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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58091

Title: From Land Acquisition Risk to Project Success: The Mediating Role of Community Consent and Grievance Redress Mechanism Effectiveness in Ugandas Linear Infrastructure Projects

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision**
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			x	
Techn. Quality		x		
Clarity			x	
Significance		x		

Reviewer's ID: JPR-171

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This study examines the mediating roles of community consent and grievance redress mechanism effectiveness in the relationship between land acquisition risk and project success in Uganda's linear infrastructure projects. The topic is timely and relevant, and the structural equation modelling approach is methodologically sound. However, several major issues require attention.

First, the dataset description is concerning: Appendix A states that the dataset contains a "SIMULATED_FOR_METHOD_TESTING_ONLY" flag, suggesting the data may be simulated. The authors must confirm that the data are genuine field data and provide evidence of ethical approval and data collection procedures. Second, the paper claims to test causal mediation, but the cross-sectional design cannot establish causality; this limitation should be explicitly acknowledged and discussed. Third, the reverse-coding of LA6 and GR11 is mentioned but the original wording of these items is not provided – this should be included to justify the decision. Fourth, the practical recommendations are generic and not clearly derived from the specific findings; they should be better tied to the observed coefficients and mediation effects. Finally, the discussion of project success could more critically engage with the broader literature on success criteria in infrastructure projects.

The authors must clarify data authenticity, address the causal inference limitation, provide item details, and strengthen practical recommendations. A major revision is required.