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# **EFFECT OF 2007 PROCUREMENT ACT ON ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS OF FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HOUSING ABUJA NIGERIA**

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### **Abstract**

This study examines the effect of the 2007 Procurement Act on accountability in the procurement process of the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja, Nigeria. Specifically, the study objectively examined how the 2007 Procurement Act provides fair opportunity to suppliers in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja, from bidding to execution of contract and the contribution of the Procurement Act towards quality control assurance in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. A sample size of 41 respondents drawn from the total population of 206 staff through the stratified random sampling technique was used for the study. The respondents were issued questionnaires to sample their opinions on the effect of the 2007 Procurement Act on accountability in the procurement process of the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. Both primary and secondary sources of data were utilised for the study. Data collected were analyzed using weighted mean and standard deviation. Findings from the study revealed that the Procurement Act generally has contributed to harmonization and transparency in the procurement process in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. The study also revealed that there is fairness and value-for-money standards and practices for the procurement and disposal of public assets and services, promoting professionalism in the procurement system.

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*Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. Both primary and secondary sources of data were utilised for the study. Data collected were analyzed using weighted mean and standard deviation. Findings from the study revealed that the Procurement Act generally has contributed to harmonization and transparency in the procurement process in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. The study also revealed that there is fairness and value-for-money standards and practices for the procurement and disposal of public assets and services, promoting professionalism in the procurement system.*

Keywords: Procurement Act, accountability, public sector, Federal Ministry of Power, Federal Ministry of Housing.

**Keywords:**

*Keywords*

**Introduction**

As a result of widespread corruption in the public sector of Nigeria, conducting government business had degenerated significantly by the year 2000. This was due to the fact that no serious attention was paid to public service rules, financial regulations, ethics, and norms because of selfish interests. As a result, the Federal Government noted the urgent need for transparency in government procedures so as to move the system forward. Hence, the Federal Government commissioned the World Bank to collaborate with some private sector specialists to study the financial systems and general procurement-related activities in Nigeria (FGN, 2007).

A study conducted into the state of Federal Government public procurement revealed that Nigeria may have lost trillions of naira over the last two decades because of flagrant abuse of procedures for the award of public contracts, inflation of contract costs, lack of transparency, lack of competence, and the absence of competition and merit as fundamental criteria for awarding public contracts (FGN, 2007). This led to the promulgation of the 2007 Public Procurement Act in the country.

The Public Procurement Act 2007 provides the legal framework, policies, supervisory institutions, and operational structures, as well as the scope, process, methods, supervision, complaint mechanism, code of conduct, and offences relating to procurement of goods, works, and services and disposal of assets at the Federal Government level in Nigeria (FGN, 2007). The Procurement Act was produced through a participatory review approach involving key stakeholders, including representatives from the private sector, federal, state, and local governments, with assistance from international and national consultants.

According to Hassan (2020), the 2007 Public Procurement Act was enacted by the National Assembly to establish two public procurement regulating authorities. The regulating authorities are the National Council on Public Procurement (NCPP) and the Bureau of Public Procurements (BPP). The two bodies are responsible for monitoring and oversight of public procurement.

According to FGN (2007), the Council on Public Procurement shall consider, approve, and amend the



monetary and prior review threshold for the application of the Act by procuring entities; consider and approve policies on public procurement; approve the appointment of directors of the Bureau; receive and consider for approval the audited accounts of the Bureau of Public Procurement; approve changes in the procurement process to adapt to improvements in modern technology; and give such other direction and perform such other functions as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this Act. The Bureau of Public Procurement shall harmonize existing government policies and practices on public procurement and ensure probity, accountability, and transparency in the procurement process; establish pricing standards and benchmarks; ensure the application of competitive, transparent, value-for-money standards and practices for the procurement and disposal of public assets and services; and attain transparency, competitiveness, cost-effectiveness, and professionalism in the public sector procurement system.

