

FMF COVID-19 lockdown project

Work completed to date (updated 26 January 2021)

Compiled and monitored by Chris Hattingh

On 27 March 2020, the harshest lockdown in the world was implemented on the people of South Africa. The fear of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, pushed the government to implement a lockdown that was infused with irrational, non-sensical rules and regulations. While some could continue to work from home while their offices were forced to close, millions of South Africans were expected to stay confined to the tiny confines of their shacks in the townships, and could no longer operate the businesses on which they and their families depend.

The lockdown has beaten-down an already seriously ill economy; SA's GDP was only expected to 'grow' by between 1-2% before COVID-19 struck. Instead of allowing as much of business and entrepreneurship to continue (with the necessary health recommendations), the government took the hammer approach – South Africans will be reeling for decades to come from this draconian approach.

The Free Market Foundation recognised the extraordinary threat posed by the lockdown on South Africans' lives and ability to earn a livelihood. Through special focus on the Rule of Law, Constitutional, and economic freedom aspects, the FMF has sought to both educate citizens of the devastating effects of this lockdown, as well as pushing back against the different rules and regulations that have resulted therefrom.

Through reports, articles, media releases, social media activism, podcasts, and third party engagement, the FMF has added a strong, consistent, and significant voice in the broader civil society resistance to the virtual-overnight stripping away of people's civil liberties and economic freedoms.

Research, submissions & policy documents

- [Constitutional rights and their limitations: A critical appraisal of the COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa \(African Human Rights Law Journal\)](#) – Martin van Staden
- [Steps necessary to revitalise and create long term growth in the South African economy](#) – Rob Jeffrey
- [Automated lockdown easing: A unique approach](#) – Mpiyakhe Dhlamini
- [Civil liberty during a state of disaster or emergency in SA](#) – Martin van Staden
- [Economic freedom in a time of crisis: an FMF proposal to National Treasury](#) – Jacques Jonker

Articles

- Letter: Taxes for vaccines is a disgrace by Chris Hattingh
 - o [BusinessDay](#)
- The collateral damage of the lockdown continues to unfold by Chris Hattingh
 - o Daily Maverick 168 newspaper
- South Africa's lockdown policies exacerbated hunger crisis by Riaan Salie
- Lockdowns Have Pushed South Africa's Economy to the Brink – Chris Hattingh
 - o [FEE](#)
- Ideal time to push ahead with health-care reforms – Chris Hattingh
 - o [BusinessDay](#)
- How the language of lockdown undermines the rule of law – Rex van Schalkwyk
 - o [BizNews](#)
- EWC not the answer for post-COVID-19 South Africa – Chris Hattingh
 - o [BizNews](#)
 - o [Tech4Law](#)
- Proposed lockdown 'developmental mandate' for the Reserve Bank is unconstitutional – Jacques Jonker
 - o [City Press](#)
- The COVID-19 response shows government can't handle NHI – Chris Hattingh
 - o [African Liberty](#)
 - o Med Suite Media (17 digital magazines; June 2020 Edition)
 - o [IT-Online](#) (as *Covid-19 response doesn't bode well for NHI*)
 - o [Automotive Business Review](#)
- Draconian lockdown forces hard choices – Chris Hattingh
 - o [African Liberty](#) (as *Draconian Lockdown forces hard Choices in South Africa*)

- [MyBroadband](#) (as *South Africans are forced to break lockdown rules – FMF*)
 - [BusinessBrief](#)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
 - [IT-Online](#)
- We need government, but we need civil society even more – James Peron
 - [City Press](#)
- Structural reform is necessary to repay the costs of the lockdown – Sindile Vabaza
 - [City Press](#)
- Time in lockdown has been wasted – Chris Hattingh
 - [African Liberty](#) (as *South Africa Lockdown is Valuable Time Wasted*)
 - [The Citizen](#) (quoted in *Govt wasted lockdown time which wrecked the economy – experts*)
 - The Citizen newspaper (Johannesburg edition; KZN edition; Country edition) (quoted in *Preparation For Peak 'Was Wasted'*)
 - [IT-Online](#) (as *Has time in lockdown been wasted?*)
 - Med Suite Media (17 digital magazines; May 2020 Edition)
- Veiled threats against free speech are an attack on democracy – Riaan Salie
 - [City Press](#)
- A plea to free everyone and end lockdown – Eustace Davie
 - [BizNews](#)
- The rule of law was undermined and the consequences are showing – Jacques Jonker
 - [City Press](#)
- COVID-19 lockdown is exacerbating SA's economic woes – Chris Hattingh
 - [African Liberty](#) (as *COVID-19 Lockdown is making SA's already Bad Economy, Worse*)
 - [Gay Pages](#)
 - [IT-Online](#)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
- South Africa's Lockdown Is Especially Severe – Chris Hattingh
 - [Foundation for Economic Education](#)
- Defending and advancing liberalism in South Africa after Covid-19 – Martin van Staden
 - [City Press](#)
- The lockdown is not prima facie lawful – Prof Robert Vivian
 - [African Liberty](#)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)

