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Project Governance

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"The best innovation is sometimes the company, the way you organize the company." – Steve Jobs

THE implementation of projects often requires the involvement of various individuals from different stakeholder groups such as senior management, representatives of user departments, ICT department staff, and representatives from contractors. They may have different interests and play different roles in the project but together they have one common interest, that is to see the project come to a successful completion.

A typical project involves decision making on many aspects of policy, strategising, planning and monitoring. The involvement of various stakeholders cannot be avoided as they play a vital role in shaping and supporting the project. However, the challenge of managing these individuals cannot be underestimated. Thus, project governance is an important aspect of project management, in order to organise stakeholders as a governing body to be involved in the decision making and to play a supportive role in moving the project to its successful completion. Projects must have a governance structure with the roles and responsibilities of participants clearly defined and documented. The question is, how do you organise them and what is the best governance structure for the project?

What is Project Governance?

According to the Oxford dictionary, the word 'governance' means 'the action or manner of governing a state, organisation, etc (Oxford, 2013). In the context of project management, governance is the mechanism, rules, regulations and procedures that define how decisions are made and how stakeholders play their roles within a controlled environment. Basically, it is the governing framework for decision-making.

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