

## ABSTRACT

### Procurement Irregularities Analysis of Public Construction Projects in Trinidad and Tobago

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Irregularities such as fraud and corruption in public procurement are one of the major issues and concerns that are plaguing the construction industry not only in Trinidad and Tobago but all over the world. Therefore, it is fundamental that the government put measures in place in the procurement of Public Construction Projects to be able to detect, mitigate and fight corruption.

In this thesis, sixty-one (61) irregularities were developed by Tabish and Jha (2011) in India and were used to determine their impact affecting the Public Construction Projects undertaken by the Special Purpose Companies in Trinidad and Tobago Construction Industry.

Data was gathered for this research, using both primary and secondary sources inclusive of questionnaires, books, journals, and websites.

The sixty-one (61) irregularities were determined and ranked based on the mean values calculated from this survey conducted, similar to the India study. The five (5) main categories (Contract Monitoring and Regulation Irregularities, Fairness Irregularities, Procedural Irregularities, Transparency Irregularities and Professional Standards Irregularities) were also ranked using the group mean values. These results were compared to the study conducted in India by Tabish and Jha (2011). The analysis of data was also accomplished via the measurement of central tendency and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA).

From this research, it was found that the group ranked first in Trinidad and Tobago was Contract Monitoring and Regulation Irregularities. This refers to compliance with agreement conditions and contractual obligations. The mean values calculated for the other categories were very close to the category that ranked number one, therefore they are considered to be of similar importance.

The mitigation measures preferred to reduce irregularities in Trinidad and Tobago were developing a well-defined policy, examining the entire organizational structures of all the Special Purpose Companies, procurement officials/auditors should be properly trained and the government should implement mechanisms to be able to track procurement decisions.

Keywords: Shivaneer Paria; Public Procurement; Corruption; Trinidad and Tobago Construction Industry.