- [IT-Online](#) (as *Is SA's lockdown lawful?*)
- End lockdown - Free our children and grandchildren! – Eustace Davie
 - [BizNews](#)
 - Post (KwaZulu Natal) newspaper (as *End the lockdown... free our children and grandchildren*)
 - [IT-Online](#) (as *Call for SA's young citizens to be freed from lockdown*)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
- To tackle COVID-19 we need trade collaboration and innovation – Jasson Urbach
 - [BDLive](#)
 - [BizNews](#)
 - [African Liberty](#)
 - [BusinessBrief](#)
 - [IT-Online](#)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
- Variety is life, beware of the uniformity emerging from the pandemic – James Peron
 - [City Press](#)
- We cannot be locked down until a vaccine is found – Gail Day
 - [BusinessBrief](#)
- 'Flattening the curve' was intended for the virus, not the economy – Chris Hattingh
 - [BizNews](#)
 - [Daily Friend](#)
 - [African Liberty](#)
 - [BusinessBrief](#)
 - [IT-Online](#)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
- The t-shirt police – Gail Day
 - [Daily Dispatch](#)
- Lockdown, Tyranny and the Rule of Law – Rex van Schalkwyk
 - [African Liberty](#)
 - [BizNews](#) (as *SA Covid-19 lockdown is UNLAWFUL: Retired judge Van Schalkwyk unpacks the legal issues*)
 - [IT-Online](#)
 - [Gay Pages](#)
- Government is flouting the Rule of Law! – Jacques Jonker
 - [BusinessBrief](#)

- Covid-19: Let's abandon the fake news paranoia – Martin van Staden
 - [City Press](#)
- A wealth tax is not the kind of structural reform SA needs – Chris Hattingh
 - [BDLive](#)
 - [Global Advisors](#)
- South Africa's Coronavirus Repression Signals Worse To Come – Jasson Urbach and Richard Tren
 - [The Federalist](#)
- SA needs real structural reform, not more jurists and philosophers – Martin van Staden
 - [BDLive](#)
 - [Global Advisors](#)
 - [Head Topics](#)
- Nationalising healthcare to save lives in SA, a disastrous consideration – Jasson Urbach
 - [Med Brief Africa](#)
- Civil liberties are being threatened accompanied by thunderous applause – Jacques Jonker
 - [African Liberty](#)
 - [IT-Online](#) (as *SA urged to guard civil liberties*)
- A call for strengthened private and public healthcare systems in time of COVID-19 – Unathi Kwaza
 - [Med Brief Africa](#)
- How Covid-19 has shattered the lives of self-employed South Africans – Erik Peers
 - [City Press](#)
- SA tourism on the ropes with little help from government – Neil Emerick
 - [BDLive](#)
- Ramaphosa's handling of Covid-19 and the complexities of statesmanship – Phumlani M. Majozi
 - [News24](#)
- Moody's should not be made the scapegoat for government's failures – Jacques Jonker
 - [Daily Maverick](#)
- Pandemics are costly and destructive, no matter what we do – James Peron
 - [City Press](#)
- Small businesses hit hard by national lockdown – Unathi Kwaza
 - [City Press](#)

