

ABSTRACT

Factors That Influence Compliance to the Ministry of Finance and the Economy's Monitoring and Evaluation System

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The use of monitoring and evaluation to promote good governance in the public sector in Trinidad and Tobago is relatively new. Over the past decade several developments in the field have been made. However, for many Government institutions, like the Ministry of Finance and the Economy (MoFE), it is a transformational and cultural change that is not without its challenges; one of which is low levels of compliance to the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.

This practicum sought to answer the following questions: what factors will increase compliance to the monitoring and evaluation system within the Ministry of Finance and the Economy?; what factors hinder compliance to the monitoring and evaluation system within the Ministry of Finance and the Economy?; and what are the attitude and opinions of MoFE's staff (those responsible for supplying reports and data) towards the monitoring and evaluation system?

The contextual orientation of monitoring and evaluation called for a combined inductive and deductive approach, applying a case study strategy to the MoFE. Over a twelve month period, structured observations were used, in addition to semi-structured interviews of the M&E personnel to clarify issues. Finally, a questionnaire was administered to gather information from the target population – twenty-one (21) suppliers of data.

The data was analysed using both quantitative and qualitative tools (graphs, bar charts, tables and categorisation). The results reveals that the following factors influence compliance to the M&E system: legislation, national policy, individual's or Division's capacity to collect data, the allocation of a budget and dedicated personnel for M&E activities, data supplier's level of awareness and understanding of the uses of M&E data, formal training, the number of requests from different stakeholders and penalties for non-compliance. Participants' view on the M&E system and their level of agreement to the impact of the various factors were highlighted.

Keywords: Atayla Ayana Guerra; monitoring and evaluation system; data collection and management system; compliance; reporting process.