



Lupane State University
Building Communities through Knowledge

Faculty of Commerce

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**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PUBLIC
MAGEMENT SYSTEM IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. A CASE OF KHAMI
DISTRICT IN BULAWAYO METROPOLITAN PROVINCE.**

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**A RESEACH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
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ABSTRACT

This research project sought to assess the effectiveness of the public financial management systems in secondary schools focusing on Khami District in Bulawayo Metropolitan Province. The research objectives were; i to ascertain the policies/ practices on financial management; ii, to examine the effect of applied policies and accounting policies on financial management in schools; iii, to identify the possible solutions to ineffective financial management; and iv. To identify possible solutions to ineffective financial management in schools. The study employed a mixed research methods approach on a sample size of 25 participants. It was established in the study that the schools sampled followed the guidelines set by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education through the Education Act, Public Financial Management Act and other relevant statutory instruments. The findings also revealed that only 12% of the respondents referred to the Education Act very often, 32% citing that they use it often while 16% stated sometimes refer to the Education Act. However a worrying trend within some schools was observed where reference was made to the Education Act in their day to day operations with 4% stating that they never or rarely referred to the Act was a cause for concern. This indicates a need for effective orientation to ensure that members of staff at schools and school development committee members understand the importance of the Education Act, the Public Finance Management Act and other relevant statutory instruments in the administration and running of the schools. Lack of supervision in the form of schools audits and performance appraisals were also noted in the study. When there is lack of effective supervision, people tend to relax and begin to be complacent of policies and practices leading to poor financial management. Poor record keeping was also observed with about 20% of the respondents stating that they never or rarely maintain and update their cashbooks. This is also a sign that effective supervision by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education was lacking. It was recommended in the study that that the parent Ministry should conduct training and orientation workshops for school Heads, SDC members and Bursars. Furthermore, the researcher recommended continuous appraisals for school administrative staff couple with annual audits done by the internal auditors from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.