- Letter: All work is essential – Chris Hattingh
 - [BDLive](#)
 - Business Day newspaper
- Comply with the lockdown, but don't judge those who don't – Martin van Staden
 - [BusinessBrief](#)
- Government should beware of inadvertently taking lives in its attempt to save them – Jacques Jonker
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
 - [BusinessBrief](#)
 - [Gay Pages](#)
 - Mentioned on [Netwerk24](#) (in *Skrap konsep van 'noodsaaklik', pleit ekonome*)
- Post-Covid-19 SA will need a natural 'stimulus package' – Sindile Vabaza
 - [City Press](#)
 - [Head Topics](#)
- Right now it is overkill to require network providers to infringe our right to privacy – Martin van Staden
 - [BDLive](#)
- Die COVID-19-afsondering: juridies en prakties gedoem – Martin van Staden
 - [Solidariteit](#)
 - [Maroela Media](#)
- Is locked-down SA a frog in the warming Covid-19 pot? – Rex van Schalkwyk
 - [BDLive](#)
- COVID-19: Consider the unintended consequences of the lockdown – Chris Hattingh
 - The Herald newspaper
 - [African Liberty](#) (as *Unintended Consequences of COVID-19 Lockdown in South Africa*)
 - [IT-Online](#)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
 - [Property24](#) (as *The unintended consequences of Covid-19 we should all consider*)
 - [SAHomes4Sale](#)
 - [SureLetting](#)
- Staat bly onderhewig aan die Grondwet en oppergesag van die reg – Jacques Jonker
 - [Maroela Media](#)
- Beware the constitutional void during the lockdown – Martin van Staden
 - [BusinessBrief](#)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)

- Steps the government can take to help the economy survive Covid-19 – Jasson Urbach
 - o [BDLive](#) (online and in print)
 - o [BizNews](#) (as *Ditch ailing SOEs and VAT for pharmaceuticals to help economy survive the virus*)
 - o [Times Select](#)
- We can ill afford to play fast and loose with civil liberties – Martin van Staden
 - o [BDLive](#)
- Covid-19 is no excuse for spendthrift policies – Mpiyakhe Dhlamini
 - o [City Press](#)
- Step aside govt, let private sector build capacity in the health sector – Martin van Staden
 - o [BizNews](#) (as *How legislation could hamper the response to coronavirus*)

Media releases

- South Africa cannot afford another hard lockdown
 - o [BusinessTech](#) (as *Government dismisses talk of harder lockdown for South Africa*)
 - o [Polity](#) (as *South Africa cannot afford another hard lockdown*)
 - o [The Soweto Gazette](#) (as *Government dismisses talk of harder lockdown for South Africa*)
 - o [Business Pages](#) (as *Government dismisses talk of harder lockdown for South Africa*)
 - o [Oudtshoorn Courant](#) (as *South Africa cannot afford another hard lockdown*)
 - o [George Herald](#) (as *South Africa cannot afford another hard lockdown*)
 - o [Suid-Kaap Forum](#) (as *South Africa cannot afford another hard lockdown*)
 - o [Knysa-Plett Herald](#) (as *South Africa cannot afford another hard lockdown*)
 - o [Mossel Bay Advertiser](#) (as *South Africa cannot afford another hard lockdown*)
 - o [Graaff-Reinet Advertiser](#) (as *South Africa cannot afford another hard lockdown*)
 - o [Eminetra](#) (as *South Africa can't afford another hard lockdown: it's a dull, brutal tool-FMF*)
 - o Daily News newspaper
 - o Groot FM radio station (as *Free Market Foundation says hard lockdown not feasible*)
 - o kykNET TV (as *Free Market Foundation says hard lockdown not feasible*)
 - o kykNET TV (as *Free Market Foundation says hard lockdown not feasible*)
 - o [IOL](#) (mentioned in *Lifting lockdown contributed to spike in Covid-19 infections: International Study*)
 - o [Diamond Fields Advertiser](#) (mentioned in *International study shows lifting lockdown contributed to spike in infections*)
 - o [Medical Brief](#) (mentioned in *Ramaphosa dismisses rumours of a second hard lockdown*)

