Electronic Government Procurement in Zambia: Solving the Implementation Challenge

Read online with charts and updates:
https://risalatconsultants.com/electronic-government-procurement-in-zambia/

Current State of Electronic Government Procurement in Zambia

Electronic Government Procurement Rollout: Timeline and Milestones Since 2016

System Integration of Electronic Government Procurement with IFMIS and National Platforms

Adoption of Electronic Government Procurement Across Ministries and Councils

Organizational Barriers to Electronic Government Procurement Implementation

Top Management Support Deficit in Electronic Government Procurement Units

- Absence of strategic guidance regarding e-GP implementation priorities
- Insufficient resource allocation for comprehensive training programs
- Inconsistent policy enforcement concerning mandatory system utilization

Procurement Officer Resistance to Electronic Government Procurement Transition

Digital Literacy Challenges in Electronic Government Procurement Usage

Technical Infrastructure Challenges in Implementing Electronic Government Procurement

Connectivity Constraints Impacting Electronic Government Procurement in Rural Councils

- Seventy percent report inadequate ICT infrastructure as a major operational challenge
- Intermittent power supply creates recurring internet connectivity disruptions
- Limited access to digital devices exacerbates connectivity limitations

Lack of integration with legacy systems like NAVISION

- Multiple data entry requirements across disparate systems
- Information synchronization becomes problematic
- Legacy systems maintain incompatibility with emerging security protocols

System Downtime and Maintenance Gaps in Electronic Government Procurement

- Uncoordinated government digital infrastructure designs
- Inconsistent systems operations and maintenance protocols
- Limited technical support availability for users experiencing difficulties

Vendor Onboarding and Supplier Participation Issues

Complex registration process on the e-GP portal

- The "Retrieve details from OSSIS" functionality creates confusion among first-time platform users
- Category selection demands specialized search methodologies and precise keyword knowledge
- Company name modifications become impossible once registration completes, establishing permanent organizational records
- Payment verification protocols introduce supplementary complexity layers

Low awareness among SMEs and rural suppliers

Limited support for supplier training and helpdesk

- Electronic procurement system registration methodologies
- Tender application processes and procedures
- Electronic bid submission protocols

Impact of EGP on Procurement Efficiency and Transparency

Elimination of paper-intensive workflows and administrative redundancies

- Vendor travel expenses to procurement offices become obsolete, reducing participation costs
- Environmental sustainability improves through substantial paper consumption reduction
- Automated documentation processes eliminate transcription errors and manual calculation mistakes

Enhanced transparency through automated audit mechanisms and award notifications

- Minimized direct contact between procurement officers and bidders
- Maintained supplier anonymity until official bid evaluation begins
- Automated compliance verification during submission processes

Economic efficiency gains through expanded competitive participation

- Reduced supplier participation costs through complimentary tender document access
- Enhanced value optimization via demand aggregation and framework agreement utilization
- Expanded competitive participation from increased supplier engagement
- Streamlined process efficiency through automated compliance validation

Policy and Governance Gaps in EGP Enforcement

Weak enforcement of mandatory e-GP usage

- Legal provisions lack operational enforcement protocols
- Administrative sanctions remain unapplied despite documented non-compliance
- Manual procurement processes continue parallel to digital requirements

Lack of procurement performance monitoring

- Implementation progress cannot be measured against established benchmarks
- Compliance improvement strategies lack data-driven targeting mechanisms
- Return on investment calculations remain speculative rather than evidence-based

Inconsistent application of procurement thresholds

Role of Development Partners in Supporting EGP Reform

World Bank and AfDB technical assistance programs

Donor-funded capacity building and infrastructure upgrades

Alignment with SMART Zambia Master Plan

Strategic Recommendations for Scaling EGP in Zambia

Invest in broadband infrastructure for rural councils

Mandate e-GP usage through procurement audits

Establish a national supplier training academy

Related Risalat programmes

- Women in Leadership for the Public Sector in Kigali, Kigali (4 Jan 2027)
- Public Procurement Rules 2026 and e-PADS Compliance Training in Dubai, Dubai (1 Feb 2027)
- Digital Government, Public Sector Innovation & Service Delivery Excellence Training, Tallinn (1 Feb 2027)
- Inclusive Public Procurement: Engaging CSOs, SMEs, Women-Owned, and Local Businesses, Seville (1 Feb 2027)

Talk to us about your institution or project: https://risalatconsultants.com/reach-risalat/