This study provides a basic understanding of the operations of the Public Procurement Act on accountability in the procurement process of the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja, Nigeria. The study objectively examined the effect of the 2007 Procurement Act on accountability in the procurement process of the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja, Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

To determine how the 2007 Procurement Act has provided fair opportunities to suppliers from bidding to execution of contracts in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja.

To examine the contribution of the Procurement Act to quality control assurance in the procurement process of the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja.

## **Literature Review**

This section of the paper provides detailed conceptual clarification and empirical review of previous studies that centered on the variables of the study.

### **Public Procurement**

In Nigeria, public procurement is a major activity of government that generates important financial resources and has been viewed as part of a wider reform agenda targeted at improving public financial management. The Public Procurement Act was enacted and promulgated by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2007. This was further amended in 2018 to reflect the realities on ground. Its intention, among other things, is to bring sanity and conformity to public procurement by instituting bodies and principles that harmonize the public procurement process and activities (PPA, 2007; Adjei, 2020).

According to the World Bank (2021), public procurement is the process by which governments and other publicly funded entities acquire goods, works, and services needed to implement public projects. It accounts for at least 15% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), and even more in African countries.

Procurement encompasses the whole process of acquiring property and/or services. It begins when an agency has identified a need and decided on its procurement requirement. Procurement continues through the processes of risk assessment, seeking and evaluating alternative solutions, contract award, delivery of



and payment for the property and/or services and, where relevant, the ongoing management of a contract and consideration of options related to the contract.

According to the procurement manual (2019), procurement is a function responsible for obtaining resources, including equipment, logistics, materials, supplies, and services, required by an organization to fulfill its core business and development programme. Unaam and Mark (2021) opine that public procurement is the process by which government parastatals, departments, ministries, and agencies purchase goods and services from the private sector under specific rules and policies. It involves acquiring goods, works, and services from third parties.

Ogunseitani (2021) defined public procurement as the process of identifying what is needed, determining who is best qualified to supply this need, and ensuring that what is needed is delivered at the right time, at the best price, and in a fair and transparent manner. This definition looks at public procurement objectively from an expert point of view; however, it does not include the quality and quantity of what is needed, which are key determinants in public procurement.

Idemili (2020) and Van (2021) define procurement as the process of obtaining the right materials in the right quality for delivery at the right place from the right source with the service and at the right cost. This definition, though concise, captures the key elements in procurement.

### **Public Procurement Act**

Like most developing countries, the World Bank was the driver behind public procurement reform in Nigeria (Williams-Elegbe, 2021). In Africa and Nigeria in particular, governance reform is expected to introduce acceptable benchmarks for legitimacy in public affairs while promoting economic choices among people and institutions. Part of the major benefits of governance reform is that it helps entrench transparency, accountability, openness, and appropriate value for money in all matters that concern public procurements (Adewole, 2014; Ekwewuo, 2016). The Public Procurement Bill was sent to the National Assembly in 2003 and, by 4 June 2007, the Public Procurement Act was passed in Nigeria. It became a watershed in Nigeria's attempt at key governance reform. The PPA Act 2007 is designed primarily after the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law on Public Procurement (Eze, 2015; Ezech, 2013; Familoye, 2015; Udeh, 2015).

The report on Nigeria's procurement assessment identified some weaknesses in the then existing procurement system, which included lack of appropriate legislation, shortage of basic skills, and inappropriate organisation of the procurement process (World Bank, 2020). A similar study in Ghana, as cited by Ameyaw, Mensah, and Osei-Tutu (2022), identified weaknesses in the Ghana procurement system as lack of comprehensive public procurement policy, lack of a central body with technical expertise, absence of clearly defined roles and responsibilities for procurement entities, absence of a comprehensive legal regime to safeguard public procurement, and lack of rules and regulations to guide, direct, train, and monitor public procurement.



