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An exploratory study on the legitimacy of energy megaproject in South Africa

Research Report – Post Examination Corrections and Additions

Submitted by

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This explanatory note is aimed at highlighting detailed recommendations made by examiners which have since been assimilated in the final draft. I am thankful for the comments and recommendations made herein.

EXAMINERS 1

An extract from the examiner's report reads:

The candidate attempts to assess the legitimacy of energy mega projects in South Africa as an exploratory study. A well-structured data analysis, discussions and conclusions are provided. Analyses are aligned with the research objectives, and this shows that the candidate understands purpose of the investigation. This manuscript is sufficiently acquainted with the recent relevant literature. Despite gap clarification in this study is properly stated in the introduction chapter, the major issue with this dissertation is chapter 2 which is still missing to provide a proper flow of literature analysis proving the research gap! In addition, there are major issues there in terms of how to bring statements into paragraphs, sub-sections and then sections of this chapter and how to link them (See comments given below).

Research discussion section is very nicely presented. A very well structured schematic diagram is drawn. It helps the reader to figure out what the research results are in a single page. Recommendations are practical too. Benefits/contributions are also well described. No comments on them. Well done!

The examiners comment and corrective actions incorporated in the revised report are discussed as follow:

Examiners Comment	**Correction/addition/qualification**
1.The abstract is missing the data collection and analysis techniques used in this study	***Thank you for the comment.*** The abstract has been updated to include the data collection and analysis techniques in line with the recommendation by examiners. In the main the study follows a cross-sectional case study strategy based on a mixed method approach to data collection and analysis. The cases are introduced as Medupi, Ingula and the Sere energy wind farm. Data collection instruments include surveys, questionnaire and structured interviews.
2. The Introduction chapter is missing to demonstrate significant of this research in separate section. Author need to highlight the research significance using strong supports from literature.	***Thank you for the comment.*** In line with the recommendations by the examiners, the introduction chapter has been drafted so as to encapsulate and explicitly introduce the research problem to the reader. The Introductory chapter explains the genesis of the problem and chapter two encapsulate the emanation

	of the research problem from literature.
3. Using a single reference to cite various paragraphs of multiple pages in the literature review chapter is not acceptable (See pages 21-22 and 24-25-26, as examples). Literature review chapter is not analyse literatures from various references on a single concept. This is not done throughout this chapter properly! I strongly suggest a major review of this regard.	***Thank you for the comment.*** Chapter two has been reviewed in its entirety to include views from variety of researchers. One notable fact is that the development of literature in this developing field of megaprojects is predominantly spearheaded by researchers from developed countries. The literature review chapter now include variety of views and include data from studies conducted by reputable multi-national consultancy companies such as Deloitte and Pwc amongst others. There has also been a concerted, deliberate effort to ensure logical flow and to strengthen cohesion in the review of literature. This has significantly contributed to strengthening the study and its outlook in its entirety.
4. There are many short paragraphs (2 or 3 lines each) in literature review chapter. Most of them are like one sentence in a single paragraph! This is not a correct definition for a paragraph! It is expected that the author join these short sentences in a way that each paragraph has its own purpose through analysis different viewpoints from different reference!	***Thank you for the comment.*** An effort has been made through the holistic review of literature to ensure meaningful usage of contribution from various sources of literature. As recommended, one sentence paragraphs has been avoided to the extent that it was possible.
5. Section and Sub-sections in the literature review chapter should be coherent. Paragraphs/Sections coherency is achieved when they are joined in a logical manner, and clear transitions link them. Try to make such clear transitions, at least between major sections and sub-sections.	***Thank you for the comment.*** A deliberate effort has been made through the holistic review of literature to ensure meaningful usage of contribution from various sources of literature. As recommended, the sections and related sub-sections have been reconstructed in a manner that ensures cohesion of the entire report. This include concise introduction to every chapter and summary of the chapter.

