



VACANCY

The Infrastructure and Development Bank of Zimbabwe (“the IDBZ/the Bank”) is a national Development Finance Institution (DFI) that supports infrastructure and development across all sectors of the economy. Its infrastructure focus is on Water and Sanitation, Housing, Irrigation Infrastructure, Transport and Energy. As part of its developmental mandate, the Bank offers financial or technical assistance to undertakings of all enterprises in furtherance of the National Development Agenda. As such, the Bank promotes the infrastructure value chain, agri-businesses, mining, export-oriented businesses, metals production and the manufacturing sector. The Bank’s purpose is to uplift the livelihoods of all Zimbabweans through development financing.

To effectively execute its mandate, the Infrastructure and Development Bank of Zimbabwe (“the IDBZ”/ “the Bank”) wishes to engage the services of fixed-term assignment contract staff to undertake a detailed research on devolution and infrastructure development in Zimbabwe.

CHIEF RESEARCH ECONOMIST For the Production of Detailed Research Paper Titled “*Devolution and Infrastructure Development: Opportunities, Challenges and Lessons from Best Practice*”

1. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

The Bank’s operations are guided by its Long-Term Strategy 2021-2030 (LTS) and 2024-2026 Work Programme and Budget (WP&B) which are informed by the country development agenda as espoused in Vision 2030, the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS 1) and other Government Policies and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IDBZ champions sustainable economic growth and development in Zimbabwe through mobilization of appropriate resources, technical support in project preparation and development, and knowledge generation and sharing.

1.1 Background Information on Devolution and Infrastructure Development

Devolution is a process of transferring power and authority (decentralisation) for making socio-politico-economic decisions from central governments to local governments and communities. Local communities are involved in planning, designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluating development programmes. Having been implemented in many African countries, devolution has proved to be effective in poverty reduction. Devolution facilitates greater participation of communities throughout the project cycle and as such increase ownership and the likelihood of sustainability of infrastructure development initiatives.

The Constitution of Zimbabwe (Chapter 14) advocates for the equitable allocation of national resources and the participation of local communities in the determination of development priorities within their areas. Pursuant to this, the Constitution provides for devolution of power and responsibilities to lower tiers of Government in the country. The constitution provides for the following provinces:

1. Bulawayo Metropolitan;
2. Harare Metropolitan;
3. Manicaland;
4. Mashonaland Central;
5. Mashonaland East;
6. Mashonaland West;
7. Masvingo;
8. Matabeleland North;
9. Matabeleland South; and
10. Midlands.

A review of various sections on devolution in the Constitution shows that infrastructure should be delivered in a way that:

1. preserves national unity;
2. promote democratic participation;
3. ensure equitable allocation resources across the country;
4. promote participation of local communities in development programmes within their areas;
5. promote of efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources;
6. ensure transparent and accountable allocation of resources;
7. encourage accessibility and availability of basic services, including educational and health facilities, water, roads, social amenities, and electricity to marginalized areas; and
8. is sensitive to economic disparities within and between provinces.

The Bank, as a creature of statute, supports development of infrastructure in the primary and secondary focus sectors in all the country's ten provinces, funding project preparation activities such as feasibility studies on infrastructure projects. Further it has increased its geographic presence through establishing regional offices in Masvingo and Bulawayo to improve collaboration with stakeholders.

To the furtherance of the devolution agenda, infrastructure development is indispensable to support localised socio-economic development. As development finance institution, the Bank support the value chain and promotes knowledge generation and sharing in support of national development initiatives.



It is in this regard that the IDBZ wishes to recruit a Chief Research Economist (CRE) on a six month fixed term contract to undertake a study on “*Devolution and Infrastructure Development: Opportunities: Challenges; and Lessons from Best Practice*”. The Bank will engage a pool of research assistants identified and as required by the hired CRE. In addition the Bank shall avail necessary facilities and resources to the CRE that will be required for the execution of the assignment.

2. OBJECTIVES

The **overall objective** of the study is to contribute towards the Zimbabwe’s sustainable socioeconomic development through infrastructure development.

