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Investigating public consultation in the implementation of mega projects in South Africa: The importance of public consultation in implementation of mega projects

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ABSTRACT

There is a noticeable prevalence of public resistance when implementing mega public sector projects in South Africa. This resistance is indicative of a lack of communication between implementers and the general populace.

The aim of the study was to assess the regulatory framework of public consultation in mega projects in South Africa.

A cross-sectional survey design of consulting engineers, project managers, and municipality staff, using structured questionnaire was adopted. This was followed by case analyses of three mega projects in South Africa.

The main finding of the study is that there has to be operationalizable regulatory framework which could be utilized to inculcate public consultation, its coordination should be articulated within the three spheres of government, this has to be monitored systematically. As such thereis the need to improve on the provisions and implementation of the existing regulatory framework among the spheres of government for better coordination and monitoring with the public.

Key words: Mega projects, Protestation, Regulatory framework, South Africa, Stakeholders.