6. It is suggested to provide a chapter summary for each chapter. A chapter summary can both summarise the chapter achievements, and provide purpose of its following chapter.	***Thank you for the comment.*** The chapter summary has been included at the end of every chapter. The purpose has been primarily to highlight the important aspects of literature in relation to Chapter Two and Three and its contribution towards fulfilment of the research objectives.
7. It is expected that the literature review chapter analyses existing literature to come up with a research gap clarification when it comes to end. Unfortunately, this is not properly done! It is suggested to add a final section named a "research gap" (before chapter summary) to wrap up the literature review analyses and come up with a single question at the end (Research question).	***Thank you for the comment.*** Chapter two has been holistically reviewed to include views from variety of researchers. The literature review chapter now include a section titled "The Research Gap" in line with the examiners recommendations. The purpose of this is to bring to the fore, the research problem and knowledge deficiency which would be filled through this study.
8. The Chapter 3 is still missing to show validity, reliability and generalization of results in this research. Add a separate section for it!	**Thank you for your comment.** Quality concern plays a central role throughout all steps of research process from the inception of the research question, data collection, to the analysis and presentation of research findings (Ali and Yosuf, 2011). In conformity to the recommendation, a section covering validity, reliability and generalizability of the study has been included. This has been particularly important to ensuring that the findings of the study are set to be valid, reliable and generalizable. After all, the findings of any research project are set to be worthless when not subjected to systematic logic test (Yin, 2009).
9. The Chapter 3 is also still missing to highlight how the sampling process is implemented for survey! [The details of Interviewees are also missing]	**Thank you for the comment.** In ensuring collection of reasonably credible data, the purposive sample, convenience sampling and stratified samples have been adopted. Purposive sampling method has been used to select professional

	participants for the survey and semi-structured interviews. The opinions and perceptions of professionals has been particularly significant as they are considered experts in the field and key to providing first hand data to meet part of the objectives of this study. Purposive sampling has also been used in identifying participation of labour representatives' organisations. The organizations that participated through officials are National Union of Mineworkers, National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, and Solidarity. The perceptions and opinions of the Unions mattered most as they are cognisant of matters pertinent to the social and economic wellbeing of the workers Stratified sampling method was adopted to ensure collection of credible, first hand data from consumers of electricity who are partially funders and taxpayers of the energy megaprojects. A section of chapter 3 deals with the data collection methods in its entirety and this include sampling methods. These are all explained on chapter 3.
10. Adding a summary table at the end of Chapter 3 is highly suggested. This table might include, research objectives, question, methods adopted, data collection techniques used, and data analyses methods applied for every research objectives. It will make your chapter 3 much more understandable for the reader.	**Thank you for the comment.** The table linking the research objectives, research questions, methods, data collection instruments and analysis has been incorporated as part of chapter 3 as recommended. This will assist in ensuring that the reader has a holistic view and appreciation of the purpose of the study as it includes sections from chapter one to three.
11. It seems that questionnaire and interviews were run at the same time! A clarification of why and how this has been implemented needs to be added to section 3.1.6	**Thank you for the comment.** The questionnaire where first sent to the identified number of participant with the considerable knowledge in the energy sector. These participants were identified through referrals by one participant to

	the other. As feedback was received, participants where humbly requested to participate in an interview with a view of exploring and gaining insight in the phenomenon of megaprojects. It is worth stating that majority of those who participated in the interview exhibited interest in the subject matter through numerous requests for clarifications in the course of completing the written questionnaire. It was less challenging to convince them to participate in the interview by virtue of the interest displayed. In closing, the interviews and questionnaires were not conducted concurrently. Part of the questionnaires was completed through face-to – face interaction, but not necessarily interviews [This distinction was not clearly articulated in the first submission]. The other part was completed by participants in a written form.

Comments from Examiner 2 are discussed below.