The **specific objectives** are to:

- i. identify the challenges of infrastructure development under devolution;
- ii. identify critical infrastructure required in all provinces for the success of the devolution agenda;
- iii. draw key lessons on devolution and infrastructure from other countries (at least five African countries and other international examples);
- iv. identify success factors for infrastructure development in a devolved nation; and
- v. recommend the best approach for Zimbabwe infrastructure development under devolution.

3. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The CRE shall be based in Harare, but the assignments will be carried out across all the Provinces in Zimbabwe.

4. SCOPE

The Chief Research Economist is expected to carry out the following tasks:

- i. Review literature and come up with appropriate conceptual frameworks that underpin devolution and infrastructure development in general.
- ii. Review and analyse selected success stories in terms of devolution and infrastructure development in other countries (at least five African countries and other international examples)
- iii. Identify the challenges posed by devolution in terms of infrastructure delivery in Zimbabwe.
- iv. Identify the key success factors for infrastructure development under devolution in the Zimbabwean context.
- v. Make overall appropriate technical and policy recommendations based on the outcome of the review.
- vi. Identify areas where the IDBZ as a DFI can intervene to catalyse infrastructure development under devolution.
- vii. Ensure the final writeup is of high quality and publishable.
- viii. Training and capacity building for the staff under the ESMD and Bank wide team.

5. EXPECTED OUTCOME/OUTPUTS/ACTIVITIES

In general, the Report should outline the main challenges associated with infrastructure development under devolution, proposed solutions and how the Bank can realign its interventions to solve some of the problems. The report will discuss the major infrastructure projects that need to be undertaken to address the country’s development needs. It should prioritize the projects in



terms of their expected development impacts. The report should also come out with clear legal, policy and institutional framework required for effectual infrastructure funding under devolution.

The following outputs will be produced:

- i. **Inception report** that highlights the Chief Research Economist's understanding of the Terms of Reference and the methodology to be used.
- ii. The **first draft report** that will have to be validated at a consultative workshop.
- iii. Arrange and undertake a validation workshops¹.
- iv. The **draft final report** that incorporates comments
- v. The **final report** should have recommendations.

The final document should be publishable document for visibility and large communication to general public.

6. WORK PLAN AND DURATION OF THE WORK

- i. The study is expected to be done in a period of 6 months:
- ii. The **inception report** is to be produced within the first month of signing the contract.
- iii. The **First Draft Report** is to be produced within 3 months after submission of the inception report.
- iv. **Draft Final** to be submitted one month after submission of First Draft Report.
- v. **Final Draft** to be submitted 6 months after commencement of assignment.

6.1 Methodology

- i. The Approach to the study will be pragmatic and will utilise various tools as appropriate (quantitative, quantitative, anecdotal evidence, opinion)
- ii. The Chief Research Economist will specify the rationale, strategy, and methodology.
- iii. A Workplan should be produced as part of the inception report.
- iv. The Chief Research Economist will then proceed to carry out the research based on the agreed work plan.
- v. Strict adherence to known and established research ethics is expected.

7. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The CRE shall submit a lumpsum financial proposal for the 6-month period payable in line with the deliverables as follows:

Inception Report	10%
First Draft Report	50%
Final Draft Report	20%
Final Report	20%

The CRE will be entitled to per diem and a fixed monthly fuel allocation.

¹ The Bank / Client shall procure suitable venues for the Workshops to be undertaken across the country

8. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF CHIEF RESEARCH ECONOMIST

- i. The Chief Research Economist should have at least a post-graduate degree in Economics, Rural and Urban Planning, Development Studies, Development Finance or Geography. A PhD in any of the areas will be an added advantage.
- ii. The Chief Research Economist should have experience that involves at least three similar studies.

9. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Interviews will be conducted for shortlisted candidates and the best candidate will be selected.

10. OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

The Chief Research Economist shall report to, the Chief Economist, Strategy and Performance Monitoring.

Interested applicants should submit their applications together with a detailed Curriculum Vitae by no later than **Friday, 19 July 2024**. “Persons with disabilities and female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply”.

To be considered, interested candidates are requested to forward their applications via email to hr@idbz.co.zw. All applications should be addressed to:

Director - Corporate Services and Human Resources
Infrastructure and Development Bank of Zimbabwe
IDBZ House
99 Gamal Abdel Nasser Road
Harare

