

## **RESTRICTED**

### **ABSTRACT**

This research aspired to explore dynamics of bid rejection and its impact on the SLAF Procurement System. In bid rejection process, the standard rules and procedures will ensure the consistency in decision making whilst transparency acts as a complement factor to demonstrate this publicly to the relevant stakeholders. This study used a mix approach as a research design. The population of interest was 07 procurement officers and 92 bidders registered with the SLAF. Procurement Officers were selected based on their experience and systematic sampling technique was used for selection of the relevant bidders. The data collected from bidders paved the way to increase the credibility of the data gathered through interviews. Different forms of data analysis were used to convert the raw data into meaningful formats to answer the research questions. Having been duly analysed the data, the research concluded that transparency and consistency in bid rejection process is necessary for openness, competitiveness, accessibility of information, prevent favouritism and corruption. The demonstration of adequacy of these measures is one of the key aspects to improve the system credibility as well as the responsiveness of bidders. During the research, it was evident that use of standard bidding conditions, accessibility to SLAF Bidding Document through web, shared responsibilities and engagement of diversified work force, enhanced accountability with the automated system, internal and government audits, use of standard forms for evaluations have been helpful to enhance transparency and consistency in bid rejection process. However, the findings shows that the system needs further improvements to enhance transparency and consistency due to issues surrounding procedural deviations, strict confidentiality, inconsistent application of conditions, inefficiencies in government and internal audits, non-availability of an objective evaluation criteria etc. Further, research suggests the importance of ethical conduct of the officers in this regard along with developing it through continuous training.

**Key Words:** Public Procurement, Standard Bidding Document, Transparency, Consistency, Fair Treatment.