

R.S.R.I.



(Rome Statute Research Institute of South Africa)
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Executive Summary for: Urgent results of research done on spreading of **Covid 19** at airports.

Research Description: After being one of the first persons to go to international airports in Johannesburg and Cape Town, the following alarming evidence was discovered:

1. Almost all passengers (after sanitizing their hands) entering the airport premises, make use of trolleys for their luggage. At no trolley points were there any **sanitized paper towel dispensers** or sanitizers available.
2. After stopping the trolley at check-in counters, the passenger loads the luggage on a weighing conveyor.
3. Suitcases are then loaded from the conveyor on to aircraft(s). Some handlers had gloves on, but the **Covid 19** virus could be already on the handles, and thus also on the hands or gloves.
4. At the destination airport the same will happen and the virus is deposited on handles of hundreds of suitcases.
5. When exiting airport buildings, all passengers had masks on, but a lot touched their eyes.
6. It was found that on an aircraft, the air-conditioning units, irritates the eyes, but when leaving the airport buildings, the air, irritates the eyes, causing people to touch their eyes. The virus enters now the body not through the mouth and nose (because of masks), but through the eyes!
7. A researcher was sent to Durban international airport, and the same was discovered.
8. Findings were discussed with qualified medical doctors and with post graduate medical students.
9. The conclusion was that it is highly possible that the virus is spread in South Africa from one province to another by means of trolleys.
10. With holiday season commencing globally, a rapid response must be taken.
11. Our office hereby sends out an URGENT warning to the **World Health Organisation**, and all airports globally should be warned to **take precautions now**. This action will help contain the spread of Covid 19 at these vital areas.

National Proposed action: There are **90** airports in South Africa, comprising of **3** international, **6** main and the rest smaller airports. The RSRI will be able to extend their research, assist with training, and even implement a "stop and go" for all airport trolleys nationally.

Approach:

- Appoint 40 researchers in key areas. 4-6 junior researchers (per airport) . All with full PPE.
- Stop operation of all trolleys. Sanitize/sterilise all trolleys. Label each sanitised trolley
- Install sanitised towel dispensers and supply gloves to trolley and luggage handlers.
- Assist the public at airports of safe handling of items BEFORE leaving airport building
- Train airport staff for sanitation procedures of trolleys and luggage handles
- Monitor implementation
- Audit and reports for stakeholders such as W.H.O.

Challenges: Airport management not willing or not able to impose measures.

Financial Projections:

	FY Dec 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Operating Income required	80 000 Euro	250 000 Euro	100 000 Euro
	Immediate action	Full response	Monitor only

Number of Employees: 150 (40 permanent RSRI, 360 for duration of project)

Grant Sought: 430 000 Euro over three years

Use of Funds: Immediate warnings, rapid response, further research, involve media and other organisations

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