FACTORS AFFECTING PROCUREMENT PROCESS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS.

A CASE STUDY OF MBAGATHI DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

By

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DECLARATION

This is my original work and has never been presented in any other university for any academic awards.

Signature .................................. Date .................. 06/07/2012 ..........

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This research project is submitted for examination with my approval as a university supervisor.

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ABSTRACT

Public health institutions were experiencing varied procurement problems in Kenya. Mbagathi district hospital being one of the public health institutions in Kenya was having its varying procurement shortcomings ranging from serious shortage of drugs and basic hospital necessities to inflated prices of purchased items. The problems which affected procurement process in public institutions in Kenya were not clearly known. This study therefore was aimed at finding out the factors which were affecting procurement process in public health institutions using Mbagathi District hospital as a case of study. The study targeted hospital staff, district treasury staff and staff of the district tender board secretariat. Since these cadres of staff were heterogeneous, a stratified random sampling technique was used to select a total of 48 of the homogeneous segment of the target population. The research design that was used in this study was descriptive in nature because of descriptive study; inferences were made using measures of central tendency, dispersion and frequency. The study used triangulation method to analyze collected data which consisted of the instruments of data collection that included questionnaires and interviews to collect the data. Data entry and analysis were done using Excel and SPSS package while processed data was presented in tables and charts. The findings of the study were to help the government to mobilize more resources to increase its allocation to ministry of health so as to respond to the needs of Kenyans. The findings from the financial allocation, disbursement policies and procedures also revealed that money allocated to the district hospital was too little to cater for the hospital procurement problems at the hospital and no meaningful procurement can be made without finances. The administrative legal frame in government purchasing cycle affected the acquisition of goods and services in the public health institution because of the long procedures that were consuming a lot of time hence hinder procurement process in the public health institutions, this was confirmed by the 75% of the respondent interviewed. As mentioned earlier this study was aimed at investigating the factors that affected procurement of goods and services at the District Hospital. From the findings, if it’s clearly revealed that for effective management of an institution supply chain, qualified procurement personnel must be deployed in these departments for effective management of those functions. It was thus concluded that a good manager must have the resources to manage, so enough money must be allocated to the hospital to enable them acquire their needs in time. The government
must also mobilize more resources and raise their allocations to the Ministry of Health to enable it respond to patients needs at all times. Lastly, in light with public procurement reform initiatives in the country, there is an urgent need to strengthen the institution that are involved in Public Procurement to ensure that the process is economical and efficient. With the performance contracting in the government institutions, the Ministry of Health must address the issues raised in this study in order to compete with other Ministries.