- The Reporter (Barkly-Oos/East) newspaper (mentioned in *South African Economy Won't Survive Another Hard Lockdown*)
- Emergency Budget: Half of all revenue will go to public sector workers for "the important work (they) do"
 - Alex News newspaper (as *Budget questioned by local foundation*)
 - Sandton Chronicle newspaper (as *Budget questioned by locals*)
- Minister Tito Mboweni needs to go further than mere zero-based budgeting
 - [IT-Online](#)
- Signs that cigarette ban may last to level 1; it should be reversed immediately
 - [MyBroadband](#) (as *Cigarette ban in South Africa may last until 2021 – FMF*)
 - [Dispatch Live](#) (as *Will the tobacco ban be rolled into SA's level 3 lockdown regulations?*)
 - [Retail Brief Africa](#)
 - [Herald Live](#) (as *Will the tobacco ban be rolled into SA's level 3 lockdown regulations?*)
 - [Talk Of The Town](#) (as *Will the tobacco ban be rolled into SA's level 3 lockdown regulations?*)
 - [The South African](#) (as *Cigarette ban may very well last until lockdown Level 1*)
 - [Times Live](#) (as *Will the tobacco ban be rolled into SA's level 3 lockdown regulations?*)
 - [Sowetan Live](#) (as *Will the tobacco ban be rolled into SA's level 3 lockdown regulations?*)
 - [IOL](#) (as *Cigarette and alcohol sales may remain banned until 2021 - FMF CEO*)
 - [Head Topics](#) (as *Cigarette and alcohol sales may remain banned until 2021 - FMF CEO*)
 - [GO! & Express](#) (as *Will the tobacco ban be rolled into SA's level 3 lockdown regulations?*)
 - [News365](#) (as *Free Market Foundation says Cigarette ban in South Africa may last until 2021*)
 - [Accounting Weekly](#) (as *Will the tobacco ban be rolled into SA's level 3 lockdown regulations?*)
 - [Isolezwe](#) (as *Ukudayiswa kukagwayi notshwala kungenzeka kuvalwe unyaka wonke*)
 - [African News Agency](#) (as *Where is government's proof of smoking link to Covid-19? asks FMF*)
 - [Maroela Media](#) (as *Tabakverbod dalk nog maande met SA, waarsku stigting*)
- Informal traders gather in defiance of Lockdown ahead of civil disobedience campaign.
 - [Network24](#) (as *Honger, 'desperate' straatverkopers beplan optog*)
 - [Maroela Media](#) (as *Straatverkopers wil betoog teen afsondering*)
 - Cape Argus newspaper (as *Traders' Meeting On Civil Disobedience*)
 - The Witness newspaper (as *Street Traders To Gather In Defiance Of Lockdown Rules*)
- Tax Freedom Day comes early in 2020, but, thanks to Lockdown, this is not good news.
 - [Network24](#)
 - [IT-Online](#) (as *Tax Freedom Day for 2020 is elusive*)
 - Beeld newspaper (as *Taksvry Dag Vroeer*)

- Volksblad newspaper (as *Taksvry Dag Vroeer*)
- Burger Oos Kaap newspaper (as *Taksvry Dag Vroeer*)
- Burger Kaap newspaper (as *Taksvry Dag Vroeer*)
- Burger Suid Kaap newspaper (as *Taksvry Dag Vroeer*)
- World Intellectual Property Day: IP More Important Than Ever In The Age Of COVID-19
- Past government policy wrecked the economy. Change is essential.
 - [Real Estate Investor](#)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
- Public policy experts: Lockdown/COVID-19 presents an opportunity for reform
 - [African Liberty](#) (as *South Africa's Lockdown is a good Opportunity for Real Structural Reforms*)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
- There is no uncertainty about the economic disaster caused by the lockdown
 - [African News Agency](#) (as *End lockdown, promote healthy behaviour, get people back to work to save economy – FMF*)
 - [Berea Mail](#) (as *#Covid-19: Hawkers, vendors among the most vulnerable during lockdown*)
 - Mentioned on [MyBroadband](#) (in *Sale of cigarettes, alcohol, and fast food during lockdown to be considered – Report*)
 - Mentioned on [MyBroadband](#) (in *South Africa's biggest GDP decline since the Great Depression expected*)
 - [Times Live](#) (as *Lockdown is costing SA an estimated R10bn a day, says FMF*)
 - [Herald Live](#) (as *Lockdown is costing SA an estimated R10bn a day, says FMF*)
 - [Sowetan Live](#) (as *Lockdown is costing SA an estimated R10bn a day, says FMF*)
 - [Dispatch Live](#) (as *Lockdown is costing SA an estimated R10bn a day, says FMF*)
 - Mentioned on kykNET television channel
 - [The South African](#) (as *'SA losing R10 billion a day during lockdown' – Free Market Foundation*)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
 - [BusinessBrief](#)
 - [IT-Online](#)
 - [Freight & Trading Weekly](#) (as *To lockdown or not to lockdown?*)
- New report: Constitutional validity of coronavirus lockdown regulations is disputable
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)
- Beware benign interpretation of government power in times of crisis
 - FutureWave Business IT magazine (as *Keep a watch on civil liberties*)
 - [Automotive Business Review](#)