The purpose of the PPA Act 2007 is to ensure transparency, competitiveness, value for money, and professionalism in the public sector procurement system. According to Udoma and Belo-Osagie (2021), the essence of the Act is to ensure that all public procurements are conducted in a manner that is transparent, timely, and equitable and based on the agreed guidelines, thresholds, and standards. Krivish and Krekele (2023) stated that the procurement law is to ensure openness of the procurement procedure, free competition of suppliers, as well as equal and fair attitude thereto, effective use of state and local government funds, and reduction of the risk of the commissioning party to the minimum.

Until 2007, Nigeria did not have a statute that specifically regulates public procurement. This led to the enactment of the Public Procurement Act (No. 14) of 2007 (the "Procurement Act"), which requires public institutions and other relevant parties to ensure that all public procurements are conducted in a manner that is transparent, timely, and equitable and based on the agreed guidelines, thresholds, and standards (Udoma & Belo Osagie, 2012). Ghana, a neighbouring country, had earlier enacted her own version of the Public Procurement Act in 2003 (Ghana-PPA, 2023). Ezeh (2023) noted that previous reform efforts failed because those leading the reforms were public servants who wanted to maintain the status quo. He also reiterated the fact that contracts were used to reward those in government to serve specific political interests; the open abuse of rules and standards in the award and execution of public contracts, such as over-invoicing, inflation of contract costs, white elephant projects, and diversion of public funds through all manner of manipulations of the contract award process; award of contracts to friends and relations; and the use of primordial considerations in exercising public procurement decisions pervaded the system.

## **Stages in Public Procurement**

The stages in public procurement are listed and discussed as follows:

Identification of need: Here, the government takes a decision to purchase or sell goods or services or to outsource the management of a unit of its establishments.

### **Identification of need:**

Identification/definition of contract characteristics: At this stage, the government determines what it needs to buy, sell, or privatize. The technical requirements and specific characteristics are highlighted. Equally, the contracting methods and agency responsible for defining these characteristics are discussed.

### **Identification/definition of contract characteristics:**

The contracting process: At this stage, a contracting process gets underway. It should take place according to the method the law determines should be used to receive proposals or expressions of interest. Examples include an open bidding system or evaluation of contractors through single sourcing.

### **The contracting process:**

The award of contract: At this stage, the contract process ends with a decision to select the winning bidder in open bids or the contractor in the case of a single-source process.



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### **The award of contract:**

Contract implementation and supervision: Finally, the contract is signed with the selected bidder or contractor, as the case may be.

### **Contract implementation and supervision:**

### **Thrust of the Public Procurement Act 2007**

The Federal Government of Nigeria instituted a robust Public Procurement System (PRS) for the execution of all government projects, works, and services. This was done through the enactment of the Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2007, as amended in 2018.

### **Essential Goal of the Act**

The primary goal of the PPA, 2007 is the "Establishment of National Council on Public Procurement and the Bureau of Public Procurement. The essence is to monitor and have an oversight function over public procurement, harmonizing the existing government policies and practices, setting standards and developing the legal framework and professional capacity for public procurement in Nigeria, and for other related matters."

### **Scope of Application of the Act**

The Act applies to the Federal Government of Nigeria and all procurement entities which derive at least 35% of funds appropriated or proposed to be appropriated for any type of procurement described from the Federation Share of Consolidated Revenue Fund. However, this shall not apply to procurement of special goods, works, and services involving national defense.

### **Core Objectives of the Act**

The core objectives are to ensure economy and efficiency, competition, provision of a level playing ground for all strata of bidders, value for money, and transparency.

### **Approval Thresholds by the Act**

The BPP reviews and certifies Federal Government contracts according to established and approved thresholds. The approval of contracts has been categorized into the following:

Contracts below N1 million.

Contracts above N1 million.

Contracts of N50 million and above.

### **The Universal Values in Public Procurement**

Certain universal principles that govern the public procurement function across borders are discernible.



