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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

## NATIONAL TREASURY ON PROCUREMENT OF PPE FOR COVID-19

The Standing Committee on Finance and the Select Committee on Finance met jointly via a virtual meeting to receive a briefing from National Treasury on the procurement of personal protective equipment and other COVID-19 related purchases by national and provincial departments, state-owned entities and local government institutions in the light of apparent evidence of corruption in the supply of such goods. The Minister of Finance and his deputy were in attendance.

The Minister advised Members that if all parties had followed the correct procurement processes, they would not have been having that particular conversation. The country had re-prioritised the budget in the face of the Covid-19 epidemic and National Treasury had issued the necessary National Treasury Instruction Notes about how to acquire the material for the fight against the pandemic, particularly the personal protective equipment. In an ethical society, everyone would have followed National Treasury Instruction Notes.

In order to be transparent, all details of the companies that had won a COVID-19 related tender with any organ of state would be published, including the cost of the contract, the names of others who had tendered and the date of establishment of the company that had won the bid. The Minister added that South Africa could learn from the common platform and common pricing set by the African Union for all countries purchasing materials. National Treasury announced that the Emergency Procurement for PPE and protective clothing had been concluded because there was no longer a shortage of supply.

Download the minutes of the meeting [here](#).

Download Instruction Note No 5 of 2020/21 [here](#).

Download Instruction Note No 7 of 2020/21 [here](#).

Download Instruction Note No 8 of 2020/21 [here](#).

Download Annexure A - PPE Price List [here](#).

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## STATEMENT FROM BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA (BUSA): CALLS FOR SWIFT ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THEFT

**Crime and corruption harm vulnerable citizens the most**

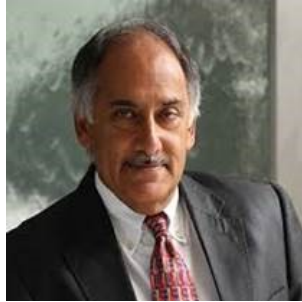
BUSA CEO, Cas Coovadia, commented: "Corruption kills. It kills nurses, doctors, commuters and citizens relying on fake PPE or without any protection because of corruption and theft. Corruption diverts funds from public services to private pockets leaving the most vulnerable in our society at risk. And when funds meant for struggling businesses are stolen or contracts diverted to cronies – then workers go hungry and legitimate business go bankrupt.

"Crime and corruption have a disproportionate impact on the poor, severely reducing access to services like health, public safety and education. Tackling corruption is at the heart of our ambitious plans to reform the economy for all. Only then will all South Africans, especially our most vulnerable, participate in our nation's post-pandemic re-set."

BUSA, together with the Black Business Council, established Business for South Africa (B4SA), which has provided a platform for the South African business sector to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

compounded by many years of economic decline, leading to ratings agency downgrades.

The Economic Recovery Strategy, which urgently calls on all parties in South Africa to cease any form of fraud, highlights crime and corruption as priority focus areas requiring urgent action. Only then can we deliver an inclusive and accelerated economic recovery.



Cas Coovadia  
BUSA CEO

Coovadia added: "There is no doubt corruption impedes investment and service delivery, with a disastrous effect on growth, jobs and public health. There must be a zero-tolerance policy on corruption. We must urgently address procurement corruption and ensure accountability for public funds allocated to supporting small business development".

South Africa must immediately implement all measures available to confront corruption. It is important to utilise both human and financial resources more effectively and address corruption through the concerted attention of both governments and businesses. Honest, competent, and dedicated staff using the latest technology and working with our world-class financial services sector, can quickly turn the tide. Then we can attract investment and grow rapidly.

A vigorous anti-corruption agenda will not be complete without removing all forms of corruption, from public institutions and private firms, and across all sectors that facilitate bribes and criminal transactions. BUSA will continue to demonstrate a zero-tolerance approach to any of its member associations, and their members, shown to be involved in any corrupt activities.