- Government must not devastate the informal sector
 - o [African Liberty](#) (as *SA's Response to COVID-19 must not Kill the Informal Sector*)
 - o [Automotive Business Review](#)
- COVID-19 highlights the critical need for more spectrum to lower cost of data
 - o [MyBroadband](#) (as *If the government wants free data, it should provide it – FMF*)
 - o [ITWeb](#) (as *Free Market Foundation calls for more spectrum, defends telcos*)
 - o [IT-Online](#) (as *Covid-19 highlights need for more spectrum to lower data cost*)
 - o [Polity](#)
 - o Business Report (in Mercury newspaper)
 - o Business Report (in The Star newspaper)
 - o Business Report (in Pretoria News newspaper)
 - o Business Report (in Cape Times newspaper)

CEO statements

- On the declaration of the illegality of lockdown regulations
 - o [BizNews](#)
 - o [Automotive Business Review](#)
- From which planet our lockdown tobacco law?
 - o [IOI](#) (as *From which planet does our lockdown tobacco law come from? asks FMF*)
 - o Phalaphala FM (on air in *Free Market Foundation has slams Police Minister Bheki Cele*)
 - o [SABC news](#) (as *Louw slams Cele's warning that cigarette users need to provide proof of purchase*)
 - o [Town Press](#) (as *Louw slams Cele's warning that cigarette users need to provide proof of purchase*)
 - o [African News Agency](#) (as *From which planet our lockdown tobacco law? asks FMF*)
 - o [Diamond Fields Advertiser](#) (as *From which planet are our lockdown tobacco laws? asks FMF*)

Interviews

- [Ramaphosa offended rule of law with "immediate" alcohol ban – Legal analyst](#) – 18 July 2020 on *MyBroadband* – Jacques Jonker
- The effect of lockdown on South Africa – 09 July 2020 on *Galaxy Universal Network* – Chris Hattingh
- [Free Market Foundation | Govt forcing people to ignore lockdown regulations](#) – 02 July 2020 on *eNCA* – Chris Hattingh
- [The sale of tobacco products are still banned](#) – 27 June 2020 on *eNCA* – Leon Louw
- [Episode 47 LIVE | Chris Hattingh](#) – 06 June 2020 on *ManPatria* – Chris Hattingh
- [Die Ongrondwetlike en Irrasionele Inperking](#) – 06 June 2020 on *Podlitiek* – Martin van Staden

