



# **The M-Government in Matjhabeng Local Municipality: a panacea for public participation during and after Covid-19**

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## **Abstract**

Since the first case of the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa in 2020, public participation in municipalities took a knock as Covid-19 regulations prohibited large crowds from gathering. Because the Matjhabeng local municipality's valuation roll was about to be renewed, this became a major point of contention. As a result, this article investigated how Matjhabeng local municipality conducted public participation in order to comply with the law during the pandemic. The study is primarily quantitative, but qualitative aspects are also included. According to the findings, the municipality failed to use other platforms to ensure that no one was left behind during the drafting of the rates policy. As a result, it is suggested that the use of m-government in Matjhabeng local municipality could be a panacea to public participation during Covid-19 and even beyond.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, m-government, public participation, property rates, valuation roll