



**Journal of
CONTEMPORARY
SOCIETY & EDUCATION
(JCSE)**

**ISSN: 2709-832X (Print)
2709-8338**

EDITORIAL NOTE

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.69778/2709-8338/2026/5.3/EN>

From Policy to Practice: Governance, Education, and Social Transformation in Africa:

Welcome to the October 2026 issue of the Journal of Contemporary Society and Education (JCSE). The sixteen articles assembled in this volume reflect the journal's commitment to rigorous, interdisciplinary scholarship on the pressing social, political, and educational challenges confronting contemporary Africa. Together, they illuminate a central tension of our time: the persistent gap between policy ambition and lived reality.

Several contributions in this issue grapple directly with the question of governance and service delivery. Motadi examines the opportunities and barriers shaping digital transformation in South African government departments, while Moloto and Pillay explore technology's influence on governance at the local municipal level. Akindele, Sanni, and Lamidi assess citizen satisfaction with public transportation in Lagos State, offering an important reminder that the legitimacy of the state rests on the quality of everyday services. Jutta and Alao interrogate the democratisation of the administrative state through South Africa's Government of National Unity, and Okudolo examines decentralisation and the effectiveness of local political leaders in Nigeria. Kambiri's analysis of governance challenges in managing internal displacement further underscores the consequences of normative commitment without implementation capacity. Agbor's critical perspectives on the operational independence of Elections Cameroon and the Constitutional Council round out this focus on democratic institutions.

Education remains a cornerstone of social progress, and this issue devotes considerable attention to it. Mtshali and Meyiwa assess the role of climate change education in maritime studies, while Modiba asks whether rural secondary schools are adequately managing learners with special educational needs associated with HIV/AIDS. Babalola interrogates the legal and policy complexities of foreign partnerships in Nigerian higher education, and Shabangu examines how school management teams respond to violence in rural South African schools. Nephawe and Mudimeli offer a distinctive contribution on the indispensability of English as a lingua franca in interpreting selected Pauline epistles.

The issue also foregrounds questions of gender, culture, and well-being. Nesane and Amaechi explore *Mamalo* as a resource for gender equality and women's empowerment in Limpopo, while Gudani, Khosa, and Nomatshila examine adolescents' perceptions of child support grant management through a family systems lens. Matheere offers an

exploration of the life journey of traditional healers in rural Limpopo, and Nkuna and colleagues provide an analytical study of compounding and naming in Siswati personal names. These articles remind us that social transformation is experienced at the level of culture, family, and community.

Collectively, these contributions demonstrate the vitality and breadth of contemporary social science research in Africa. They challenge scholars and policymakers alike to move beyond policy pronouncements toward meaningful implementation. We thank our authors and reviewers for their dedication and trust that this issue will stimulate further inquiry and debate.

Editor

Prof. TJ Mudau

Institute of Gender and Youth Studies

University of Venda, South Africa

Email: Thizwilondi.Mudau@univen.ac.za

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Presidential Elections As Participation In The Conduct Of Public Affairs Of A Country: Critical Perspectives On The Operational Independence Of Elections Cameroon (Elecam) And The Constitutional Council Avitus A. Agbor	7
2. Navigating The Green Transition: Assessing The Role Of Climate Change Education In Maritime Studies On Fostering Environmental Sustainability Nhlanhla Mtshali, Ayanda Meyiwa	29
3. Global Degrees, Local Dilemmas: Legal And Policy Complexities Of Foreign Partnerships In Nigerian Higher Education Grace Olubunmi Babalola, Abiodun Gbolagade	55
4. From Normative Commitment To Implementation Failure: Governance Challenges In Managing Internal Displacement In Africa Daniel Kambiri	89
5. Interrogating The Nexus Between Decentralization By Devolution And Effectiveness Of Local Political Leaders In Nigeria: Envisioning Beyond The Present Ikemefuna Taire Paul Okudolo	124
6. Citizen Satisfaction And Public Transportation In Lagos State: A Study Of Lagos State Metropolitan Transportation Agency Iyiola Tomilayo Akindele Oluwole Kazeem Sanni, Kazeem Oyedele Lamidi	147
7. Analysing The Influence Of Technology On Governance In South African Local Municipalities Phuti Ignatius Moloto Rosinah Pillay	176

8. An Analytical Study Of The Intersection Between Compounding And Naming:
 A Case Study Of Siswati Personal Names
Khulisile Judith Nkuna, Nkosinathi Macdonald Lusenga, Sikhumbuzo Sibusiso Khoza, Sikhumbuzo Sibusiso Khoza

198

9. Adolescents' Perceptions Of Child Support Grant Management And Its Effects
 On Well-Being In South Africa: A Family Systems Perspective
Lilimu Donald Gudani, Vinny Ntiyiso Khosa, Zanele Benedict Nomatshila

219

10. An Exploration Of The Life Journey Of Traditional Healers In Rural Areas: A
 Case Study Based In Mohokone Village, Mopani District In Limpopo
Mahlomula Leften Matheere

243

11. From Policy To Practice: School Management Teams' Responses To School
 Violence In Rural South African Schools
Maria Thobile Shabangu

261

12. Digital Governance And Transparency: Leveraging E-Government Systems To
 Combat Corruption In South Africa
Motadi Masa Sylvester

280

13. Managing Learners With Special Educational Needs Associated With Hiv/Aids:
 Are Rural Secondary Schools Coping?
Ngwako Solomom Modiba

304

14. Democratising The Administrative State: The South African Government Of
 National Unity As A Framework For Professionalisation And Accountability
Lusanda Beauty Juta, Olaleke Michael Alao

329

15. Mamalo As A Resource For Gender Equality And Women Empowerment In
Vhembe District Communities Of Limpopo Province, South Africa
Nesane N.P, Mudau T.J, Amaechi K.E

352

16. Investigating The Indispensability Of English As A *Lingua Franca* In The
Explanation Of Selected Apostle Paul's Epistles
Farisani Thomas Nephawe, Lufuluvhi Maria Mudimeli

373

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY: LEVERAGING E-GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Motadi Masa Sylvester

*Afrocentric Governance of Public Affairs (AGOPA),
North-West University,
South Africa.*