These include economy, transparency, accountability, sustainability, fairness, competition, equal treatment, reliability, public supervision, appropriate conditions, efficiency, ethical standards, separation of functions, among others (PPDC, 2021).

## **Public Procurement Cycles**

The procurement cycle is the cyclical process of key steps when procuring goods or services. This interactive tool has been developed to guide members through the procurement process with links to relevant knowledge to support steps in the procurement exercise.

### **The Steps of the Procurement Cycle**

The procurement cycle follows specific steps for identifying a requirement or need of the ministry through the final step of the award of the product or contract. The steps below constitute the procurement cycle.

Step 1: Need recognition:

#### **Step 1: Need recognition:**

The ministry must know it needs a new product, whether from internal or external sources. The product may be one that needs to be reordered, or it may be a new item for the ministry.

Step 2: Specific need: The right product is critical for the ministry. The ministry must specify the necessary product it needs. This can come by way of color, weight, or other specifications.

#### **Step 2: Specific need:**

Step 3: Source options

#### **Step 3: Source options**

The ministry needs to determine where to obtain the product. The ministry might have an approved vendor list. The ministry is expected to ascertain the source options for her business.

Step 4: Price and terms

#### **Step 4: Price and terms**

The ministry will investigate all relevant information to determine the best price and terms for the product.

Step 5: Purchase order

#### **Step 5: Purchase order**

The purchase order is used to buy materials between a buyer and seller. It specifically defines the price, specifications, terms and conditions of the product or service, and any additional obligations.

Step 6: Delivery

#### **Step 6: Delivery**

The purchase order must be delivered, usually by fax, mail, personally, email, or other electronic means.



Sometimes the specific delivery method is specified in the purchasing documents.

**Step 7: Expediting:** Expedition of the purchase order addresses the timeliness of the service or materials delivered. It becomes especially important if there are any delays. The issues most often noted include payment dates, delivery times, and work completion.

**Step 7: Expediting:**

**Step 8: Receipt and inspection of purchases:** Once the sending company delivers the product, the recipient accepts or rejects the items. Acceptance of the items obligates the ministry to pay for them.

**Step 8: Receipt and inspection of purchases:**

Step 9: Invoice approval and payment

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Three documents must match when an invoice requests payment: the invoice itself, the receiving document, and the original purchase order. The agreement of these documents provides confirmation from both the receiver and supplier.

Step 10: Record maintenance

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In the case of audits, the company must maintain proper records. These include purchase records to verify any tax information and purchase orders to confirm warranty information.

**Accountability**

The concept of accountability involves the proper documentation of all the activities that take place in the procurement process and the responsibility to demonstrate that acquisition, works, and services have been executed in accordance with the articulated rules and standards, and that the officer reports fairly and accurately on performance results vis-?-vis mandated roles and/or plans (Adegite, 2010). It means doing things transparently in line with due process and the provision of feedback. It shows the extent to which a person can be answerable to whoever has invested some amount of trust, faith, and resources in them (Onuorah & Appah, 2017). Public accountability is an essential component for the functioning of our political system, as accountability means that those who are charged with drafting and/or carrying out policy should be obliged to give an explanation of their actions to their electorate (Johnson, 2004). This mechanism allows the openness of the process and brings defaulters to book.

**Risk Mapping and Prevention**

Pre-tender stage

**Pre-tender stage**

Needs assessment



## **Needs assessment**

Goods, services, or works should only be procured by the government if there is an identified need in the foreseeable future.

Budgeting

## **Budgeting**

Cost estimates must be realistic and should already take into account possible variations of the contract over time.

Structuring of the bidding process

## **Structuring of the bidding process**

a) Tender documents

### **a) Tender documents**

The tender documents are the key component of any tender procedure. The procuring entity shall set out in the tender documents all requirements that submissions must meet in order to be considered responsive and the manner in which those requirements are to be assessed.

b) Procurement procedure: As a general principle, the procurement procedure chosen by the procuring entity should always ensure the maximum practicable competition. For this reason, the open procedure, or sealed bidding, is often the default procedure under procurement legislation.

