

14th CESA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SUSTAINABILITY IMBIZO — 2026 — 19–20 AUGUST PREMIER HOTEL MIDRAND

YP Imbizo Poll: Public Sector Procurement Reform

AON



HATCH



ZUTARI



CESA
School of Consulting Engineering



YPF
Young Professionals Forum

SESSION 7 13:30 – 15:00 | 20 AUGUST 2026

Engineering Leadership, Procurement & Delivery Systems

14th CESA
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
SUSTAINABILITY
IMBIZO
— 2026 —
19–20 AUGUST
PREMIER HOTEL MIDRAND

FACILITATOR



Tshegofatso Shoke
Civil Engineer, Zutari



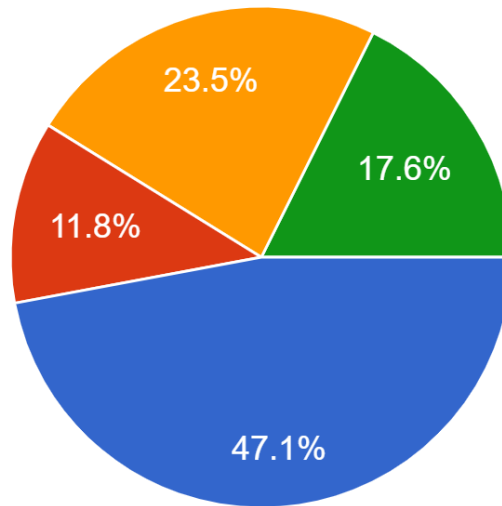
Noel Dube
*YPF Mpumalanga Branch Chair &
Office Manager, Sky High Consulting
Engineers*



Inba Thumbiran
*Head of SCM, National Research
Foundation of South Africa*

1. What is the biggest challenge facing public sector procurement?

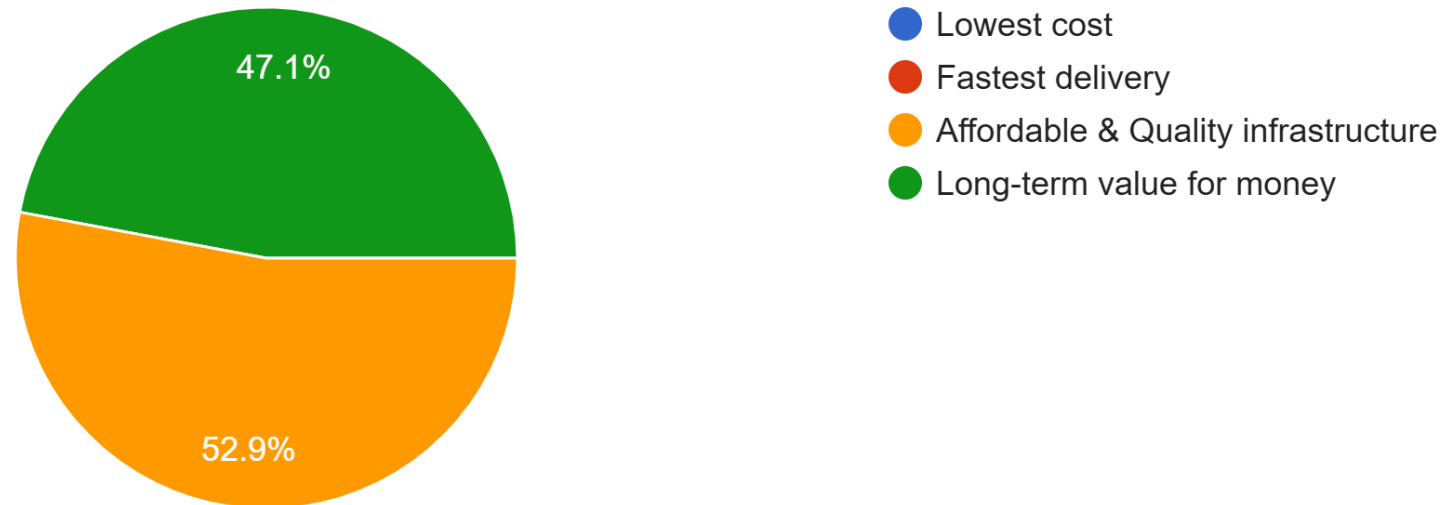
17 responses



- Corruption & unethical conduct
- Lack of technical capacity
- Lowest-price culture
- Poor procurement practices