Author: mmotadi@yahoo.com

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9830-7040>

ABSTRACT

Digital governance has become an increasingly important component of public administration reform because it can strengthen transparency, accountability and the traceability of government decisions. This study examines how e-government systems influence transparency and contribute to the reduction of corruption in South Africa, while also considering their relevance to sustainable development. A structured literature review was conducted using Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar, with publications from January 2020 to March 2026 considered alongside relevant institutional reports. The search covered digital governance, e-government, open government data, digital accountability, e-procurement, corruption and transparency. A total of 430 records were identified, 287 remained after duplicate removal, 146 proceeded to full-text assessment, and 31 studies met the final inclusion criteria. The findings show that open government data, digital service platforms and e-procurement can improve transparency by increasing the visibility, standardisation and auditability of public-sector processes. Digital systems can also reduce opportunities for bribery and rent-seeking by limiting unnecessary face-to-face contact and constraining discretionary decision-making. However, these benefits are not automatic. Weak institutional capacity, uneven digital infrastructure, limited data usability, inadequate enforcement and digital exclusion can reduce the effectiveness of technology-based anti-corruption measures. The review further indicates that corruption risks may adapt to digital environments where governance controls are weak. From a sustainable development perspective, effective digital governance can strengthen accountable and inclusive institutions, improve stewardship of public resources and support more reliable public service delivery. Bias in the evidence synthesis was mitigated through predefined selection criteria, multi-database searching, concept-based full-text assessment, two-reviewer screening and comparison of evidence across academic and institutional sources. The study concludes that e-government can make a meaningful contribution to corruption control in South Africa, but technology must be combined with institutional reform,

interoperable systems, open and usable data, stronger enforcement, digital inclusion and sustained public oversight. These conditions determine whether digital transformation produces durable transparency gains rather than merely shifting existing governance weaknesses into electronic processes.

Keywords: *Digital Governance; Sustainable Development; Digital Accountability; E-Procurement; South Africa*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The introduction of digital governance into the structure of public administration reform has become topical. The use of information technology in state institutions is supposed to increase the degree of accountability of civil servants and the quality of their work. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2024), the use of e-government technologies enhances service delivery because of increased transparency in the activities of government agencies and citizens' participation in state affairs. It is important to consider the progress made in the sphere in South Africa since the country's position on the United Nations E-Government Development Index has changed positively from the rank of 65 in 2022 to the rank of 40 in 2024 (Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, 2024). Adam (2020) states that the effectiveness of e-government is associated with high institutional quality and advanced levels of ICT development. Martins et al. (2023) stress that digital governance limits the discretion of officials who tend to commit corruptive acts. These

arguments show that digital governance can play a vital role in increasing the transparency of the processes in South Africa only in the case when there is an appropriate organizational setting.

It is evident that transparency is crucial in the context of digital governance and its impact on corruption in South Africa. Mungiu-Pippidi (2023) highlights that transparency should go further than mere disclosure to constrain corruption effectively. Transparency is especially important for South Africa because of the right of access to information guaranteed by the Promotion of Access to Information Act which implements the corresponding constitutional right (Republic of South Africa, 2000). Žuffová (2020) emphasizes that open government data plays an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of governance due to enhanced access to information. Similarly, Lněnička et al. (2021) discuss how data portals contribute to the visibility of the actions taken by officials. The analysis of these studies proves that transparency in South Africa should be considered not just as disclosure of information but as an effective governance measure associated with monitoring and access.

However, the effectiveness of digital governance in fighting corruption is limited and dependent on various

institutional factors. As stated by Dang et al. (2025), the connection between corruption and e-government changes with time and under particular conditions. Kogueda and Manga Engama (2026) analyze African countries and claim that insufficiently developed institutions might reduce the potential positive effect of digital technologies. Such issues are important for South Africa since the country experiences numerous problems with the issue of corruption despite considerable progress in digital governance. For instance, according to Transparency International (2026), South Africa got the score of 41 on the Corruption Perceptions Index in 2025 and occupied the 81st position out of 182 countries. Also, survey results proved that people were concerned about the rising level of corruption. Therefore, digital governance in South Africa should be combined with other measures.

1.2 Research Problem

However, despite the increasing use of digital governance and the existence of transparency tools, corruption persists as a problem in South Africa. According to Castro and Lopes (2023), while digital governance is a tool that can help fight corruption, it is by no means guaranteed that it will be effective. In addition, according to Adam (2020), ICTs alone cannot lead to anti-corruption measures without adequate institutions, while Mungiu-Pippidi (2023) argues that formal transparency does not necessarily mean accountability. These problems have been illustrated in South Africa, where the implementation of digital governance has performed well in recent

evaluations, while corruption issues have remained prevalent. It is clear that while digital governance may not be a problem in itself, the issue lies in whether it leads to any actual transparency and anti-corruption results.

1.3 Research Questions

1.3.1 Main Research Question

- How do e-government systems influence transparency and contribute to the reduction of corruption in South Africa?

1.3.2 Sub-Research Questions

- What is the relationship between digital governance and transparency in South African public sector institutions?
- How do e-government systems affect corruption risks and accountability in South Africa?
- What policy and institutional reforms can enhance the effectiveness of digital governance in reducing corruption in South Africa?

1.4 Significance of the Study

This paper contributes to the emerging body of literature related to digital governance and corruption by examining the impact of e-governance on transparency and accountability in

the South African context. According to Martins et al. (2023), digital transformation can prove helpful in the fight against corruption due to ensuring the proper restriction of discretionary powers. The transparency associated with digital procurement processes, which, as per Khorana et al. (2024), is a key element that should be considered when evaluating the outcome of governance efforts, is critical. In light of the current situation in South Africa, where some progress has been achieved concerning digital governance but still faces issues related to corruption and information availability, the importance of the paper is evident. Thus, the value of the study can be attributed to the fact that it highlights the need for applying digital innovations to address specific governance challenges.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Digital Governance and Corruption Control

As has already been indicated, the concept of digital governance facilitates anti-corruption efforts in connection with changes in the administrative process and restrictions imposed on discretionary power of the officials. In particular, as noted by Adam (2020), e-governance will facilitate efforts towards corruption prevention if the nation has good ICT infrastructure and high institutional quality. Nevertheless, as indicated by Ali et al. (2022), digital government might be helpful when it comes to fighting corruption yet their impact varies from one developing nation to another. In addition, Martins et al. (2023) note that use of e-government

services minimizes rent-seeking behavior because of increased transparency. Moreover, Castro and Lopes (2023) suggest that e-governance systems will help to minimize corruption due to the decreased significance of personal contacts. Finally, Dang et al. (2025) stress that the relationship between digital governance and corruption is rather dynamic and situational. Overall, digital governance affects corruption in structural and institutional terms yet it works only under certain conditions.

2.2 Transparency and Open Government Data

Actually, transparency is regarded as the tool that makes it possible to link digital governance to higher accountability and decreased corruption. This opinion was expressed by Žuffová (2020) who said that legislation related to the freedom of information and open data projects would offer more opportunities for exercising control as they would facilitate access to information. Moreover, according to Lněnička et al. (2021), open data platforms are referred to as tools for promoting transparency as they make it easier for citizens to monitor the work of government officials. At the same time, as Mungiu-Pippidi (2023) suggests, one should consider both the process of informing as well as its effectivity in terms of combating corruption. Also, as stressed by Vargas-Murillo et al. (2025), open data governance promotes accountability through provision of information. Besides, according to United Nations Development Programme (2023), the introduction of

an open data policy is facilitated by the readiness of institutions and their technological capacities.