### **b) Procurement procedure:**

(c) Time limits

### **(c) Time limits**

Procuring entities must give suppliers a sufficient period of time to prepare applications or tenders. The response time period allowed should be taken into account, with consideration given to the nature and complexity of the procurement.

(d) Contractor qualification

### **(d) Contractor qualification**

Contractor qualification requirements must be reasonable in order to make competition possible; if they are too restrictive, competition will fail.

e) Minimum and selection criteria

### **e) Minimum and selection criteria**

Criteria for participating must be designed so as to avoid bias, be objective, and relate to the capacity to perform. They must be pre-disclosed, relevant, and appropriate with regard to the subject matter of the procurement.



(f) Technical specifications

**(f) Technical specifications**

Technical specifications should be designed so as to avoid bias, especially so as not to favor any particular bidders or particular products or services. They must be pre-disclosed, relevant, and appropriate with regard to the subject matter of the procurement.

(g) Award criteria

**(g) Award criteria**

To stem corruption and ensure appropriate competition, the award of a public contract should be made only on the basis of pre-disclosed criteria.

Tender stage

**Tender stage**

(a) Public notice.

**(a) Public notice.**

For the reasons described above, transparency and competition are of the essence in public procurement. As a general rule, a procuring entity should therefore publish a public notice of its intent to procure goods or services, so that potential bidders can become aware of any contract opportunity with the government.

Requests for clarification

Procurements are inherently complicated, and solicitation documents may be unclear. Potential candidates and bidders should therefore have the right to request clarification of tender documents.

Public bid opening

To ensure transparency, bids should be opened immediately after the deadline for submitting bids in a public bid opening session.

Evaluation of tenderers and tenders

Tenders may be evaluated only on the basis of the pre-disclosed requirements and criteria. The evaluation of bids should, as a general rule, be carried out not by a single individual but by a committee with the relevant technical and economic experience.

Publication of intended contract award and awarded contract

After bid evaluation and ranking of bids, bidders should be promptly notified about the procuring entity's intention to award the contract to the successful bidder. This award decision should, for reasons of transparency, contain sufficient information besides the name of the successful tenderer, the contract price, and a summary of other characteristics and relative advantages of the successful tenderer.

Post-tender stage



## **Post-tender stage**

The post-tender stage commences once a contract is awarded. It refers to the implementation and administration of the contract and has the objective of ensuring effective performance according to the agreed contractual obligations.

Effective remedy systems

### **Effective remedy systems**

An effective remedy system in public procurement is a key element of a robust procurement framework. Bidders have the right to turn to a review body, which will then verify whether a decision by the procuring entity was made in conformity with applicable rules.

## **Empirical Review**

This section of the study reviewed works conducted by various scholars in relation to the variables of this study.

### **2007 Public Procurement Act and Fairness in Procurement Process**

Unaam and Mark (2021) examined the effect of ethics and integrity on a good public procurement system in Nigeria. The study indicates that there exists a positive relationship between ethics and integrity on one hand and fairness in public procurement processes on the other hand in Nigeria. The study further suggests that there should be proper re-orientation of public procurement officers on the need for consistency and transparency in procurement procedure.

Muhammad, Adamu, and Ladi (2022) conducted an appraisal of construction project procurement policies in Nigeria. They opined that the successful performance of public sector projects in Nigeria is tied to the impact of the procurement strategy or policy used in providing the building. The study further revealed that public sector procurement in Nigeria has been inefficient for effective project delivery. They were also of the opinion that performance of projects could be improved using alternative or hybrid procurement strategies.

Ojo and Gbadabo (2024) studied the assessment of non-compliance with procurement proceedings in procurement of works in Nigeria. The outcome of their study indicates that there are statistically significant differences between the variables under review.