- [Leon Louw unpacks Davis judgement which lays into NDZ's "irrational" lockdown regulations](#) – 03 June 2020 on *BizNews* – Leon Louw
- High Court judgment that declared certain lockdown regulations unconstitutional – 03 June 2020 on *Kaya FM* – Martin van Staden
- [Focus on the economy](#) – 01 June 2020 on *SAFM* – Leon Louw
- [Is the lockdown lawful?](#) – 31 May 2020 on *Brain in a Vat* – Martin van Staden
- [The Economics of Lockdown and Re-Opening Africa amidst COVID-19](#) – 30 May 2020 on *African Liberty* – Leon Louw
- [What is Bheki Cele smoking?](#) – 26 May 2020 on *Cape Talk* – Leon Louw
- Lockdown and the free market – 21 May 2020 with *Education Africa* – Leon Louw
- [Unshackling the Economy](#) – 19 May 2020 on *Conscious Caracal* – Leon Louw
- [Is social & economic pressure breaking the petty politics of the lockdown?](#) – 15 May 2020 on *The Big Daddy Liberty Show* – Mpiyakhe Dhlamini
- [Free Market Foundation's research on SA's COVID-19 lockdown](#) – 13 May 2020 on *SABC* – Martin van Staden
- [Coronavirus restrictions are turning South Africa into a police state](#) – 12 May 2020 on *MyBroadband* – Jacques Jonker
- [Effect of the lockdown](#) – 12 May 2020 on *Chai FM* – Chris Hattingh
- [Lockdown, tyranny, and the rule of law](#) – 12 May 2020 on *Classic FM* – Rex van Schalkwyk
- [Empathy & iPhones](#) – 07 May 2020 on *CliffCentral* – Unathi Kwaza
- [The Rule of Law and the Rise of the Surveillance State in Africa amidst COVID-19](#) – on *African Liberty* – Martin van Staden
- [To ease the lockdown regulations or not?](#) – 24 April 2020 on *Power FM* – Unathi Kwaza
- [Covid-19 & The Lockdown From An Economic Perspective](#) – 16 April 2020 on *Salaamedia* – Jacques Jonker
- [SAA braces for liquidation](#) – 15 April 2020 on *Classic FM* – Leon Louw
- FMF foresees big hits to the economy – 13 April 2020 on *Newzroom Afrika* – Leon Louw
- Vryemarkstiging praat oor COVID-19 – 13 April 2020 on *RSG* – Leon Louw
- FMF on regulations – 11 April 2020 on *eNCA* – Martin van Staden
- [Post COVID -19 how will the economy look](#) – 08 April 2020 on *SAfm* – Leon Louw
- SAL & die effek van die coronavirus op die ekonomie – 30 March 2020 on *RSG* – Leon Louw

Mentions (FMF, Leon Louw, staff writers, outside writers, etc.)

- [Real Estate Investor magazine](#) (in *Economic Change Essential Post COVID-19*) – mentions Leon Louw
- [Getting to grips with business interruption cover during pandemic](#) (FA News) – mentions Professor Robert Vivian
- [Netwerk24](#) (in *R20 per sigaret: Is dit dalk rokers se lot tot vlak 1?*) – mentions Leon Louw
- [MyBroadbank](#) (in *Latest COVID-19 case numbers in South Africa*) – mentions Leon Louw
- Beeld newspaper (in *As NDZ haar sin kry:*) – Mentions FMF
- Die Burger newspaper (in *As NDZ haar sin kry:*) – mentions FMF
- Volksblad newspaper (in *NDZ duld g'n rook of drink*) – mentions FMF
- PowerFM (on air in *Ban of cigarettes to continue*) – mentions FMF

Social media

FMF social media channels (from lockdown, 27 March 2020; updated October 2020)

- New followers/subscribers
 - o Facebook: +514
 - o Twitter: +616
 - o YouTube: +448
- New views: +44,400

Podcasts

(16,775 total views on YouTube; 257 plays on Anchor FM (Apple podcasts, Spotify, etc.))