2.3 Digital Public Services and Accountability

The introduction of digital technology in public service delivery has had profound implications for accountability mechanisms in governance structures. As suggested by Saldanha et al. (2022), digital public services contribute to accountability if the systems include transparency mechanisms. Tariq (2025) suggests that digital accountability changes the mode of operation of public sectors by improving traceability and reducing discretion. According to Kemboi and Premanandam (2026), digital service platforms enable improved efficiency and reduced cases of corruption during public services delivery. Oduro and Agbevade (2026) indicate that the role of e-governance in accountability lies in ensuring smooth information flow and efficient service delivery process. GovTech systems ensure efficient running of activities within the public sector through digitization. Based on these literature sources, it can be said that digital public services can improve accountability through increased transparency and efficiency. Nonetheless, digital public services rely on institutional preparedness and user-friendliness, which may not be available in developing countries.

2.4 E-Procurement and Anti-Corruption Mechanisms

The term digital procurement is often viewed as an integral component of digital governance designed to cut down corruption cases in the procurement process. It is argued by Jiménez et al. (2022) that e-procurement minimizes the number of bribery cases because of low levels of contact between organizations and officials in governmental institutions. E-procurement systems are viewed as tools which contribute to reducing corruption rates by improving transaction transparency in the mining sector, according to Barajei et al. (2023). Transaction transparency helps establish sustainable governance as a result of digital procurement, claims Hochstetter et al. (2023). The need for transaction transparency evaluation in the area of procurement is justified by Khorana et al. (2024) because of the high level of transaction transparency characteristic of digital procurement. Corrupt practices occur at an especially high level in the procurement process because of the absence of the integrity system, claims OECD (2026). Increased transaction transparency makes e-procurement systems effective tools of minimizing corruption in procurement, according to the presented sources. However, their efficiency depends on the governance environment.

2.5 Institutional Context and Governance Capacity

The impact of digital governance on reducing corruption has been noted to heavily rely on institutional capacity and governance. As per Kogueda and Manga

Engama (2026), both digital governance and corruption influence each other and are institution-led based on the experience in Africa. In accordance with Ha et al. (2024), the impacts of e-governance on corruption can be short term or long term, depending on how the process is conducted. As noted by Newiak et al. (2022), the necessary changes required in the governance of Sub-Saharan Africa would necessitate the creation of strong institutions as an approach towards curbing the risk of corruption. According to Tariq et al. (2026), digital governance should be embraced under the governance framework in order to sustain success. In addition, OECD (2025) notes that the development of digital government is essential in ensuring transparency and accountability. Based on the above findings, it can be stated that institutional capacity plays an important role in the effectiveness of digital governance.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

In relation to the research problem, both concepts of digital governance and corruption might be viewed in terms of several theoretical approaches in order to discuss the nature of the correlation between transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of the respective institutions. On the one hand, institutional approach introduced by Adam (2020) highlights that the success of e-government depends on synergic effects of both technological and governance factors. On the other hand, Mungiu-Pippidi (2023) emphasizes that transparency has a direct link to accountability since it is used to monitor the performance of relevant institutions.

In addition, information access perspective proposed by Žuffová (2020) states that the adoption of open data policies results in reducing information asymmetry which influences corruption rates in a negative way. Therefore, digital governance could also be considered from the point of view of the institutional perspective.

Furthermore, the topic of corruption can be studied through the agency theory framework which implies the analysis of concepts like principal-agent relationship. Specifically, according to Jiménez et al. (2022), e-procurement is applied as a tool for addressing principal-agent problems and minimizing discretionary behavior. Likewise, Saldanha et al. (2022) stress that digitalization allows tracking transactions and establishing accountability relationships between the parties involved in business operations. Furthermore, Tariq (2025) notes that digital governance helps in monitoring the performance of public sector employees with the help of accountability instruments. Consequently, digital governance reduces corruption through the use of monitoring mechanisms and minimizing information asymmetry.

Nevertheless, there is also a possibility to explore the wider perspective on the problem related to public administration reforms. Thus, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2024) maintains that the implementation of e-government contributes to sustainable development through improved transparency and services delivery. On the other hand,

according to Martins et al. (2023), innovations connected to digitalization promote necessary changes in organizational structure needed to minimize corruption. Finally, Kogueda and Manga Engama (2026) stress the significance of organizational capacity for effective management of innovations.

3. METHODS

3.1 Search Strategy

The approach to literature review studies to determine the effect of digital governance and transparency on the issue of anti-corruption will be used in analysing the issue of the impact of digital governance and transparency in relation to South Africa. According to Mudey (2026), evidence synthesis is crucial when addressing the research issue associated with the effects of e-governance on anti-corruption. As stated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2024), there should be attention paid not only to the issues of reforming management but also to those connected with the aspects of service delivery and governance. The World Bank (2025) stresses that the scope of the subject matter has increased significantly and covers the following areas – governance, technology, and government effectiveness. Therefore, in this literature review, studies concerning South Africa have been considered. Nevertheless, some research conducted in Africa and developing countries has also been taken into account. It has been necessary to include such resources as Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar because they contain data about

such issues as governance and digital transformation presented in scientific literature. The period of reviewing publications is January 2020-March 2026. At the same time, the sources selected from databases are from 10 March 2026 to 25 March 2026.

3.2 Search Terms

These terms were selected due to the key concepts described in literature concerning digital governance, transparency, and approaches to combating corruption, particularly in South Africa. The term combination "e-government" AND corruption was chosen because of an article by Castro and Lopes (2023) on the application of e-government to fight corruption. Further, according to Mungiu-Pippidi (2023), the need for quantification of transparency is one of the main aspects of good governance; thus, the term combination "transparency" AND accountability is relevant. Procurement transparency is one of the main issues to discuss when talking about digital governance; thus, the term combination "e-procurement" AND transparency has been chosen. Some other examples of Boolean expressions are "digital governance" OR "e-governance", "open government data" AND corruption, and "South Africa" OR "Sub-Saharan Africa". This way, the search will allow including researches that have been conducted in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. Concerning the fact that the research issue belongs to the field of governance and social sciences that do not have any indexing vocabularies such as MeSH, this method is the most suitable for searching the relevant

literature. Peer-reviewed articles are going to be used for the analysis.

As the study was based on secondary evidence, no questionnaire, interview schedule or other primary-data instrument was employed. The research tools consisted of Boolean database queries, a structured screening protocol and a standardised data-extraction framework. Search combinations included “e-government” AND corruption, “transparency” AND accountability, “e-procurement” AND transparency, “digital governance” OR “e-governance”, “open government data” AND corruption, and “South Africa” OR “Sub-Saharan Africa”. These queries were applied across Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar. For each eligible study, the extraction process recorded the publication source, geographical setting, research design, digital-governance mechanism, transparency or accountability outcome, corruption-related finding, institutional conditions and relevance to sustainable development. Using the same extraction categories across the included studies improved comparability and reduced the risk that evidence would be selected selectively during synthesis. This approach was appropriate because the research questions required the integration of findings from existing empirical studies and institutional reports rather than the collection of new participant-level data.

