

## Procurement Dynamics and Threats in South African Local Government

Nokele Sonayena Kenneth

Shopola Moraka Arthur  
Tshwane University of Technology

### Abstract

There is general consensus among global corruption combating organisations, academics, policy – makers alike and supply chain practitioners that public procurement is one of the most vulnerable government activities when it comes to corruption. South African local government is no exception. Since from its early years, South Africa's local government system has demonstrated inertia to deal with procurement fraud and corruption. As a result, billions of rand have been lost to procurement corruption, with the Auditor-General (AG) South Africa countlessly flagging tendering fraud that perpetually cripples municipalities (AG, 2011/2012 - 2019/2020). This article was qualitative in nature and analysed data collected from secondary sources such as government reports, scholastic outputs, and journal publications. As the article found, there is reluctance by municipalities to detect symptoms related to tendering fraud. This is because the available legal instruments are deliberately ignored. Unethical leadership, recklessness by the involved officials and lack of reward systems for ethical practices amongst others are blameable for intentional fraudulent and corrupt activities in the procurement system. As part of contribution, the article culminated into a practice-based approach which suggest a number of actions municipalities need to take, and these include strengthening whistle blowing strategy and establishing independent institution that is solely responsible for combating procurement corruption at the local sphere of government.

**Keywords:** Ethical leadership, public sector, municipalities, tendering, South Africa.

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