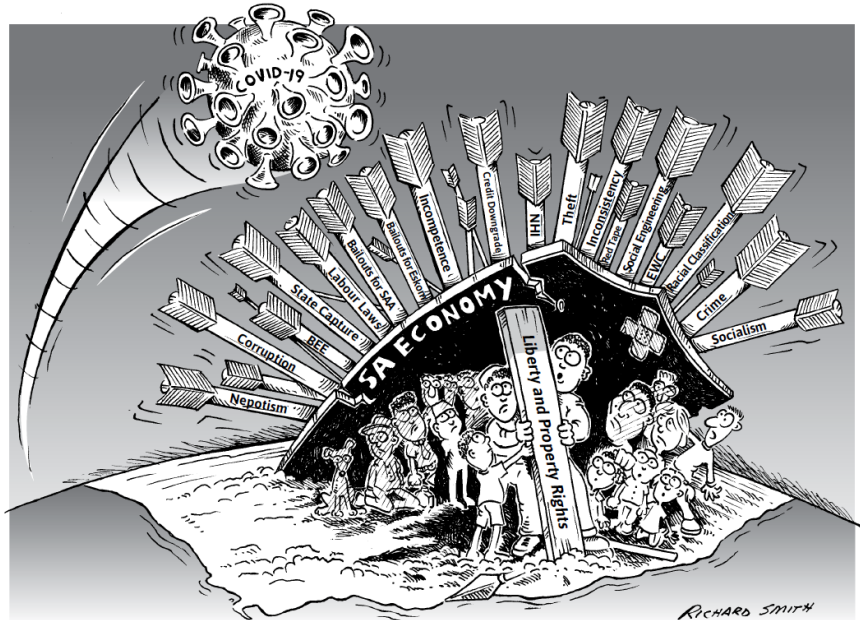
- [UK lockdown 2.0 and upcoming US election - Free Marketeers](#)
(158 views)
- [Lockdown 2020: Undermining liberty - A discussion with Jeffrey Tucker](#)
(545 views)
- [Education on ice and restaurant industry takes to the streets - Free Marketeers](#)
(211 views)
- [What it means to be a South African? Lockdown effects revealed – Mpiyakhe Dhlamini](#)
(175 views)
- [The alcohol ban returns – Mpiyakhe Dhlamini](#)
(248 views)
- [NHI lockdown fail, SAA to receive more funding...from somewhere – Free Marketeers](#)
(180 views)
- [Breaking down the COVID-19 emergency budget with Dawie Roodt - Free Marketeers](#)
(1,072 views)
- [COVID-19 & lockdown impact on National Budget - Free Marketeers](#)
(281 views)
- [Centralising SA's healthcare now would be fatal - A conversation with Henru Kruger - Free Marketeers](#)
(255 views)
- [Police, race, lockdown, and capitalism - Free Marketeers](#)
(485 views)
- [The de-industrialisation of the world - A conversation with Johan Norberg - Free Marketeers](#)
(402 views)

- [2020 World No Freedom Day - A conversation with Leon Louw - Free Marketeers](#)
(310 views)
- [Government brutality and QE on the horizon - Free Marketeers](#)
(366 views)
- [Solve the education crisis; free the market - A conversation with James Urdang - Free Marketeers](#)
(226 views)
- [SA's most important economy: The informal sector - A conversation with GG Alcock - Free Marketeers](#)
(534 views)
- [How can businesses navigate the lockdown? - A conversation with Cornelius Gouws - Free Marketeers](#)
(352 views)
- [Is the NCCC legitimate? A conversation with Erin Richards - Free Marketeers](#)
(3,863 views)
- [COVID-19 & SMEs in South Africa: A conversation with Pavlo Phitidis - Free Marketeers](#)
(579 views)
- [SA needs radical economic transformation – Free Marketeers](#)
(782 views)
- [COVID-19 lockdown update & the fragility of civil liberties - Free Marketeers](#)
(433 views)
- [COVID-19 relief package & structural reform: A conversation with Dawie Roodt - Free Marketeers](#)
(2,174 views)
- [New lockdown regulations: a conversation with Adv Mark Oppenheimer - Free Marketeers](#)
(1,311 views)
- [COVID-19: A view from the UK & potential impact on global trade - Chris Hattingh & Alexander Hammond](#)
(282 views)
- [COVID-19 update, privacy concerns, & the best policies for SA going forward - Free Marketeers](#)
(420 views)

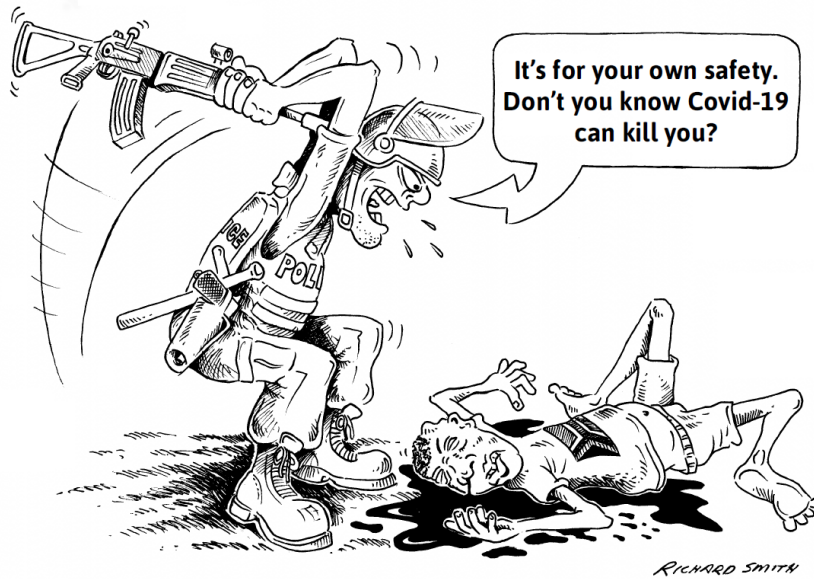
- [The COVID-19 lockdown does not justify lax citizenship - Free Marketeers](#)
(404 views)
- [COVID-19 update and repo rate cut - Free Marketeers](#)
(498 views)
- [COVID-19 impact and SAX business rescue - Free Marketeers](#)
(387 views)

