

MUNICIPALITY’S MONEY MAN ‘SIGNED INFLATED PURCHASE ORDER’

Story adapted from City Press 23 December 2022 for the purposes of the workshop only and for study purposes.

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) is refusing to accept that the Chief Financial Officer of a crucial district municipality XYZ mistakenly authorised inflated purchase orders of irregularly appointed companies to supply personal protective equipment at the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. The President has issued a proclamation for the SIU to investigate allegations of dereliction of duty, gross negligence, and fraud and corruption against senior officials tasked with overseeing the public purse during the emergency procurement of personal protective equipment for the district municipality.

Under the **theme** “unlocking agility in local government: cultivating agile and ethical finance professionals” brainstorm and discuss on:

1. What's preventing local government financial professionals from being agile, whilst remaining ethical?

2. Highlight some of the key challenges faced by finance professionals within local government?

3. Based on your answer for question 2, provide possible solutions and good practices that could be implemented to address such challenges.

4. In light of today's theme, What could have the finance professionals in the scenario done differently to ensure that agility was achieved, whilst they remained ethical and professional?

Instructions:

1. Group Facilitator will be allocated to you
2. Take no more 10 minutes to settle in
3. Nominate the scribe and/rapporteur
4. Ensure that you divide your time equally to allow you to spend sufficient time in all three questions above.
5. When time is up, please get back to plenary and report back – further instruction will be given on which group will go first.
6. Please type your discussion/report back.