigeria with the likely impact of reducing rural-to-urban migration, creating employment opportunities and improving the current security situation in general.

In this Qualitative study, ensuring effective procurement record management, was the only practice that was rated as 'very effective', while thirteen (13) other practices were rated as 'effective', and practices such as: effective involvement of all stakeholders and awarding bid to the right bidders, were 'moderately effective' in influencing compliance with due processes in the procurement of public construction projects in local government areas in Nigeria respectively.

The major findings of this interview study align with previous scholars, for instance, Shehu et al. (2025) in their studies, highlighted that, financial and institutional constraints are major underlining issues inhibiting effective procurement of public construction projects across Local Government Areas in Nigeria. In reinforcing the findings of this study, Shehu et al. (2023) in their studies emphasis the

need, to employed skillful and competent workforce, as a good practice towards ensuring effective construction project delivery, while in this present study, employment of skilled procurement staff, was ranked as the 4th most effective practice. Also, in this study, ensuring effective procurement record management, enforcement of public procurement rules and regulations, ensuring adequate time is allow for preparing offers/or bids, ensuring professionalism by all parties, and training and retraining of procurement staff, were effective practices, which concurred the need for, effective supervision and management of resources as reported in previous studies, including, Shehu et al. (2023). Similarly, according to Shehu and Shehu (2022) effective management, effective compliance with public procurement procedures and stakeholders' engagement, are relevant practices towards effective completion of public construction projects in Nigeria.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Examining Nigeria's current state of procurement system is relevant given the continuing struggle to guarantee autonomy for the Local Government system of governance. Thus, the current study examined the financing methods and due process compliance procedures related to public construction project procurement in Nigeria's Local Government Council, a case study of Misau council.

Local councils in Nigeria, which are the third-tier level of executive governance, have been facing challenges from institutional and constitutional issues that are making it harder for them to carry out their statutory obligations. Therefore, the majority of new construction projects as well as the upkeep and repairs of the few that are currently available in rural communities, such as : community access roads, public restrooms, primary healthcare centres, dispensaries, and primary schools, among others that are statutorily under the purview and jurisdiction of Local Government administration in Nigeria have been continuously funded by corporate and donor organizations; national and state legislative authorities; and the federal government of Nigeria though its ministries, agencies, and parastatals respectively.

So presently, the Local Government arm of executive government in Nigeria, are the least financiers of the procurement of basic public constructions projects in their various domains. Local government are the level of governance closest to rural areas, sustainable growth of public construction projects is contingent upon the implementation of sound public procurement methods. In this study, the most effective practices influencing compliance with due processes in the procurement of public construction project at the local government level, are: ensuring effective procurement record management; ensuring enforcement of public procurement rules and regulations; ensuring adequate

time is allow for preparing offers/or bids; employment of skilled procurement staff; ensuring familiarity with public procurement guidelines; avoiding conflict of interest; and ensuring professionalism by all parties.

Therefore, this study recommends the enforcement of existing laws in the constitution and new ones should also be enacted that will ensure and assure the financial and democratic autonomy for the Local Government administration system of governance in Nigeria, in order to ensure an effective and efficient public construction procurement that will benefit the rural communities.

5.1 Limitations of the Study and Suggestions for Future Studies

Firstly, the researcher has focused on only one LGA as a case study. Secondly, the research was conducted by questioning only eight interviewees. Basically, eight

interviewees might not be enough for the researcher to observe and generalize the findings on the financing and practices influencing compliance with due processes in the procurement of public construction projects in Nigeria's Local Government Areas. Therefore, it is suggested that similar studies should be replicated in other parts of Nigeria using more Local Government Areas as case studies.

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