3.3 Inclusion Criteria

Sources which discussed the influence of digital governance, transparency,

accountability or corruption in relation to the public sector, especially in the South African context, were chosen for inclusion. Sources which discussed the influence of e-government on corruption would need to focus on institutional aspects of governance reform in line with Adam (2020) who states that institutional quality and ICT development constitute the crux of research into the influence of e-government on corruption. Due to Ali et al.'s (2022) view that empirical work from developing regions could be helpful in instances where there were discrepancies in controlling corruption, sources from Sub-Saharan Africa, including other regions whose institutional set-up was comparable to that of South Africa, were included as little research existed in South Africa in this field. Following Žuffová's (2020) view that measures for transparency such as the availability of open data and information were significant only in cases where there were achievements against corruption, sources relating to digital transparency were taken into consideration. Sources which directly discussed the South African context or institutional set-up similar to South Africa received preference. Quantitative studies, case studies, comparative studies, systematic reviews and institutional reports conducted between 2020 and March 2026 formed part of the type of sources used.

3.4 Exclusion Criteria

The articles were not taken into account if they did not relate directly to the topic of corruption, transparency, and accountability within governance

systems. According to Sabani (2021), in their research, it becomes evident that there is need for digital governance in order for transparency to be understood in certain administration contexts. Thus, those studies which focused on the implementation of the technology but did not discuss the aspects of governance were ignored. According to Martins et al. (2023), there needs to be a relationship established between the anti-corruption impacts and innovations in the public sector in order for those studies to be included in the discussion. The same rationale was applied when ignoring technical articles where state performance or integrity were not discussed. All of those articles which did not have any relation to the South African or any other relevant governance systems were disregarded unless they contributed to the theory.

3.5 Study Selection Process

The process of the literature selection was conducted according to PRISMA guidelines. In such a way, it became possible to make this review process more transparent, consistent, and replicable. As stated by Mudey (2026), systematic review processes are more accurate and effective when decisions are unambiguous and logical. Ha et al. (2024) claim that the influence of e-government on the level of corruption needs proper contextual interpretation. Therefore, it became necessary to evaluate articles on the second step of the process. Tariq et al. (2026) mention that the research of digital governance includes various aspects. For this reason, at the third stage of the process, it was necessary to consider each paper

depending on the concept but not the key terms. A figure illustrating the process of searching literature, including the stages of identification, screening, eligibility, and selection, is represented in Figure 1 (PRISMA Flow Diagram). At the identification stage of searching literature, 412 papers were selected; 18 articles were identified outside the initial database, which means that 430 papers should be considered for further evaluation. As a result of removing duplicates, there were 287 articles. Screening the literature by titles and abstracts allowed selecting 146 articles for the next stage of evaluation. As a result of applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, only 31 articles were included into the literature base. Two reviewers were responsible for the screening and dispute resolution; however, disputes did not occur.

Internal bias in the secondary evidence was mitigated through a structured and transparent review process. Predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied consistently so that studies were selected according to relevance to digital governance, transparency, accountability and corruption rather than according to whether their findings supported a preferred conclusion. The search was conducted across Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar, which reduced dependence on a single database and broadened disciplinary coverage. This approach is consistent with the emphasis placed by Mudey (2026) with respect to transparent evidence synthesis. The full-text review took into account the relevance of the study, in addition to keywords. Two

reviewers performed the review, as well as resolving any disputes. Evidence regarding South Africa was privileged, although findings from other relevant African and developing countries were kept because they helped to give institutional insight. According to Ha et al. (2024), the impact of e-government depends on the context, hence why this type of interpretation is essential. Contradictory evidence was kept instead of being excluded. This was because conclusions were drawn on the basis of repeating patterns found in different forms of studies. This is well illustrated by Mungiu-Pippidi (2023) who states that formal transparency does not always mean accountability. This helped in reducing any form of selection, confirmation, and interpretative biases.

The final sample comprised 31 studies selected from the 430 records identified during the search process. This number was not determined through a statistical sample-size calculation because the unit

of analysis was published evidence rather than individual participants. Instead, the sample size resulted from the sequential application of the stated eligibility criteria and full-text assessment. Of the 430 records initially identified, 287 remained after duplicate removal and 146 proceeded to full-text assessment, after which 31 met all criteria for inclusion. The rationale was therefore to retain a sufficiently broad but conceptually focused body of evidence capable of addressing the three research questions without including studies that were technically related to digitalisation but did not examine governance, transparency, accountability or corruption. This criterion-based approach supports analytical relevance over numerical volume and is consistent with the purpose of a structured review, in which the quality and direct applicability of included evidence are more important than achieving a predetermined number of studies.

Table 1: Study Sample and Source Identification

Stage/source	Description	Number of records/studies
Database search	Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar	412
Additional sources	Institutional publications, reports and reference lists	18
Total identified	Combined database and additional-source records	430
After duplicate removal	Records retained for screening	287
Full-text assessment	Articles evaluated against inclusion and exclusion criteria	146
Final review sample	Studies meeting all eligibility criteria and included in the synthesis	31

Source: Author(s).