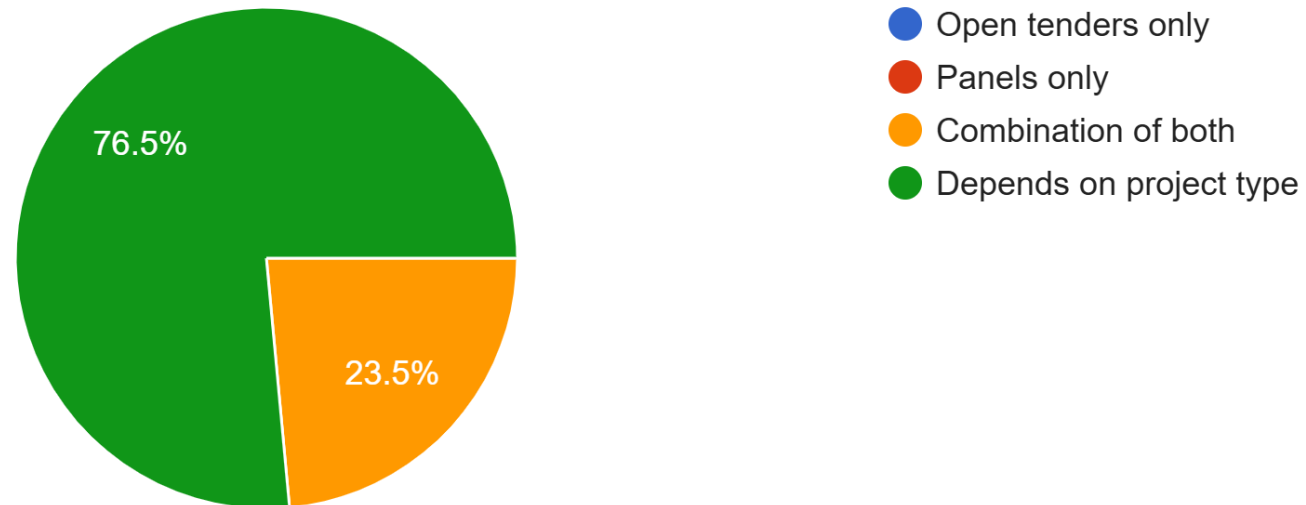
2. What should be the primary objective of procuring engineering services?

17 responses



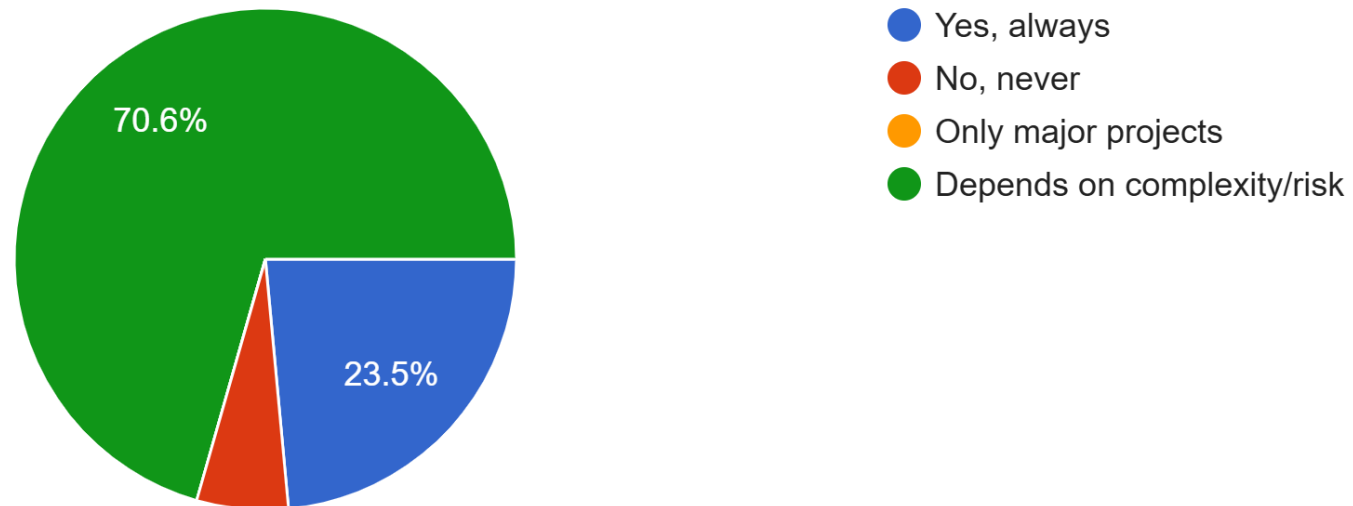
3. How should engineering consulting services be procured?

