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This study is a major step forward in understanding the way institutions work in different settings.

Douglas C. North, Nobel Laureate in Economics (1993)

This book is a must read for those interested in public procurement systems and their reforms in Africa and elsewhere. Those familiar with the New Institutional Economics will recognize this book as an ambitious and informative application of the NIE framework. New comers to the NIE will likewise be impressed by the value added that accrues from this study.

Olivier E. Williamson, Nobel Laureate in Economics (2009)

Public Procurement Reforms in Africa thoroughly grapples with the complex challenges of improving public financial management, and in so doing, the authors contribute to a discourse which is critical to Africa’s economic transformation.

Kingsley A. Amosako, President, African Center for Economic Transformation

Public Procurement Reforms in Africa is an ambitious study that provides a vast improvement to the literature on the effects of political and legal reforms. Using original data and in-depth case analyses, the authors are able to demonstrate when exogenously imposed and endogenously driven institutional reforms will affect political outcomes, such as levels of corruption.

Mathew D. McCubbins, Duke University

In identifying the tax system as the instruments of the state, Joseph Schumpeter seriously neglected the other side of the government budget. Building an effective state requires not just resources, but the ability to spend those resources in the interests of society. This book is a seminal study of what it takes to do that in Africa. An essential for anyone trying to understand how to build modern states.

James A. Robinson, Harvard University

This important book deftly analyses African public procurement, where weak public institutions, including inefficient enforcement and corruption, have defeated the aims and ambitions of countless and projects. The book’s novel approach fills a major gap in our understanding of this thorny problem, and draws actionable insights by comparing the few successful and many failed reforms.

Mary M. Stanley, President, Notre Dame Journal

Institutional reforms and their contribution to development and growth have been a source of renewed interest, as well as of many challenges, over the last two decades. Identifying the forces that push towards reform and the conditions that determine the success or failure of those reforms, building organizational arrangements needed to make modifications to the rules of the game sustainable, and understanding the limits to the transfer of reforms and to the help that international organizations and foreign institutions can provide to support change, raise intellectually difficult and politically highly sensitive issues.

This book attempts to address these issues from an economic perspective. Combining knowledge and field experience, it develops an analysis of institutional changes and organizational transformations based on the experiences of the public procurement reforms carried out in sub-Saharan Africa. This high-lights the economic significance of procurement and the formidable obstacles that institutional changes face. Using an original dataset, it explores the gap between the expectations and what has been achieved. It develops a framework that intends to capture the complex interaction between the different components of reform and aims to provide useful insights for researchers and policy makers.