Frempong, Bempah, Amoako, and Osei-Tutu (2023) conducted an assessment of the impact of the Public Procurement Act 663 of 2003 on the economy of Ghana. The study found that the benefits derived from using the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663), include assurance of quality goods, timely delivery of goods, delivery of the right quantities, transparency, reduced corruption, value for money, the right price, assurance of delivery at the right place, uniformity in performing procurement activities, economic and efficient use of state resources, harmonization of public procurement processes in the district assemblies,



and greater efficiency.

Ameyaw and Mensah (2023) assessed the perceptions of procurement professionals, particularly practicing quantity surveyors, on the existence of corruption in the procurement process in Ghana. The study revealed that corruption is more prevalent at the tender evaluation stage of the procurement process.

Gikonyo (2024) examined the factors affecting the implementation of the Public Procurement Act in rural societies in Kenya. The findings of the study revealed that the regulatory authorities favor good procurement procedure and that the procurement process should uphold integrity to ensure that there are no malpractices.

### **2007 Public Procurement Act and Quality Control Assurance in Procurement Process**

Williams and Andrew (2021) examined the effect of accountability and transparency on public procurement practices in federal ministries in Nigeria. A survey research design was adopted. The simple regression result shows that public procurement practices are significantly and positively related to the level of transparency. Based on the findings, the study says that federal ministries should make sure that the public procurement system is fair and impartial so that resources can be used more efficiently.

Florence (2021) examined the implementation of the Public Procurement Act in state ministries in Nigeria. Specifically, the study examined the extent of compliance with the Public Procurement Act, identified factors affecting compliance with the Public Procurement Act, and also examined the influence of implementation of the Public Procurement Act on state ministries. The result establishes that state ministries comply with the Public Procurement Act 2007, but a lack of structures and facilities to ease the procurement process and pervasive corruption in Nigeria have hindered the full implementation of the Act.

Aliu, Olatubosun, and Aliyu (2020) analyzed insights into public procurement reforms in Nigeria. Public procurement, as one of the major functions of government in Nigeria, plays a significant role in infrastructural development in Nigeria. Reforming the public procurement sector was necessary to regulate the entire procurement process. The setup of the due process policy in 2011 and the Public Procurement Act 2007 revealed much about the unprofessional nature of the public process in Nigeria. The paper promotes sound public procurement practices as a panacea for Nigerian reform and implementation. It revealed that weak public procurement systems and practices are characterized by corruption and a lack of accountability, transparency, competition, and fairness.

Ikechi, Ozurumba, and Chinedum (2020) investigated the effect of the Public Procurement Act (PPA), 2007 on curbing corruption in public services in Nigeria. The research is prompted by the sheer waste of public resources in the process of public procurement, which necessitated the enactment of the PPA in 2007. The operations of the Act require constant appraisal in order to achieve the desired objectives; hence, the main goal of this study. The results obtained establish that the PPA has helped to curb corrupt practices and improved transparency and accountability in the procurement process. It has minimized discrimination in contract awards. It has also aided in the procurement of works, goods, and services in few MDAs.



Following the review of different literature, many gaps were identified and covered in this study. Previous studies had limited scopes, limited methodologies, inadequate analysis, and lack of comprehensive solutions. All of these were taken care of by this current study.

This study is anchored on contract theory conducted by Kenneth Arrow in the 1960s (Liberto, 2019). The theory provides how individuals and organizations construct and develop legal agreements showing clear and specific understanding of responsibilities and requirements, as may be provided in the Procurement Act. Contract theory draws upon principles of financial and economic behavior, as different parties have different incentives to perform or not perform particular actions. The theory is relevant to this study as the concept has become essential to administration. The theory has resulted in new analysis of firm strategy and state intervention in the area of public utilities, public procurement, institutional design, and liberalization policies.