17 responses



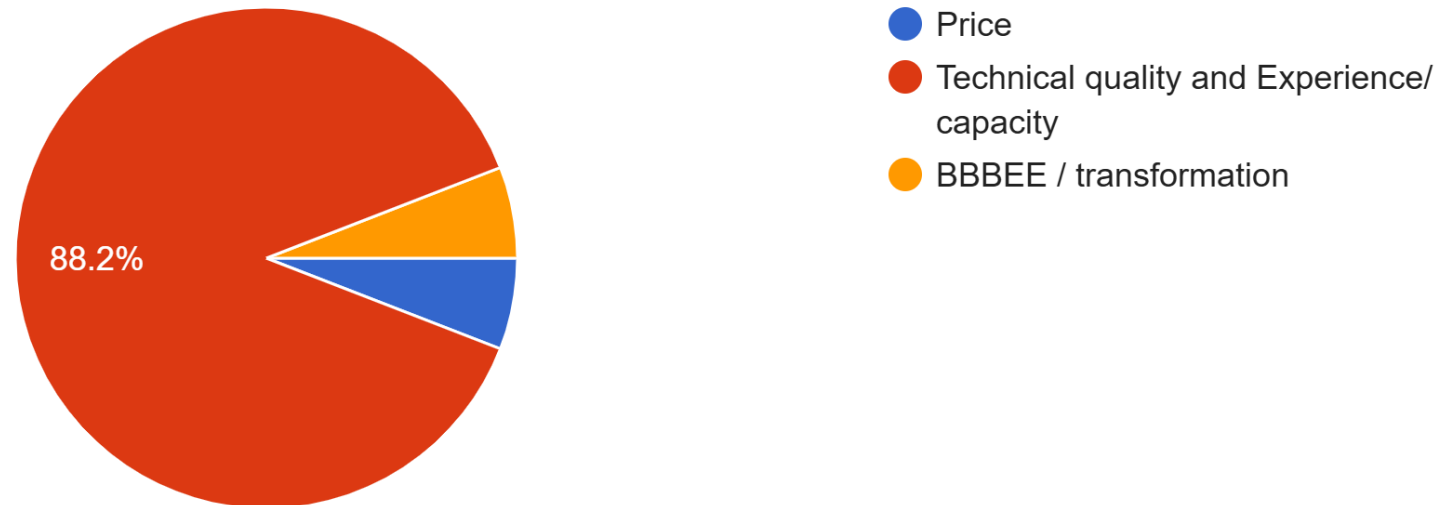
4. Should all engineering services be subjected to competitive open tendering?

17 responses



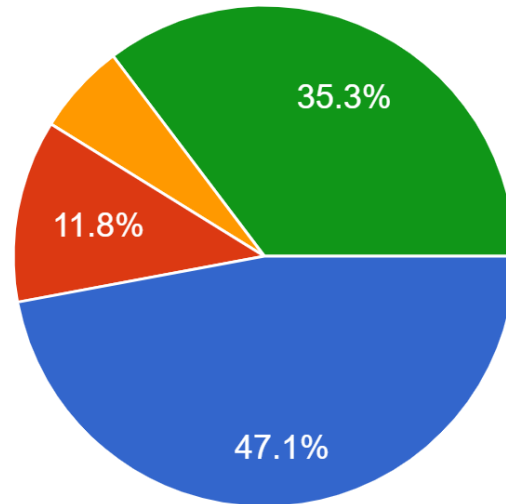
5. What should carry the highest weighting when evaluating engineering tenders?