FMF cartoons

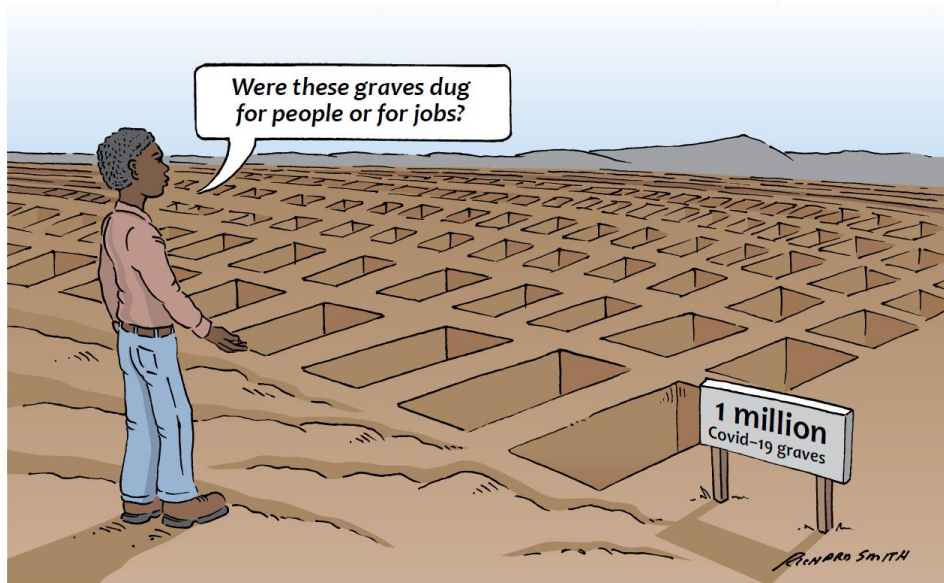
- COVID-19 & shield
 - o Reach:
Facebook – 12,552 people reached; 79 shares
Twitter – 18,169 impressions; 1,516 total engagements



- Lockdown and police brutality
 - o Reach:
Facebook – 20,680 people reached; 185 shares
Twitter – 2,037 impressions; 238 total engagements



- COVID-19 job losses
 - o Reach:
 - Facebook – 4,434 people reached; 40 shares
 - Twitter – 1,246 impressions; 201 total engagements



Influencing the narrative

- At the beginning of the lockdown, 27 March, there was widespread support for the regulations and restrictions imposed across the country. Through extensive writing, interviews, and work on social media, the FMF consistently reinforced the importance of the economy, of economic activity, concerns over massive job losses, and the vital importance of protecting South Africans' civil liberties. As evidenced by changes in the narrative, the FMF's work has proven to be highly effective. A lot of the focus has shifted on to the importance of opening up the economy.



- On 08 May 2020, the leader of the official opposition DA, John Steenhuisen, [wrote a piece for Business Day](#), in which he detailed the devastating effects of the lockdown, and pushed for the South African government to end SA's current hard lockdown.
- On 11 May 2020, chief investment officer at Allan Gray, Andrew Lapping, [penned a piece on Moneyweb](#), on his concerns regarding SA's continued lockdown.

- 11 May 2020, Stephen Grootes on [Trevor Manuel's call to stand up for your rights in lockdown set to trigger a chain reaction](#)
- On 17 May 2020, the Sunday Times ran this headline:



- [Ralph Mathekga: Wheels on government's lockdown bulldozer coming off](#)
- [Economic devastation: It's not the virus, but the lockdown, stupid! – Mike Schussler](#)
- [John Steenhuisen: World's strictest lockdown killed SA economy – not Covid-19 - BizNews](#)