Coovadia concludes: "SA is in danger of becoming a country in which society has lost its moral compass and corruption and looting becomes the norm. We cannot allow this to happen. Leaders across society must call out corruption consistently, irrespective of the parties involved. Government, through President Ramaphosa, must be absolutely unequivocal, publicly, in both condemning corruption as abhorrent and then taking swift, consistent and ruthlessly action to against perpetrators no matter whether they are in political parties, government, the private sector or other organs of civil society. We appreciate the need to investigate and build strong cases against corrupting parties, but we urge that additional resources be devoted to this and that we soon see people in orange overalls."

Only a concerted and collaborative effort – with a focussed crackdown on corruption and theft – will lead South Africans to shared prosperity.

For more information about BUSA, go to <https://www.busa.org.za>

For more information about Business for South Africa, go to <https://www.businessforsa.org>

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## SARS: SECTIONS 19A & 120 OF THE CUSTOMS & EXCISE ACT

SARS has published a rule amendment notice R876 in GG 43608 under sections 19A and 120 of the Customs & Excise Act, 1964. The amendment to Rule 19A.11 provides for further deferral period in respect of payment of excise duties on certain products (DAR201).

Download the notice [here](#).

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## COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

### TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

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|              |                        |            |                        |             |
|--------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 383,398      | ↑ 3,740                | Fatalities | 1.88%                  | 417,200     |
| Active Cases | Relative to Population | 10,621     | Relative to Population | Total Tests |
| 135,777      | 0.9589%                |            | 0.018071%              | 3,267,494   |

| Gauteng        | Western Cape | KwaZulu Natal | Free State | Eastern Cape | Limpopo | Mpumalanga | North West | Northern Cape |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------|------------|------------|---------------|
| 193,561        | 100,213      | 99,386        | 28,909     | 82,578       | 10,711  | 19,455     | 21,933     | 6,802         |
| Daily Increase |              |               |            |              |         |            |            |               |
| 794            | 254          | 1,318         | 539        | 177          | 165     | 216        | 96         | 181           |

- Late on Monday night, [positive cases worldwide](#) were more than 19.95 million, while deaths were more than 732 000.
- The [ministers appointed by the Cabinet](#) to a ministerial task team will only compile and publish details of all Covid-19-related contracts, and will not be investigating them, the government said in a statement about the committee's role.
- [The health ministry](#) has said Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize does not own a personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturing company. The ministry sent out a statement on Monday after it became aware of a message circulating on various social media platforms which claimed that Mkhize owned a PPE manufacturing company.
- [Global restrictions](#) on travel have dealt a devastating blow to African nations who depend on tourists and their hard currency to support an industry that employs millions of people on the continent.
- There is a "vast global gap" between funds needed to fight the coronavirus pandemic and funds committed, [World Health Organization](#) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday, and the WHO was only "10% of the way" there.
- Less [than a third of British people](#) say they would definitely get a coronavirus vaccine, with scientists warning that the UK government and social media companies must fight misinformation for a vaccine to be widely accepted.

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## COVID-19 EVENTS

### REGISTER: FINANCIAL MODEL - PARTNERSHIPS FOR COVID-19 IN AFRICA

COVID-19 has put a strain on the 2030 agenda and closing the health financing gap. With the world coming to a standstill, 2020 is a year to reflect and re-prioritize financing mechanisms and models to improve healthcare access and equity. This includes the challenges that organizations and entrepreneurs are facing when accessing capital and markets. To bridge this gap there is a need for public-private partnerships to promote innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance, pooled finance or pay for performance, that can scale and improve outcomes.

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Africa Health Business Symposium  
1st Webinar Series

## 14th August 2020

### 4.00pm - 5.30pm EAT

## Financing Models

Moderator

**Ms. Zola Mtshiya**  
Director  
Africa Healthcare  
Federation

Keynote Speaker

**Prof. Khama Rogo**  
Founder  
Africa Institute  
for Health Transformation

Speaker

**Dr. Justine Coulson**  
Deputy Regional Director  
East & Southern Africa  
UNFPA

Speaker

**Dr. Philippe Francois**  
Global Head of Life&Health  
International Reinsurance  
Business Development  
AXA

Speaker

**Ms. Oluranti Doherty**  
Head  
Export Development  
African Export-Import Bank

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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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