17 responses



6. Which procurement reform would have the greatest impact?

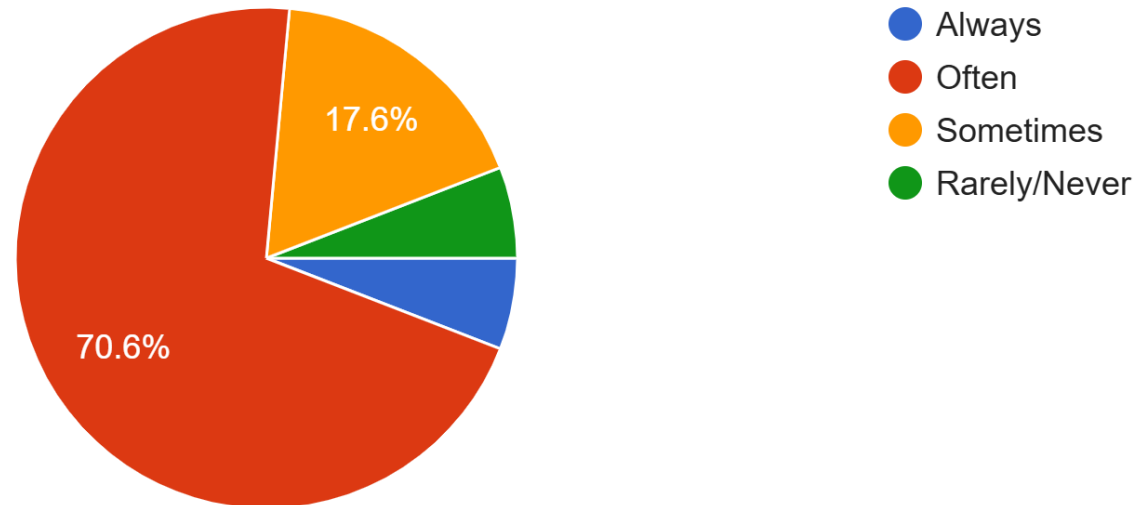
17 responses



- Professionalise SCM
- More engineers in government
- Standardise processes by CIDB SFU
- Stronger accountability

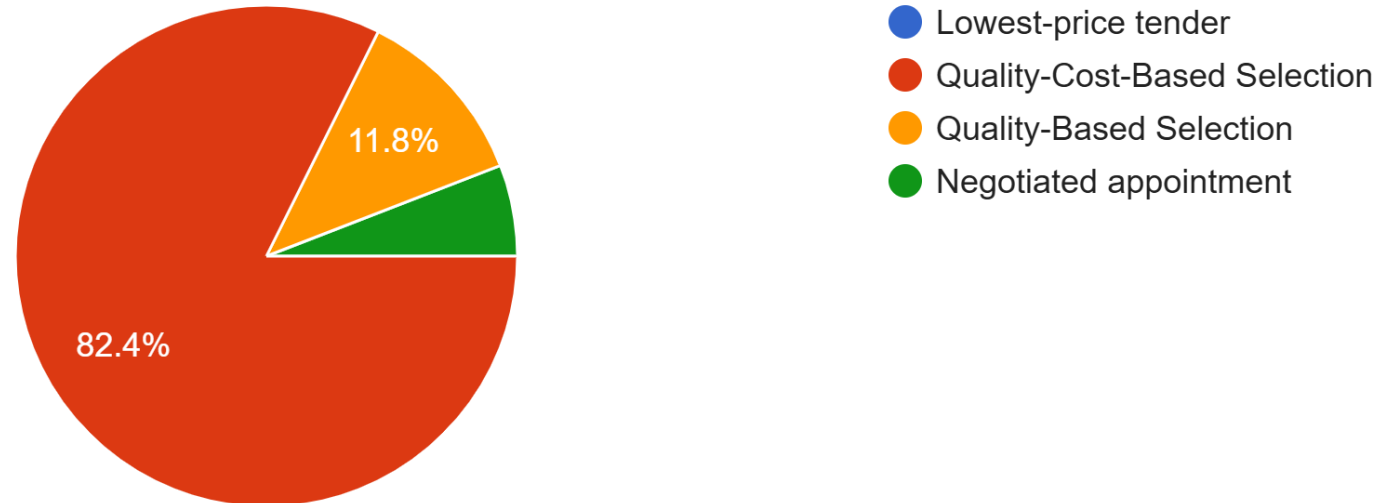
7. How often is quality service and infrastructure sacrificed in favour of price?

