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| Book Name: | **Contemporary Issues in Business and Management** |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_BPR\_3337.12** |
| Title of the Manuscript:  | **AN INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT STRUCTURES ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT SMMES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY** |
| Type of the Article | **Book Chapter** |

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| PART 1: Review Comments |
| Compulsory REVISION comments | Reviewer’s comment | Author’s Feedback *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** |  |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?****(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **Suggested to amend the title for more concise “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Government Support for SMMEs During the COVID-19 Pandemic in eThekwini Municipality.”** |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | **The abstract is comprehensive and provides a clear overview of the study’s objectives, methodology, key findings, and recommendations. It covers the main elements needed for an effective abstract, including the study's purpose, research design, findings, and implications. However, some minor refinements could improve clarity and conciseness:1. Specify the positive results****2. Clarify the recommendations for governments and SMMEs separately****3. rephrase the conclusion for clarity** |  |
| **Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?** | **The structure of the manuscript generally appears to be well-organized.** |  |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | **This manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound because it employs a quantitative approach aligned with a positivist philosophy, ensuring objectivity and reliability in the findings. By collecting data from a substantial sample of 201 SMME owners and managers, it provides statistically meaningful insights into the effectiveness of government support structures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of SPSS version 28.0 for data analysis further enhances its technical rigor, as this tool is widely recognized for producing reliable statistical results. Additionally, the paper’s recommendations are grounded in observed data, ensuring that proposed solutions are relevant and evidence-based, contributing to the practical applicability of the findings.** |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.****-** | **Suggested Additional References:**1. **SMMEs and COVID-19 Impact:**
	* ***Journal articles* or *policy reports* from organizations like the World Bank, OECD, or UNCTAD that discuss the challenges faced by SMMEs during the pandemic. These provide context on global support structures and offer comparative insights.**
2. **Effectiveness of Government Support for SMMEs:**
	* **Studies on the effectiveness of stimulus packages and economic recovery programs for SMMEs during crisis periods. Research on emergency funding and loan schemes (e.g., from journals like *Small Business Economics* or *Journal of Small Business Management*) would add depth to the discussion.**
3. **eThekwini Municipality and South African SMMEs:**
	* **Any region-specific studies on SMMEs in South Africa, particularly those focusing on local economic policies, would provide a relevant framework. Research articles from *Development Southern Africa* or reports from South African government agencies could be beneficial.**
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| Minor REVISION commentsIs the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | **Yes, the language quality of the article is generally suitable for scholarly communication, as it uses clear, formal, and objective language appropriate for an academic audience. The key points are communicated effectively, and the structure of sentences is logical and easy to follow.****However, minor improvements in phrasing and conciseness could enhance readability. For instance, simplifying complex sentences, reducing redundancy, and ensuring consistent tense usage will make the text smoother. Overall, with minimal revisions, the language will meet scholarly standards effectively.** |  |
| Optional/General comments | 1. **Clarity and Conciseness**: Although the manuscript is well-structured, some sentences could be shortened or rephrased for better clarity. Aim to reduce redundancy, especially in sections discussing challenges and recommendations.
2. **Emphasis on Key Findings**: Highlight the most significant findings early in the abstract and results sections. This will help readers quickly understand the primary insights and implications.
3. **Visual Data Representation**: If feasible, add graphs or tables to visually represent key data points, like the percentage of SMMEs facing specific challenges or accessing government support. Visuals can enhance comprehension, especially in quantitative studies.
4. **Future Research Directions**: Briefly mention areas for future research based on your findings, such as exploring long-term impacts of the pandemic on SMMEs or examining specific industries more closely. This adds depth and positions the study within a larger research context.
5. **Comparative Context**: Consider adding a brief comparison with SMME support structures in other municipalities or countries. This would provide context and help highlight the eThekwini Municipality’s response.
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| **PART 2:**  |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?**  | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |

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| **Reviewer Details:** |
| Name: | **Mohd Nur Fikri Bin Waktu Saptu** |
| Department, University & Country | **Geomatika College Keningau, Malaysia** |