ISSN 0976-6634 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6764
JOURNAL OF
SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

J Sociology Soc Anth, 9(1): 10-17 (2018)
DOI: 10.1080/09766634.2017.1410275

An Assessment of the Corporate Governance Practices within the Department of Public Works

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KEYWORDS Accountability. Credibility. Expenditure. Responsibility. Risk

ABSTRACT Good corporate governance practices strengthen credibility and confidence in the public service. This study assessed corporate governance practices within the Department of Public Works (DPW) in South Africa in order to develop measures to align these with best practices. Corporate governance in South Africa and other countries as well as the application of corporate governance and King III in the public sector were reviewed. Data were collected by means of questionnaires as well as face-to-face discussions. The target population was three of the 11 DPW regional offices as well as Head Office. The sample consisted of 30 respondents from each office and included senior management, middle management, junior management and employees. The study found that, while the DPW has developed processes and systems to ensure good corporate governance practices, these are not being effectively implemented or are not working as intended. Many irregularities were observed pertaining to the implementation of corporate governance processes and procedures in the DPW. It is therefore recommended that the Director-General should establish a monitoring tool to monitor the implementation of corporate governance practices within the department.