## Methodology

The research design used in the study was a descriptive research design. Descriptive research, as generally conceived according to Nworgu (2021), is one in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few people or items considered to be representative of the entire group.

The area of study is the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. Emphasis was limited to employees at the procurement unit of the ministries, contractors, and employees of the regulatory agencies.

The population of the study consisted of 103 employees of the procurement unit of the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja, contractors (46), Bureau of Public Procurement employees (35), and BMU (22). A total of 41 respondents were selected through a stratified sampling technique as follows: FMH (17), contractors (15), and regulatory agencies (9). The technique was based on Nwanna (1981), which says that if the population is in hundreds, 40% could serve as a good sample.

A questionnaire on "Effect of 2007 Procurement Act and Accountability on Procurement Process of Federal Ministry of Housing Abuja Nigeria" was used in data collection. The data collected were analyzed using weighted mean and standard deviation, and the cutoff point was determined by finding the mean score of 2.50 for the options. Therefore, any mean score of 2.50 or above was accepted, while any mean below 2.50 was rejected.

## Results

Table 1. Bio-data of respondents: N = 41

**Table 1. Bio-data of respondents: N = 41**

Age Distribution	Frequency	Percentage
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21 - 30	8	23.2
31 - 40	12	28.0
41 - 50	21	49.3
50 and above	41	99.5
Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	31	73.7
Female	10	26.3

**Sex**

**Frequency**

**Percentage**

Table 1 shows the bio-data of respondents that were investigated with a view to determining how relevant the respondents are. Factors considered include age, sex, educational qualifications, and monthly income of respondents. The results of findings are presented in Table 1. From the table, 49.3% of the staff are above 50 years of age, as against 28.0% for staff below 41-50 years, while the rest of the staff are below 40 years. In terms of sex status of staff, 73.7% are male while 26.3% are female. The educational qualifications of the staff showed that only 21% of the staff had higher degrees while the majority of the staff had first degrees and HND as at the time of the research. The majority of the staff earns monthly salaries above N101,000.00 (36.8%). This is closely followed by 12 staff (31.6%). The result of this investigation indicated that the staff used are professionals and therefore their responses were valid for the research.

Research Question 1: How has the 2007 Procurement Act provided fair opportunity to contractors from bidding to execution of jobs in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja?

**Research Question 1:**

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviations of the responses of respondents on how 2007 procurement act has provide fair opportunity to contractors from bidding to execution of jobs in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja

**Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviations of the responses of respondents on how 2007 procurement act has provide fair opportunity to contractors from bidding to execution of jobs in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja**

S/N	ITEMS	N	Mean	Std.Deviatio	Dec.
1.	Procurement act is aimed at ensuring strict compliance with specifications in awarding contracts leading to accountability.	41	3.52	0.68	A



2.	Procurement act is aimed at reducing business as usual syndrome in an organization because of accountability.		2.81	0.92	
3.	Procurement act harmonizes the process of awarding contract in an organization in order to achieve accountability.		3.28	0.65	
4.	Procurement act ensures accountability, transparency and competition among contractors.		3.10	0.83	
5.	Procurement act provide fair opportunity to contractors in an organization		3.02	0.75	
	Grand Mean		3.15	0.47	

**Grand Mean**

**3.15**

**0.47**

Key: N = Number of respondents, Dec. = Decision, A = Agreed

**Key:**

Result in Table 2 shows the mean and standard deviations of the responses of respondents on how the Procurement Act provides fair opportunity to contractors in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. The result shows that all the items (1-5) had mean ratings above the criterion mean of 2.50, which portrays that the respondents agreed to the items. This implies the respondents agreed that Procurement Act is aimed at ensuring strict compliance with specifications in awarding contracts (mean = 3.52, SD = 0.68), Procurement Act is aimed at reducing business-as-usual syndrome in an organization (mean = 2.81, SD = 0.92), among others, as the ways Procurement Act provides fair opportunity to contractors in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. Moreover, the grand mean of 3.15 with a standard deviation of 0.47 was also above the criterion mean of 2.50. This depicts that the respondents agreed that all the items are ways through which the Procurement Act provides fair opportunity to contractors in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja.

