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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

Corruption feeding frenzy involving R2.2bn of pandemic relief funds

More than R2.2bn of emergency COVID-19 funds have been stolen in a corruption feeding frenzy, the news embarrassingly emerging just as the International Monetary Fund has agreed to a further R70bn in relief, writes MedicalBrief. More than 90 companies are being investigated in Gauteng alone and the allegations of fraud stretch to an official in the Presidency.

Anti-corruption investigators are probing a slew of allegations that unscrupulous officials and businesses benefited from billions meant to fight **COVID-19**. *Sunday Times* report that deals believed to be worth more than R2.2bn, involving emergency purchases of personal protective equipment (PPE), are at the centre of what one business leader described as a “heart-wrenching, unscrupulous and filthy” feeding frenzy. [Read more](#)

[Back to top](#)



BUSINESS FOR SA | COVID-19

CALL TO ACTION: LOCAL PROCUREMENT APPROACH BEYOND COVID-19

In October 2018, President Cyril Ramaphosa convened the country's second Jobs Summit to address the need to generate a substantial number of new jobs in our country over the coming years. A key deliverable from the Jobs Summit is a Framework Agreement between Government, organised business and organised labour that outlines concrete and measurable steps to achieve set goals in terms of increasing levels of employment.

One of the key areas identified is boosting domestic demand for locally manufactured product to reinvigorate the job market.

The more we procure locally, the more we can manufacture locally. The more we manufacture locally, the better we become at developing a sustainable manufacturing sector to produce for our country's needs in addition to identifying opportunities for export.

This, in turn, increases our production capacity which allows us to, in the first instance, retain existing jobs, and in some cases, create new ones.

Corporate South Africa is encouraged 'to embark on good corporate citizenship campaigns highlighting support for localisation'. To give effect to this, the deliverables from organised business, as contained in the Jobs Summit Framework Agreement, include various measures to implement local procurement. These involve conducting engagements with corporates to identify opportunities for local procurement within respective value chains, and facilitating opportunities for the procurement of locally produced goods.

COVID-19 HAS IMPACTED LOCAL SUPPLY CHAINS

The coronavirus pandemic has caused major disruptions to global markets and has highlighted the vulnerability of our country's reliance on global supply chains. This has been particularly evident in securing medical equipment and PPE. In many cases, the opportunity to procure from local manufacturers would have been beneficial from a pricing and lead-time point of view. This was unfortunately not always possible, as we have not done so in the past, rather favouring the procurement of imported products in many instances.

Our local manufacturing opportunity, however, needs to extend beyond COVID-19 demands, to strengthen and grow our local manufacturing base on an economically feasible and competitive basis. To this end, local procurement advocates have been collaborating to ensure that a holistic approach is applied, prioritizing local procurement in support of economic recovery.

These advocates have formed a Technical Working Committee focused on mobilising corporate to support the localisation agenda. Members of the Technical Working Committee include Business Unity South Africa, Business Leadership South Africa, National Business Initiative, Manufacturing Circle, Proudly South African and The South African Breweries.

CALL TO ACTION FOR CORPORATE SOUTH AFRICA

- Review your procurement practices and give preference in all cases possible, to companies that are manufacturing locally;
- Secure procurement commitments to give preference through your entire supply chain to local manufacturers;
- Earmark procurement opportunities for companies manufacturing locally; and
- Utilise the procurement portal (Market Access Platform) that influences localisation and transformation, to refer and find high performing suppliers and advertise procurement opportunities to local producers and service providers.

[Back to top](#)

WHO MEDICAL DEVICES UPDATE - JULY 2020

The WHO has new technical specifications for the following medical devices for clinical management of COVID patients. T

- PPE
- In-vitro Diagnostics
- the roles of imaging diagnostics
- masks.

You will find links to these, WHO surveys, Training and learning tools and WHO vacancies in their latest newsletter. **Download the newsletter [here](#).**

[Back to top](#)

WILL A COVID-19 VACCINE 'SAVE THE WORLD'?

When the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) emerged in late 2019 and began its spread around the world, the global innovation community mobilized quickly to initiate the development of a vaccine for COVID-19, the disease it causes.

Hundreds of individuals and institutions—in academia, biotechnology, government, and pharmaceuticals—embarked on one of the most consequential scientific endeavours in living memory. Funding poured in from governments, multilateral agencies, not-for-profit institutions, and the private sector. Regulators showed uncanny speed in working with innovators. Now, months later, more than 250 vaccine candidates are being pursued globally, with 30 already in clinical studies and another 25 or so poised to enter human trials in 2020.

Innovators are sprinting to develop inoculations against the novel coronavirus. McKinsey has summarized the latest information on research timelines and the potential impact of a vaccine on the pandemic—and society. [Read more](#)

[Back to top](#)

COVID-19 EVENTS

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Africa Health Business Symposium
1st Webinar series

31st July 2020
4.00pm -5.30pm (EAT)

 Testing, tracking & treating

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| Moderator | Keynote Speaker | Speaker | Speaker | Speaker | Speaker | Speaker |
| Dr. Amit N. Thakker Executive Chairman Africa Health Business | Dr. John Nkengasong Director Africa CDC | Ms. Renuka Gadde Vice President Global health BD | Mr. Marc Matthews Business Development Director Africa LumiraDx | Ms. Ada Mwangola Director Social & Political Pillars Kenya Vision 2030 | Mr. Kennedy Njau Medical Director Sub saharan Africa Astrazeneca | Ms. Manal Halwani Healthcare Industry Leader & Expert EMEA South SAP |

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IHRM: Webinar Update on the Impact of COVID-19

IHRM invites you to join them for a webinar on 31 July at 09h00 when Christoff Raath, Joint CEO of Insight Actuaries and Consultants, will provide an updated analysis on the Impact of COVID-19 on Medical Schemes and Private Hospitals, as South Africa reaches the peak of the pandemic.

For more details or to register [click here.](#)[Back to top](#)

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SAMED is the voice of the South African medical technology industry. The not-for-gain-association was formed in 1985 and aims to provide members with a collective, objective and credible platform to engage with stakeholders. SAMED's members include individual medical technology companies, associate members and associations.

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