

EXPLORING FACTORS MILITATING AGAINST THE PERFORMANCE OF PARASTATALS IN ZIMBABWE: THE CASE OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS OF ZIMBABWE FROM 2008 TO 2016

A Chilunjika and B Mutizwa

Midlands State University, Zimbabwe

ABSTRACT

Parastatals in Zimbabwe have been underperforming and thus becoming a financial burden to the central government. They became havens of inefficiency and ineffective, vehicles of derailing intended strategies culminating in unrealised strategies. The period of the study is imperative as it was characterised by hyperinflation which led to closure of some parastatals leading to dysfunctionality of the public sector. This article gives an outline of factors which are standing as an impediment to the success of the National Railways of Zimbabwe. Data was collected using the mixed method approach and interviews were conducted, questionnaires were distributed, documents were also reviewed and analysed using content and thematic analysis. The research revealed that corporate governance epidemics, poor governance and mismanagement, financial distress, corruption, political interference, economy of affection, partisan and militarisation of the organisation as well as international isolation are all complementing each other in militating against the performance of the railway. The study recommends panacea actions which can be implemented to enhance effective and efficiency in the organisation.

Keywords: Impediment, Poor administration, Political interference, National Railway of Zimbabwe

1. INTRODUCTION

Herbst (1990) posited that parastatals or State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in Zimbabwe owe their origins to former colonial master Britain and its system of governance. This can be resembled by the socialist ideologies of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century as well as the related development of the idea, philosophy and culture of the well-being, welfare state. Short, (1984) propounded that parastatals emerged as protectors, custodians and saviours, of state welfare and vehicles of services delivery to the mass. Parastatals were crafted as part of the ideological, conceptual and philosophical coordination and mechanism that projected the elements and the ability to stow the obvious inhuman discriminating and exploiting class system of a capitalistic nation. The dual hidden structure was designed and programmed to harmonise, amend and ameliorate hostile as well as