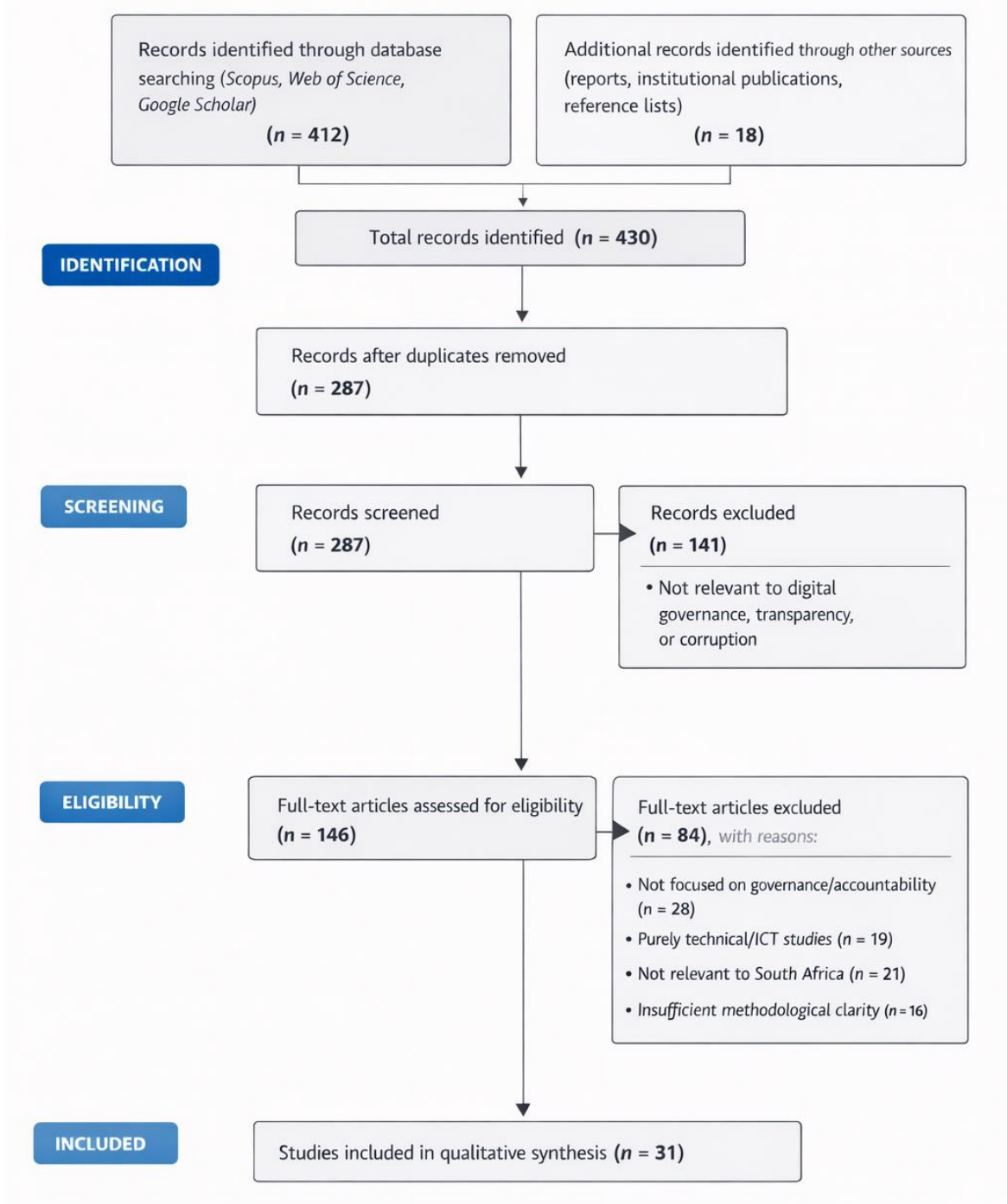


Figure 1: PRISMA Flow Diagram of Study Selection Process

Source: Author(s).

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

4.1 Relationship Between Digital Governance and Transparency in Public Sector Institutions

4.1.1 Sub-theme 1: Open Government Data as a Mechanism for Transparency

As for the analysis of literature on the topic, it is possible to identify that the contribution of the openness of government data to an increase in transparency in case of South African public sector is high due to higher accessibility of information and audit possibility. The use of digital technologies in South Africa allows increasing the level of public sector transparency, which includes transparent budgeting, transparent procurement process, and transparent performance of services provided. It was identified that departments that practiced open data had better public access to the required information and monitoring opportunities provided by civil society organizations. At the same time, it is necessary to mention that discrepancies were also found out since rural areas and poor population might lack the access to such technology because of limited infrastructure access and digital exclusion. Also, even though there were positive changes in terms of data availability, there were also problems in data usage because of the complexity of interface and lack of data literacy skills. Thus, despite being an effective tool of increasing transparency, the practice requires citizen involvement in order to promote accountability.

As per Žuffová (2020), open access and information laws help increasing control

since citizens have a possibility to observe the work of public sector organizations. Lněnička et al. (2021) suggest that implementation of data portals increases the level of transparency since all processes become visible. As per Vargas-Murillo et al. (2025), open data governance helps reducing the information asymmetry existing between governments and people. UNDP (2023) identifies that successful implementation not only technical aspects but also an institutional one. Thus, the results obtained seem to be coherent with South Africa case concerning access to information. As per Mungiu-Pippidi (2023), transparency should have practical importance in order to reduce corruption.

4.1.2 Sub-theme 2: Digital Platforms and Traceability in Public Administration

As for the analysis of literature on the topic, it is possible to identify that the contribution of the openness of government data to an increase in transparency in case of South African public sector is high due to higher accessibility of information and audit possibility. The use of digital technologies in South Africa allows increasing the level of public sector transparency, which includes transparent budgeting, transparent procurement process, and transparent performance of services provided. It was identified that departments that practiced open data had better public access to the required information and monitoring opportunities provided by civil society organizations. At the same time, it is necessary to mention that discrepancies

were also found out since rural areas and poor population might lack the access to such technology because of limited infrastructure access and digital exclusion. Also, even though there were positive changes in terms of data availability, there were also problems in data usage because of the complexity of interface and lack of data literacy skills. Thus, despite being an effective tool of increasing transparency, the practice requires citizen involvement in order to promote accountability.

As per Žuffová (2020), open access and information laws help increasing control since citizens have a possibility to observe the work of public sector organizations. Lněnička et al. (2021) suggest that implementation of data portals increases the level of transparency since all processes become visible. As per Vargas-Murillo et al. (2025), open data governance helps reducing the information asymmetry existing between governments and people. UNDP (2023) identifies that successful implementation not only technical aspects but also an institutional one. Thus, the results obtained seem to be coherent with South Africa case concerning access to information. As per Mungiu-Pippidi (2023), transparency should have practical importance in order to reduce corruption.

The findings also have direct implications for sustainable development because transparent digital institutions influence how public resources, information and services are governed. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2024) relates the concept of

digital government to more effective and inclusive institutions, while the World Bank (2025) highlights the importance of technological capacity and institutional effectiveness for the GovTech maturity. In the South African case, open and accountable processes may facilitate the achievement of SDG 16 through improving accountability, transparency, and access to information. However, the positive impact of the processes under discussion is reduced when rural communities, poor people or those who have little knowledge of technologies are unable to use and understand online information. The United Nations Development Programme (2023) also underlines that open data needs institutional readiness and usability. Therefore, sustainable digital governance should not be evaluated solely based on the availability of information online. Another requirement is the availability of accessible websites, participation of citizens, and the capability of using disclosures to conduct scrutiny. From the above reading, it can be noted that transparency leads to sustainable development together with technology and inclusion.

4.2 Effects of E-Government Systems on Corruption Levels in South Africa

4.2.1 Sub-theme 1: Reduction of Discretionary Power and Rent-Seeking Opportunities

It is clear that from the aforementioned analysis that the usage of e-government in South Africa helps in combating corruption through limiting the discretion involved in it. For instance,

implementation of digitalization in such processes like tax, license issuances, and application of public services have reduced face-to-face interactions between the citizens and government officials and, thus, reduced bribery. Based on the available literature, it can be noted that there is an increase in speed and efficiency as a result of digitalization which negates the possibility of any corruption. However, at the same time, one needs to recognize that there cannot be any corruption free zone because there will be some places where humans' involvement is unavoidable and/or where there is a lack of digital infrastructure. Also, it is important to mention that the corrupt individuals attempt to adapt to the changes in the process by finding procedural loopholes and manipulating input information.

