

## An inevitable dialogue of Ethics - A Conceptual Analysis of the South African Public Procurement Corruption

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### Abstract

This article discusses the gradual death of ethics by corruption in the South African public procurement realm. The lack of adherence to ethical public procurement procedures has opened up a can of worms, which involves ethical misconduct perceived to be natural. The Government of South Africa has set up mechanisms and anti-corruption bodies to minimize corruption. Although institutions to curb corruption are in progress, they still persist. The ANC-led administration, especially in the advent of public procurement of personal protection equipment (PPEs) for Covid-19, is surrounded by scandals of unethical behaviour. The notion of public ethics is at the center of democracy because of systemic misconduct leading to a lax system of conformity with public ethics. An adverse corruption effect on procurement management in the South African public sector destroys the confidence of the public in the contract setting. The paper is purely theoretical; it is a desktop study that was primarily sponsored by the literary review. The paper takes cognizance of theory of planned behaviour and its ideals to extract and expatiate the argument. The paper claims that unethical procurement practices are hazardous, omnipresent, expensive and can lead to social and economic problems. The study employs articles, books, journals, the web and other publicly available materials to attempt to build up and understand how public procurement may be enhanced and how corruption and other unethical activity cannot be safeguarded. The papers propose and agree that elected authorities have a broader duty to be kept accountable to constituents, and that they thus have to perform their duties with professionalism, fairness, courtesy, and dignity.

**Keywords:** Ethics, Corruption, Public procurement, Government, Compliance, Public administration, Planned Behaviour Theory.

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