

An exploratory study of corruption concomitant to Covid-19 in South Africa

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Abstract

Corruption is a growing concern in South Africa. Cases of alleged corruption of government officials are detailed in the news media on a regular basis, and include allegations targeted at the highest levels of government. The article explores the corruption associated with covid-19 and seek to identify the types of corruption committed during covid-19 in South Africa. This qualitative article adopted a non-empirical research design: Systematic review, indirect observation schedules to identify and describe available research literature 'using systematic and explicit accountable methods and pre-specified formalised tools for searching and integrating literature. The data was collected from March-February 2021. The collected data was analysed through inductive textual content analysis.

The findings revealed that government officials from national, provincial and local levels benefited irregular from the personal protective equipment (PPE) tenders, the findings further indicated that billions of rands from the unemployment insurance fund (UIF) were fraudulently paid to peoples accounts linked to government officials, lastly, the food parcels were purposely distributed to incorrect individuals and not the identified needy individuals. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were developed: the South African Police Service, Directorate for priority crime investigation and national prosecuting authority should investigate, prosecute and impose harsher sentences to those found guilty, asset forfeiture unit should freeze the accounts and seize the personal belongings to recuperate stolen money and to instil accountability, lastly, more resources should be directed to reactive and proactive strategies to prevent corruption in the republic.

Keywords: Corruption; Government officials; Covid-19; PPE; Tenders, South Africa.

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