Overall, the findings provided in the article under discussion match the available literature. To begin with, Adam (2020) states that digital governance makes it possible to reduce the corruption through limiting the rent seeking activities. In addition, the authors like Ali et al. (2022) indicate that reduction in interactions results in reducing the corruption risks. Similarly, Martins et al. (2023) suggest that innovations limit the discretionary decisions made by the participants. Furthermore, according to Castro and Lopes (2023), the more automation takes place, the less bribe opportunities exist. Finally, it should be mentioned that Dang et al. (2025) note that the effectiveness of digitalization differs from situation to situation.

4.2.2 Sub-theme 2: E-Procurement Systems and Anti-Corruption Outcomes

As for the results obtained through the analysis of literature, it may be assumed that the implementation of e-procurement systems helps to engage in activities aimed at preventing corruption during the formation of public contracts in South Africa, thereby reducing the level of corruption in the sphere. In such a case, e-procurement is used in order to make the process more transparent and minimize contacts within public procurement processes. As one can see from the results of the research, it is possible to enhance procurement transparency and minimize irregularities in the process of tendering and signing contracts as a result of digitization.

It should be noted that there have been numerous cases when e-procurement helped to meet the requirements set forth in the legislation. On the other hand, there are some obstacles in terms of e-procurement that include resistance to changes and lack of funding. According to Jiménez et al. (2022), e-procurement can be applied to prevent bribery through avoidance of contacts with people. Digital procurement is viewed as a solution aimed at preventing fraud in sectors related to natural resources according to Barajei et al. (2023). Furthermore, according to Hochstetter et al. (2023), procurement transparency can be increased due to e-procurement. Khorana et al. (2024) state the importance of procurement transparency assessment. Finally, according to the OECD (2026), the absence of an integrity management system can be

considered a barrier to effective procurement.

Moreover, the e-procurement literature ties corruption prevention to sustainable development by means of good management of public resources. Hochstetter et al. (2023) linking electronic public procurement to the improvement of transparency and sustainability of the governance system, and according to Khorana et al. (2024), the transparency level of the procurement process depends on the quality of the digital design and governance. Indeed, the improved traceability of the tender process guarantees that the chance of using discretionality in decisions is reduced, and thus it is possible to monitor the spending of public money through control institutions and civil society. Nevertheless, as Jiménez et al. (2022) indicate, the impact of e-procurement on the decrease of corruption depends on the governance institutions. Indeed, it is supported by OECD (2026) stressing the role of integrity systems in procurement processes. Thus, the contribution of e-procurement to sustainable development is not only in transferring procurement processes to the digital space, but also in making it more transparent, fair and reliable. If the former is absent, e-procurement would simply mirror existing governance failures electronically instead of addressing them.

4.3 Policy and Institutional Factors Affecting Digital Governance Effectiveness in South Africa

4.3.1 Sub-theme 1: Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Governance Frameworks

Based on the obtained results analysis, it can be claimed that the institutional capacity is one of the crucial elements influencing the efficiency of digital governance practices. Efficient management of governmental bodies, employees' professionalism and the effective operation of control systems have helped to implement measures that help to combat corruption successfully. At the same time, low efficiency of certain governmental institutions and their limited institutional capacity became an obstacle on the way to achieving successful results in the course of reforming digital practices. The lack of enforcement of regulations, professional skills development among employees and insufficient resources prevented from implementing the system of digital governance.

It is possible to mention the correlation between digital governance and corruption based on the results provided by Kogueda and Manga Engama (2026). It has been proven by Ha et al. (2024) that implementation plays a very important part in terms of defining the efficiency of reforms. The importance of increasing institutional capacity is mentioned by Newiak et al. (2022). Implementation of the process needs to be based on embedding the process of digital governance in other spheres, as suggested by Tariq et al. (2026). It is also

essential to develop the governance process itself to obtain desirable results, according to OECD (2025).

4.3.2 Sub-theme 2: Enhancing Transparency Mechanisms and Digital Accountability Systems

The idea has emerged that the idea of digital governance could assist in solving the problem of corruption because of the change in the administrative process and the reduction of discretion in officials' decisions. In particular, it was argued by Adam (2020) that e-governance could help to combat corruption, as long as there is a strong base of ICT capabilities in the country together with institutional efficiency.

At the same time, Ali et al. (2022) emphasize that the application of digital government to deal with the issue of corruption would be different for various developing nations. Martins et al. (2023) claim that the use of digital government contributes to the prevention of rent seeking owing to the enhancement of transparency in decision making. Similar ideas were expressed by Castro and Lopes (2023), who suggested that the application of e-governance instruments in fighting corruption could be considered as an outcome of the decrease in the significance of interpersonal communication.

The institutional findings clarify why digital governance produces uneven anti-corruption and sustainable-development outcomes. Kogueda and Manga Engama (2026) prove that the interaction between digital public governance and corruption in Africa is dependent on the conditions within the institutions, while OECD (2025) suggests that the capacity of governance is crucial for effective digital governance. This implies that any advancement in the platforms, databases, or web-based systems cannot be considered as a sign of improved accountability if institutions are unable to enforce regulations. Tariq et al. (2026) similarly present digital governance as part of a broader sustainable-development framework rather than as a stand-alone technological intervention. For South Africa, the implication is that digital reform must be accompanied by staff capability, interoperable systems, regulatory enforcement, secure data management and measures that reduce digital exclusion. These conditions help explain the apparent contradiction between progress in e-government capability and the continuing prevalence of corruption concerns. Sustainable development therefore depends on the quality of the governance environment in which digital systems operate, not simply on the existence of those systems.

Table 2: Summary of Review Findings and Sustainable-Development Relevance

Research area	Synthesised finding	Indicative evidence	Sustainable-development relevance
Open government data and transparency	Greater access, visibility and auditability can strengthen public monitoring, although usability and digital exclusion limit impact.	Žuffová (2020); Lněnička et al. (2021); Mungiu-Pippidi (2023); United Nations Development Programme (2023)	Supports access to information, accountability and inclusive institutions.
Digital services and discretionary power	Automation and traceability can reduce face-to-face interaction and discretionary opportunities, but effects vary by institutional context.	Adam (2020); Ali et al. (2022); Martins et al. (2023); Dang et al. (2025)	Supports more reliable and accountable public-service processes.
E-procurement and integrity	Electronic procurement can improve transaction transparency and reduce bribery opportunities where integrity controls are effective.	Jiménez et al. (2022); Hochstetter et al. (2023); Khorana et al. (2024); OECD (2026)	Strengthens transparent stewardship of public resources.
Institutional capacity and governance	Skills, enforcement, interoperability and institutional quality determine whether digital reforms produce sustained accountability gains.	Ha et al. (2024); OECD (2025); Kogueda and Manga Engama (2026); Tariq et al. (2026)	Supports resilient, capable and inclusive public institutions.

Source: Author(s), based on the synthesis of the 31 included studies.

