ABSTRACT

Fussell (1971) noted a lack of cost control in mechanical and electrical services in building works. Grounds (1991) have noted that clients attributed an out-blown construction cost to the failure in estimating the cost of building services accurately.

Somerset (2000), Willis (1987) and Fussell (1971) provide some evidence on this lack of cost control. They noticed that quantity surveyors lack experience in preparing the bills of quantities for mechanical and electrical services. In addition, Grounds (1991) also noticed, “estimates for engineering services are determined by the design consultants with little or no consultation with the appointed quantity surveyor.”

In lieu of the inefficiency of the cost management of building services, this research will emphasize on examining the scope, performance and perceived importance of the competencies and tasks required of the local services engineers in cost management and contract administration of building services.

The result of the analysis shows that although services engineers are actively involved in the cost management and contract administration of building services in construction projects, they are not proficient in most mentioned areas of competencies. It is also found out that despite their heavy involvement in the cost control process of engineering services, engineers do not seem to view cost control as of utmost importance.