Research Question 2: What are the contributions of the 2007 Procurement Act towards quality control assurance in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja?

**Research Question 2:**

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviations of the responses of respondents on the contributions of 2007 procurement act towards quality control assurance in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja

**Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviations of the responses of respondents on the contributions of 2007 procurement act towards quality control assurance in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja**

S/N	ITEMS	N	Mean	Std.Deviation	Dec.
1.	Quality is one of the bases for awarding contract in FMH.	41	3.26	0.89	A



2.	Procurement act increases level of compliance and assurance to quality.		3.18	0.72	
3.	Procurement act bring about changes in the procurement process to adopt improvement in modern technology.		2.86	0.90	
4.	Total quality inspection is conducted for quality of jobs in FMH.		3.13	0.74	
5.	Quality control is ensured in the procurement process of FMH.		3.34	0.66	
	Grand Mean		3.08	0.52	

### **Grand Mean**

**3.08**

**0.52**

Key: N = Number of respondents, Dec. = Decision, A = Agreed

### **Key:**

Result in Table 3 shows the mean and standard deviations of the responses of respondents on the contributions of the Procurement Act towards quality control assurance. The result shows that all the items (1-5) had mean ratings above the criterion mean of 2.50, which shows that the respondents agreed to the items. This implies the respondents agreed that quality is one of the bases for awarding contract in an organization (mean = 3.36, SD = 0.89), Procurement Act increases level of compliance and assurance to quality (mean = 3.18, SD = 0.72), among others, as the contributions of Procurement Act towards quality control assurance. Moreover, the grand mean of 3.08 with a standard deviation of 0.52 was also above the criterion mean of 2.50. This implies the respondents agreed that all the items are the contributions of the Procurement Act towards quality control assurance in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja.

## **Discussions of Findings**

One of the specific objectives of the study was to find out if the Procurement Act provides fair opportunity to suppliers from bidding to completion of jobs in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. Table 2 reveals that the Procurement Act generally allows for a fair opportunity for suppliers to compete with each other. The study revealed that strict compliance when awarding contract, harmonization of the contract process, and transparency in the contract process were all enshrined in the Procurement Act to ensure a fair and level playground for all contractors.

Again, the study also examined the effect of the Procurement Act towards reducing corruption in the award of contracts at the Federal Ministry of Housing, Abuja. Table 2 revealed that corruption has reduced through planned mechanisms in the procurement process. The Procurement Act has led to the formulation of a regulation preventing corruption in the procurement process to ensure contracts are awarded directly to contractors and suppliers to minimize and curb fraud.

Finally, the study also highlighted the contributions of the Procurement Act towards quality control



assurance. Table 3 shows that the 2007 Procurement Act acts as a tool for increasing quality compliance in the ministry. The Procurement Act also guides and inspects every public contract, thereby ensuring quality control assurance.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

For accountability to be sustained in the procurement of goods for public use through professionalism, there must be contract planning to serve as an impact for increased accountability, upon which budget productivity is based. Productivity must be planned before it can be controlled, and operation has to be determined and analyzed into expenditure costs so as to know how realistic it would contribute to project goals.

Based on the findings, the researcher recommends that Federal Ministry of Housing should adhere strictly to the terms of the Procurement Act to ensure accountability and transparency in the process of awarding contracts.

Federal Ministry of Housing should endeavor to employ competent and intelligent staff with experience to oversee the implementation of the Procurement Act to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in order to minimize and curb fraud in the process of awarding contracts.

Federal Ministry of Housing should have the support of top management during the process of procurement so that quality and control should not be compromised in the award of public contracts.

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