5. CONCLUSIONS (REFINED – SOUTH AFRICA FOCUSED)

As it is revealed in the course of research, digital governance helps to achieve transparency in the operations of the state and prevents corruption due to modifications in the administrative

processes and provision of information in the South African context. As it follows from the data obtained in the case under analysis, openness in the form of open data and usage of digital technologies contribute to the transparency of public officials' operations and make them more

accountable. Also, according to research, implementation of e-government solutions reduces the chances of corruption since they limit the discretionary power of officials, automatize the process and create uniformity. Nevertheless, research findings prove the assumption that digital government might influence anti-corruption activities differently. In particular, sometimes corruption manages to adapt itself to the virtual environment. Effectiveness of the digital measures depends on the abilities of institutions to adopt them. Apart from it, there are several other aspects influencing the efficiency of the measures, including digital infrastructure and overall quality of governance.

A central implication of the review is that technological progress and corruption control should not be treated as equivalent outcomes. The growing capability to use e-government services in South Africa is, however, directly related to the issues of corruption as the use of digital technologies changes the process rather than the incentives of the organization, as well as the enforcement mechanisms used and the behavior of the organization. As has been demonstrated by Adam (2020), the effect of e-governance on the reduction of corruption is influenced by ICT development and institutional quality, whereas Martins et al. (2023) find that digital innovation can prevent corruption when the proper environment exists. Thus, instead of contradicting each other, the seemingly contradictory findings provide more general

information about the matter. Digital tools are most beneficial if the use of them leads to the decrease in discretionary power, creation of an auditable trail and if it takes place in institutions that can act against identified anomalies. In case of partial implementation or inefficient control mechanisms, the technologies increase efficiency but do not lead to improvements in accountability. It also explains why the same digital intervention can produce different outcomes across sectors, levels of government and national contexts.

All this indicates that the relevance of digital governance in sustainable development is its ability to enhance the institutions managing the public resources and services. The contribution has the closest relation with the Sustainable Development Goal 16 since the transparent and traceable system allows having accountable institutions with the access to information and increased oversight. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2024) considers digital government as the mechanism for achieving sustainable development through enhanced delivery of public services and responsiveness of institutions. In turn, Tariq et al. (2026) underline that the sustainable digital governance involves the combination of technological, organizational and governance capacities. In South Africa, this means that e-government should be assessed not only by the number of services placed online, but also by whether those services reduce information asymmetry, strengthen

procurement integrity, improve access and enable meaningful accountability. The findings also reveal an important limitation: digitalisation may deepen existing inequalities where connectivity, digital literacy and institutional capacity remain uneven. Accordingly, the sustainable-development value of e-government depends on combining technological modernisation with inclusion, enforcement, institutional capability and mechanisms that allow citizens and oversight bodies to use digital information effectively.

The conclusions were derived in a manner intended to minimise the influence of internal bias within the reviewed evidence. Rather than treating individual studies as definitive, the synthesis considered whether similar patterns appeared across different methodologies, geographical settings and institutional sources. Particular attention was given to findings that qualified or contradicted positive claims about digital governance. For instance, findings that digitalization may have an effect of decreasing discretionary power were evaluated together with research which showed that institutional weakness, digital exclusion and corruption itself may affect those benefits. Such interpretation is based on the findings of Dang et al. (2025), Who showed how the relationship between e-governance and corruption depends on time and place. Furthermore, the results were reviewed in terms of Mungiu-Pippidi's (2023) work, which highlights the difference between information disclosure and true transparency that leads to accountability. Thus, the

conclusions were reached from converging evidence, not from the frequency of finding positive evidence. Institutional documents served as a background for academic studies, not as a substitute for it, while South African evidence was separated from that produced elsewhere. Tariq et al. (2026) similarly emphasise the importance of integrating technological and governance dimensions. Accordingly, the conclusions represent evidence-based interpretations of the literature and not claims of causality for South African public institutions.

5.1 Recommendations

Strengthening Digital Infrastructure and System Integration

It is important for the South African government to focus on establishing integrated digital governance systems so that there can be consistency and efficiency in its operations as well as those of the various provincial and local governments. According to Adam (2020), the success of an e-government is highly dependent on the interaction between the ICT system and the quality of institutions. The World Bank (2025) notes that GovTech systems that are integrated increase transparency because they are linked administratively. However, with fragmented digital systems within different departments in South Africa, it becomes difficult to track anything and there is also a lack of accountability. It is thus important to invest in interoperable platforms that will allow for effective data transfer.

Enhancing Open Government Data and Transparency Frameworks

There is a need for the South African government to step up its efforts towards the formulation of open data policies. Access to information policies are critical for accountability, according to Žuffová (2020). Moreover, Lněnička et al. (2021) note that there is a need for data portals to be available and usable. Institutional commitment is an essential ingredient for the success of data portals according to United Nations Development Programme (2023). For South Africa, there is a need for the country to go beyond data portals as they ensure that data is accessible but at the same time usable and relevant to the citizens. There is a need for making data reach every individual, especially the vulnerable groups of individuals.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Governance Structures

The institutional capacity will remain one of the key determinants of digital governance effectiveness in South Africa. As Kogueda and Manga Engama (2026) note, institutional capacity affects the digital governance effectiveness while Ha et al. (2024) view implementation quality as the key factor. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2025) indicates that governance maturity impacts the achievement of transparency. South Africa will have to ensure its personnel receive necessary training; good regulation should also be put in place along with stronger enforcement procedures to ensure appropriate implementation of the

digital technology used. This becomes essential due to the fact that governance maturity affects the end result achieved through the initiative.

Expanding E-Procurement and Monitoring Mechanisms

The country can benefit from increasing its adoption of the e-procurement system to minimize cases of corruption within the country. As pointed out by Jiménez et al. (2022), the use of such a system helps in reducing bribes because of the limitation on personal interaction. On the other hand, Hochstetter et al. (2023) point out the role of e-procurement in improving transparency. According to Khorana et al. (2024), it is important to measure the level of transparency of the procurement process. It is possible to improve the current procurement process and ensure its uniform application throughout the various ministries.

5.2 Suggestions for Future Studies

It will also be quite interesting to do further research on the effects of e-governance on corruption in South Africa and other similar developing countries over the long run. In the same regard, Dang et al. (2025) opine that there is a connection between corruption and e-governance that is both temporal and geographical. In line with that, Martins et al. (2023) are strong believers in the significance of a comparative analysis of an issue. The assertion made by Kogueda and Manga Engama (2026) that institutional setting matters for digital governance in Africa is true.