17 responses



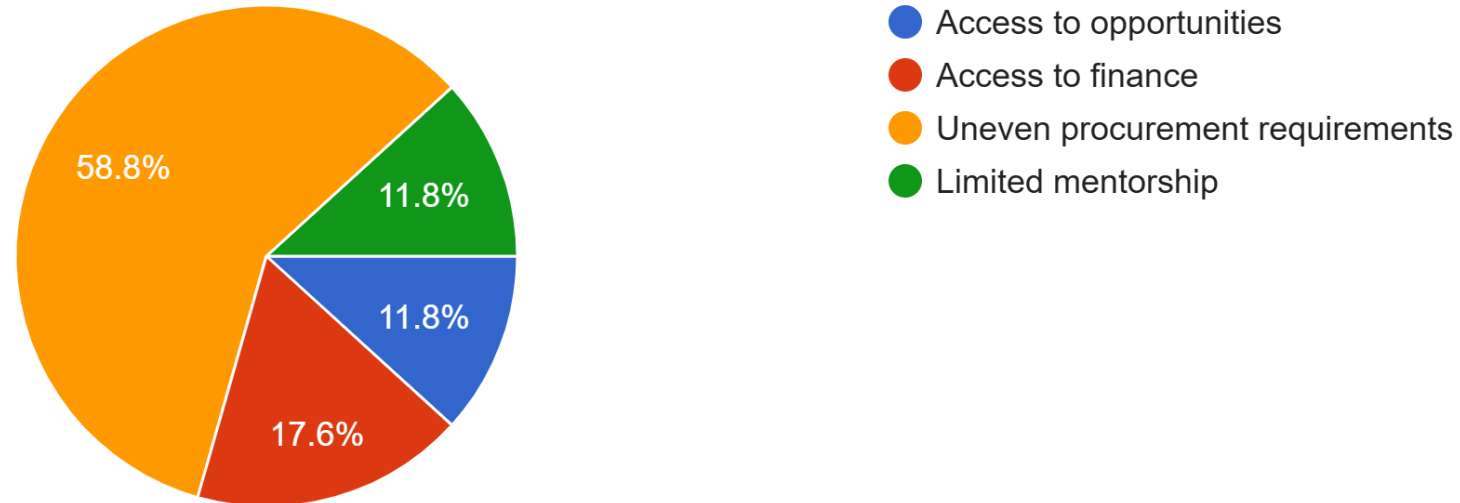
8. What is the best procurement model for complex engineering projects?

17 responses



9. What is the biggest obstacle facing consulting engineering firms?

17 responses



Key Public Procurement Reforms Identified

1. Strengthen Technical Oversight

Ensure qualified technical professionals are involved throughout the procurement lifecycle, from planning and specification development to evaluation, implementation, and close-out.

2. Prioritize Competence and Qualifications

Adopt qualification-based and competence-driven procurement approaches for professional services, particularly engineering and infrastructure projects.

3. Move Beyond Lowest Price

Increase the weighting of technical quality, experience, capability, innovation, and whole-life value rather than focusing primarily on the lowest bid.

4. Improve Transparency and Reduce Bias

Simplify procurement processes, strengthen transparency, and implement measures that minimize subjectivity and opportunities for bias.

5. Enhance Governance and Oversight

Strengthen regulatory compliance, monitoring, and consistent oversight to improve accountability and reduce procurement irregularities.

6. Focus on Long-Term Value

Evaluate bids based on value for money over the asset lifecycle, considering quality, durability, maintenance costs, and service delivery outcomes.

7. Build a More Robust Procurement System

Create a procurement framework that is efficient, resilient, fair, and capable of delivering sustainable infrastructure outcomes.

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Thank You

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