

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **IT IS DEADLY GOVERNMENTS, NOT A DEADLY VIRUS**

Predicting the future is a fool's pastime.

Anyone who tries to predict the Rand vs Dollar exchange rate in even a week's time will be proven wrong. Just as rash was the prediction of death rates resulting from Covid-19.

The governments of the world, including ours, were essentially scared to death by the World Health Organisation's dire forecasts of an "exponential growth" in the number of deaths from Covid-19. This term has become a mantra repeated so often that almost everyone has bought into a doomsday scenario.

However, these predictions were not based on science fact but rather science fiction. No doubt our leaders felt justified as images of hazmat clad hospital staff, contamination squads and patients on ventilators filled our screens and distorted our sense of reality. In typical "fight or flight" mode our collective response was to be afraid ... very afraid. Our herd instinct flight response driven by the media (social and formal) is now causing worldwide economic meltdown, with large scale poverty and especially many deaths of the poor.

We are now regularly being warned in the news of more inevitable deaths to come, a reality we have to accept in any case as it is the normal course of progress for a virus for which there is no vaccine.

Doubtless all those experts who readily follow accepted doctrine, have come to terms with the spectacular failure of their most dire predictions to come true. So, do they really know what is going on?

As was famously said: "Those that believe, no explanation is necessary. Those that don't believe, no explanation will suffice."

Every year 480,000 people die in South Africa. That's 1,320 deaths per day. This annual figure is made up of 135,000 deaths amongst those over 70 years of age, 130,000 aged 50 – 69 years, 175,000 aged 15 – 49 years, 7,000 from 5 – 14 years and 33,000 under 5 years. The over 70's group, with currently some 370 deaths per day, is where many of the deaths attributable to Covid-19 will occur, largely due to comorbidities.

Despite this reality, we never see any statistics regarding other deaths, only Covid-19 deaths, which are currently less than 4 per day.

The only reason why the government does not compare “normally occurring deaths” with Covid-19 deaths is that they want to reinforce the government message about how “deadly” this virus is – in their own words.

Absolutely deadly? Absolutely not.

In South Africa currently 292,153 tests have been done, with only 8,232 confirmed cases and a mere 161 deaths. In other words, Covid-19 currently causes death in only 1.9% of confirmed cases. Yes, it made sense to institute social distancing and stop cross border travel, but not to virtually shut down the entire economy.

In the final analysis, Covid-19 has largely compressed the deaths of those with comorbidities that would likely have taken place, in any event, over the next five to ten years. This was particularly seen by those in power as a direct threat to themselves.

Yet Covid-19 is not indiscriminately incapacitating nor killing everyone it infects, certainly not the young and the healthy.

The facts disprove the manipulative rhetoric and “war talk” that has now permeated virtually every communication that emanates from government. This is being echoed by the puppy dog media who now repeat these slogans and catch phrases everywhere. This has helped to drive and maintain the hysteria that there is an “invisible, invincible enemy” and that we are all likely to die. Otherwise rational and clear-thinking people, not just in South Africa, but worldwide, bought into this distortion of reality.

Governments continually remind us that we must “follow the science”. And yet they continue to peddle science fiction.

Yes, Covid-19 is a threat, particularly to those over 65 years old with complications such as hypertension, cardiovascular issues, diabetes and respiratory complications.

Yes, it is tragic coming to terms with people dying as we each are forced to confront our own fear of death and the dying process.

Yes, there is no vaccine, nor will there be one for most likely two years. But does this mean that we need to sentence vast numbers of our people to economic misery, hunger, illnesses and death as the world economy shuts down for two years?

Yes, we do have other options.

- Accept herd immunity.

- Accept many will have little or no symptoms.
- Accept that the majority of people becoming ill will recover and then be immune.
- Accept that a soft lockdown with social distancing and improved hygiene standards will limit the fast spread of the virus and yet allow herd immunity to develop.

This acceptance is what WHO should have promoted. What world leaders should have been advised to promote. What every government department should be promoting. What each of us should be promoting.

And yet there was a conspiracy of silence and complicity amongst virtually all professionals in the epidemiological, medical, financial, scenario planning, etc., fields with just a few voices of cool reason appealing for calm.

Worldwide the evidence, supported by recorded cases and deaths, suggests that the death rate is likely to finally be below 0,05%, about twice as bad as a usual influenza season.

In South Africa, some 6,000 to 11,000 South Africans will die of influenza, with half of these deaths being the elderly, and 30% HIV compromised patients. It is expected and regular every season, and nobody blinks an eye.

This compares with some 20,000 deaths likely to be ultimately linked to Covid-19, and the devastating additional 70,000 to 100,000 unnecessary deaths likely to occur due to economic collapse.

94% of all deaths are people over 40 years old. Those of school-going age are virtually immune and should be free to pursue their education unhindered.

The most significant predictions about the high mortality rate of Covid-19 have not materialised and it appears that invalid assumptions were made.

Freedom of speech and debate have gone by the wayside as the government employs media propaganda and apparently credible personalities to push its message that Covid-19 is a deadly killer.

Following the advice of some of the biggest Ponzi scam artists ever "If you're going to sell a lie, make sure it is so huge that it just has to be true", is how WHO led the world into a deadly downward spiral. No-one took prior cognisance of the catastrophic economic collapse that would, predictably, lead to starvation and deaths, far outnumbering those from Covid-19.

Additionally, the loss in real GDP in South Africa translates to R9 billion per day which totals R259 billion for the current lockdown. This will increase, if it is extended or implemented again, or there is a backtracking on the levels.

Job losses are expected to add another 1 million to the 10,2 million already out of work and over 30 million living in poverty. Of greater concern is the rise in the 8,2 million unemployed youth aged 15 to 34. This is where unrest will foment most violently. The latest predictions are that the lockdown will cause the economy to contract by some 16%, possibly more as collateral damage gets recorded.

Factoring all this in reveals the true cost of the lockdown to be at least R0,5 trillion and, as is usual, the government will be relying on civil society and people of good will to prop up their failings with social services, food relief and similar.

Ever since government started to realise that they had fallen into the Covid-19 trap they saw only one way out without losing face, not just with their people, but with the world community. They had to keep up the pretence and hard sell the success of the lockdown and not its failure. This intransigence explains the extension of the lockdown and the introduction of its phased withdrawal.

As evidenced by the increasingly bizarre regulations and their continual amendment in a desperate attempt to control minutia, the government has only further entrenched its hard-line approach. There is no compassion from government for their people – only the desire to make them follow the rules slavishly even when these are detrimental to the health and welfare of the nation.

And by deploying the full military complement, the government has acknowledged that it cannot cope. Not now, and not when the flood of deaths in winter begins. Heightened vandalism, riots and unrest will result in a SAPS and SANDF response adding to the many deaths which could have been avoided if a soft lockdown had been adopted. This would have given adequate time to prepare for the second wave of infections without going into premature full-scale lockdown.

It is absolutely clear that government has squandered its meagre financial resources too early.

### **So how do we get out of this mess?**

Government must come out of isolation in their self-imposed fortress of denial of disastrous decision making and embrace the nation.

They must reach out to the youth of South Africa who are destined to inherit the desolation that is being forced upon them the longer the lockdown persists.

Never before in history have the healthy been quarantined rather than those that are contagious.

Let us stop being afraid to hug our children and family.

History will judge harshly the actions of politicians and all those in positions of responsibility who either actively or passively helped create this disaster.

We must all join hands to ensure that freedom returns and oppression is stopped.

### **End Lockdown Now Coalition**

John Taylor