Further research in this field should focus on the testing of the relationships in the case of South Africa rather than drawing comparisons through a cross-country approach. It can be interesting to conduct a longitudinal study which will show whether the development of certain e-government solutions leads to changes in the level of procurement irregularities, the ability of complaints to be resolved, findings of audits and information being available to the public. There is a need for sector-specific research, as the level of risks for corruption is different in procurement, licensing, social service provision, municipalities and tax collection. The necessity of time-space analysis of e-government effects was pointed out by Dang et al. (2025) and the significance

of institutional setting in African countries – by Kogueda and Manga Engama (2026). Hence, future studies must take into consideration such aspects as national, provincial and municipal institutions and inclusion of rural and digitally disadvantaged communities to find out whether the digital innovations ensure the same level of transparency in benefits equitably. Research could also examine how artificial intelligence, automated decision systems and data integration create new accountability opportunities as well as new risks. Such work would help distinguish short-term efficiency gains from durable improvements in integrity, inclusion and sustainable public-sector performance.

REFERENCES

- Adam, I. O. (2020). Examining e-government development effects on corruption in Africa: The mediating effects of ICT development and institutional quality. *Technology in Society*, 61, 101245. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2020.101245>
- Ali, M., Raza, S. A., Puah, C. H., & Arsalan, T. (2022). Does e-government control corruption? Evidence from South Asian countries. *Journal of Financial Crime*, 29(1), 258–271. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JFC-01-2021-0003>
- Barajei, C., Obiri-Yeboah, K., Kusi, E., Mohammed, A. M. Z., Osman, A. M., & Gyimah, F. (2023). Exploring the anti-corruption abilities of e-procurement in Ghanaian mining companies. *The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries*, 89(2), e12288. <https://doi.org/10.1002/isd2.12288>
- Castro, C., & Lopes, I. C. (2023). E-government as a tool in controlling corruption. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 46(16), 1137–1150. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01900692.2022.2076695>
- Dang, T. C., Van, H. V., & Van, D. L. (2025). E-government and corruption in an emerging country: New perspectives from a spatiotemporal approach. *International Review of Economics & Finance*, 100, 104111. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iref.2025.104111>

Department of Communications and Digital Technologies. (2024). *South Africa's significant improvement in the United Nations e-Government Index 2024*. <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/media-statements-releases/532-south-africa-s-significant-improvement-in-the-united-nations-e-government-index-2024.html>

Ha, L. T., To, T. T., Nguyen, T. T. H., Hoa, H. Q., & Ngoc, T. A. (2024). The roles of e-government in combating corruption: Evidence from European countries. *Journal of Science and Technology Policy Management*, 15(6), 1505–1533. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JSTPM-04-2022-0065>

Hochstetter, J., Vásquez, F., Diéguez, M., Bustamante, A., & Arango-López, J. (2023). Transparency and e-government in electronic public procurement as sustainable development. *Sustainability*, 15(5), 4672. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15054672>

Jiménez, A., Hanoteau, J., & Barkemeyer, R. (2022). E-procurement and firm corruption to secure public contracts: The moderating role of governance institutions and supranational support. *Journal of Business Research*, 149, 640–650. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2022.05.070>

Kemboi, M. K., & Premanandam, P. (2026). Impact of e-governance and Huduma services on public service delivery in Kenya during the 2025 public sector reforms. *Discover Global Society*, 4, Article 48. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44282-026-00374-x>

Khorana, S., Caram, S., & Rana, N. P. (2024). Measuring public procurement transparency with an index: Exploring the role of e-GP systems and institutions. *Government Information Quarterly*, 41(3), 101952. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2024.101952>

Kogueda, F. B. A., & Manga Engama, E. (2026). Digital public governance and corruption: Analysis of a two-way relationship in Africa. *International Political Science Review*, 47(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/01925121241297166>

Lněnička, M., Machová, R., Volejníková, J., Linhartová, V., Knezackova, R., & Hub, M. (2021). Enhancing transparency through open government data: The case of data portals and their features and capabilities. *Online Information Review*, 45(6), 1021–1038. <https://doi.org/10.1108/OIR-05-2020-0204>

Martins, J., Veiga, L. G., & Fernandes, B. (2023). Are electronic government innovations helpful to deter corruption? Evidence from across the world. *Economics & Politics*, 35(3), 1177–1203. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecpo.12255>

Mudey, M. H. (2026). E-government as anti-corruption tool: Insights from a systematic literature review. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2026.2648115>

Mungiu-Pippidi, A. (2023). Transparency and corruption: Measuring real transparency by a new index. *Regulation & Governance*, 17(4), 1094–1113. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rego.12502>

Newiak, M., Segura-Ubiergo, A., & Aziz, W. A. (Eds.). (2022). *Good governance in Sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities and lessons*. International Monetary Fund. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Books/Issues/2022/03/18/good-governance-in-sub-saharan-africa-461381>

Oduro, B. K., & Agbevade, A. (2026). The role of e-governance in promoting government accountability and transparency in Ghana. *The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries*, 92(2), e70053. <https://doi.org/10.1002/isd2.70053>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2025). *Government at a glance 2025*. OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/0efd0bcd-en>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2026). *Anti-corruption and integrity outlook 2026*. OECD Publishing. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/anti-corruption-and-integrity-outlook-2026_16708b78-en.html

Republic of South Africa. (2000). *Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000*. <https://www.gov.za/documents/promotion-access-information-act>

Sabani, A. (2021). Investigating the influence of transparency on the adoption of e-government in Indonesia. *Journal of Science and Technology Policy Management*, 12(2), 236–255. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JSTPM-03-2020-0046>

Saldanha, D. M. F., Dias, C. N., & Guillaumon, S. (2022). Transparency and accountability in digital public services: Learning from the Brazilian cases. *Government Information Quarterly*, 39(2), 101680. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2022.101680>

Tariq, M. U. (2025). Digital accountability: Revolutionizing public sector transparency and service delivery. In *Enhancing public sector accountability and services through digital innovation* (pp. 129–154). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3693-9251-5.ch004>

Tariq, W., Chen, Y., Tariq, A., & Sumbal, M. S. (2026). Digital governance for sustainable development: A holistic review, framework, and roadmap. *Technology in Society*, 84, 103135. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2025.103135>

Transparency International. (2026). *South Africa*. Retrieved April 18, 2026, from <https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/south-africa>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2024). *United Nations e-government survey 2024: Accelerating digital transformation for sustainable development*. United Nations. <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb>

United Nations Development Programme. (2023). *Open government data policies and practices*.
https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-03/20230317_Open%20Government%20Data_fin.fin_.pdf

Vargas-Murillo, A. R., Pari-Bedoya, I. N. M., Gordillo Bedoya, S. M., et al. (2025). Digital open data governance: Enhancing e-government accountability and transparency. In *Proceedings of the 2024 8th International Conference on E-Society, E-Education and E-Technology*. ACM. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3704217.3704236>

World Bank. (2025). *GovTech maturity index 2025: Tracking public sector digital transformation worldwide*.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/872b8c89-6dbe-4275-a11b-d5167a14a398>

Žuffová, M. (2020). Do FOI laws and open government data deliver as anti-corruption policies? Evidence from a cross-country study. *Government Information Quarterly*, 37(3), 101480. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2020.101480>