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Critical Success Factors for Public-

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to identify critical success factors for public-private partnerships (PPPs) in South Africa. A number of studies have been completed in several developed countries on critical success factors for PPPs (Li et al. 2005; Tang et al. 2009; Zhang 2005). These studies were identified and reviewed in order to document existing findings to evaluate their applicability to the South African situation. From the literature review, it was revealed that thirteen critical success factors exist in the international context. These were used as the point of departure for this research which, in essence, examines these factors seen to be valid in developed countries and assesses whether they are appropriate to South Africa.

The research used semi-structured interviews to collect data from the South African public-private partnership market in Gauteng. Twenty interviews were conducted with experienced senior stakeholders from the public and private sectors representing government, banking and other professions. Content analysis was carried out on the data collected.

The research concluded that all thirteen propositions formulated were applicable to the South African public-private partnership environment, with some being more important than others. A favourable and enforceable legal and regularity framework, government and community support and a stable political and sound economic environment were the three most important factors for a successful South African public-private partnership. Although still regarded as significant, the factors of clear roles and responsibilities, as well as active management of all stakeholder relationships, commitment and trust among the partners, and effective and extensive communication are regarded as less important for a South African public-private partnership. The other factors fell in between the most important and less important. The findings of this work in terms of levels of importance generally differed from the conclusions of related research previously done in developed countries.