EXAMINERS 2

An extract from the examiner's report reads:

Examiners Comment	Correction/addition/qualification
1. The literature was reviewed in Chapter Relevant literature reviewed was covering topics under investigation. Although, numerous paragraphs with one sentences should be avoided by lumping up at least two sentences into one paragraph	**Thank you for your comment**. Chapter 2 has been holistically reviewed in a manner that ensures cohesion across all chapters and an effort has been made to eradicate one paragraph sentences. Thank you.
2. The nature, purpose and scope are mainly found in the first chapter of the research report. The title is explicitly revealing the research is intended to explore the legitimacy of megaprojects in South Africa. Although the research objectives did not focus on legitimacy as was expected. The problem statement was not properly stated; and did not reflect one of the key issues of legitimacy. I suggest the phrase "legitimacy" should not appear in the title; maybe it should be replaced by another one.	**Thank you for your comment**. More clarity has been provided in the concept section of this study to explain the adoption and usage of legitimacy in the context of this study. The definition and the applicable context has been explicitly encapsulated in pages 9 and 10. This definition is derived through the deduction made between megaprojects and the impact to end users and the economy at large. Accordingly, the objectives of the study deals explicitly with elements of legitimacy.
3. The methodology employed was covered in chapter 3. Much information regarding research philosophy and research strategies which was provided although it was not necessarily related to the research topic. In my opinion, this information was not relevant since there was motivation why this information was chosen to be part of the research methodology content. Headings should be rearranged in a sequential manner. A substantial part of the heading 4.1 from chapter 4 should be moved back into research methodology chapter	**Thank you for your comment.** Chapter 3 has been revised and shortened in line with the recommendation. Details on adopted research methods have been provided.

4. The understanding of scientific method has been evaluated in chapter 4 where data is presented and analysed. It is commended that a great effort has been made to gather wealthy information. However, alternative method should have been used to get accurate data. For example the data relating to expenditure on local goods and services should have been obtained by checking the records rather than a mere questionnaire. Regarding scale questions, means should have been reported instead of percentages. Hence, the histogram is not appropriate to report scale type of data. For example figure 22 and the like. Moreover, there is a confusion in table 10 and figure 18 whereby "positive" and "satisfactory" which mean the same thing are implied to mean a different thing. Pie charts or tables should have been used. "Yes" and "No" questions were not appropriate in Table 11 where an opinion was sought.	**Thank you for the comment.** An effort has been made to an extent that it is ethically possible to provide factual data based on the informative reports such as the "Audited Financial Statements", "Submissions by Eskom to the "Parliamentary committee on State Owned Enterprises" and other reports from credible sources. It must be noted that the cases adopted are fairly recent and Medupi in particular is still being executed, so access to credible information from Eskom has proven to be challenging, hence the information obtained from the professionals within the energy megaprojects fraternity were adopted. An effort has been made to provide clarity through data interpretation. The meanings of Data tables and graphs used have been narrated in every section. The findings have then been comprehensively depicted in a schematic diagram depicted in page 142.
5. The assessment of the Significance of the research is evaluated in chapter 5 consisting of the discussions, conclusions and recommendations. The discussion was elaborated in a sporadic manner without paying attention to the breakdown of the research objectives. The analysis of the interviews was not properly presented in accordance with content analysis standard	**Thank you for the comment.** The discussion, findings and conclusion section has been aligned to the research objectives. This will ensure cohesion towards meeting the overall research objectives. [See pages, 129 to 147]. Refer to appendix D2 for detailed analysis of data using Creswell data spiral method [This method has been thoroughly explained in chapter 3 page 84,85,86
6. The evaluation of the structure of the research includes technical aspects such as layout and flow of information, language,	**Thank you for the comment.** The tables, graphs, figures has been revised accordingly

consistency of reference style, functionality of figures and tables. Typographical errors should be corrected; tables and figures should be redrawn where changes have been suggested. The reference should be consistent and refereeing rules should be adhered.	