

An Eclectic Analysis on the Efficacy of Intersectoral Approach in Detecting and Combating Socio-Economic Crimes in the Southern African Development Community

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Abstract

The purpose and the objective of this paper is to broadly look at the socio-economic crimes which had and still recurs since the establishment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 1980, as well as the efficacy of the intersectoral approach in detecting and combating the prevailing the anguish of socio-economic crimes in the SADC region. This paper analyses the intersectoral approach and assess its efficacy and downfalls in relation to fighting the socio-economic crimes that continue to haunt the economic developments of the SADC region. Therefore, this paper argues that the intersectoral approach fails to detect and prevent socio-economic crimes in SADC region. What has sparked a great zeal in this paper is the continuous socio-economic crimes which pose a threat to different countries' sovereignty, displace destitute people, recalcitrant of law enforcement agencies and exacerbate the socio-economic circumstances of destitute people in the region. To fulfil the objectives of the SADC region which are to ensure peace, safety and security, economic growth, regional integration, curtailing poverty and improving the living standards of the poor and the marginalized, the intersectoral approach should be re-examined and strengthened by the member states of the SADC region. However, socio-economic crimes such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, the killings and abduction of young women, illegal exploitation of natural resources and hijacking of vehicles are soaring because of poor intersectoral coordination, ineffective law enforcement agencies, political instabilities and different policy frameworks from different SADC countries. Meanwhile, the intersectoral approach should be at the centre of focus in the SADC agenda in an attempt to remedy such socio-economic crimes. Subsequently, the approach appears to be weak and ineffective. This is a conceptual paper which relies on eclectic literature-based methodology to analyse the effectiveness and the downfalls of the intersectoral approach in detecting and combating socio-economic crimes in the SADC region. The paper recommends that the intersectoral approach be re-evaluated, fortified and enforced by the vivacious member states of the SADC region.

Keywords: Cooperation; Crimes; Intersectoral approach; Socio-economic; Southern African Development Community.

1. Introduction

The fundamental objective and aim of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which was founded in 1980, is to create a non-violent and

serenity region made up of Southern African countries for the purpose of pooling resources to promote economic well-existence, curtail poverty and inequality and enhance the standard of living for the people who resides in the region (SADC, 2021). The SADC region has faced and still experience many problems related to socio-economic crimes and corruption, which include land grabbing, ordinary citizens not being able to access services such as water, electricity and health services. In order to salvage such challenges, the intersectoral approach should be re-examines and re-evaluated by the member states of the SADC region. Meanwhile, Ahgren, Axelsson and Axelsson (2009), refer to Intersectoral collaboration as “the most complex form of collaboration, since it includes interprofessional as well as interorganisational collaboration between different sectors of the society”. The authors observe that intersectoral approach means that “the organisations and professions be involved in arranging their different services to fulfil needs of integration, which may be through co-ordination and co-operation”. Therefore, in the context the intersectoral approach, it would mean the collaboration and co-operation of the SADC member states in uplifting the socio-economic status of SADC countries and silencing the guns of socio-economic crimes to ensure peace and security. However, the silence of the intersectoral approach is at least curtailing such debilitating socio-economic crimes is very loud. In that, the weakness of intersectoral approach in the SADC region is crippling and hampering the economic headway of the SADC member states. Accordingly, this paper comprehensively focusses on the socio-economic crimes which have occurred and still occur since the inception of the SADC region and also the efficacy of SADC’s intersectoral approach in identifying and combating socio-economic crimes. Seemingly, the paper will eclectically analyse the intersectoral approach and evaluate its efficacy and failures.

2. Socio-economic crimes in the southern african development community

Gastrow (2001), contends that the SADC region has become a popular market for criminals to engage in illegal activities. Perhaps, it is true that the SADC region is marred with diverse criminal deeds that exposes the country’s sovereignty, displace destitute people, undermine law enforcement agencies, and exacerbate the socio-economic conditions of the destitute people. This paper will firstly discuss the socio-economic crimes that continue to be a fiasco and causes a great pain and afflictions in the SADC countries.

2.1. Corruption

One of the most unfortunate and prevalent phenomena that obstructs economic development is corruption. Rose and Peiffer (2018), define corruption as “paying bribes, embezzlement, tolerating highly organised crimes, drug dealing, and money laundering”. Dingake (2020), states that corruption is the most prominent economic crime in the SADC which is raiding the Southern African countries and the entirety of Africa of its development and a future. The author highlights that corruption is abuse of human rights because it denies the people of their rights and means to survive. Equally, Selelo and Manamela (2018), reaffirm that corruption obliterates and

violates legislative frameworks with malicious intent for self-benefit. However, the honourable Kazembe laments the extent in which organized crimes such, poaching, financial fraud and several others disrupt the region's social, political and economic stability, as well as jeopardize people's security and tranquillity of the people (SADC, 2020). Meanwhile, the SADC anti-corruption protocol, which assures that each country's growth is accompanied by ways to identify, deter and eradicate corruption in all sectors, is being questioned. The protocol aims to manage and regulate cooperation in anti-corruption concerns amongst Southern African countries (SADC, 2001). Hypothetically, the socio-economic crimes that continue to delay the progress of the SADC are perhaps as a result of the failure of the intersectoral approach.

2.2. Fraud

The Collins dictionary defines fraud as "a criminal or deceptive act, intended for personal or financial gain". However, according to the IOL (2007), there are significant instances of money laundering scams and criminals may readily operate across African borders due to ineffective border control, protection and monitoring. Another significant reason, according to the IOL (2007), is that authorities from different jurisdictions do not cooperate; hence, criminals exploit such a vacuum and opportunity to their advantage. For instance, if thieves commit a crime in one county, it is simpler for them to flee and hide in another country since the legislation in the other county prohibits police enforcement from apprehending them. As a result, the IOL (2007), advises that, to address the international terrorist problem, Southern African nations should integrate financial services laws in order to reduce cross-border money laundering. Financial scams will, however, continue to thrive if legislations do not provide adequate effective implementation, monitoring and enforcement across all SADC borders (IOL, 2007).

According to a study done by Boone, Lewis, and Zvekic (2003), eliminating international isolation allow criminals to be more flexible, free and engage in more extended international commerce because they have access to adequate transport and communications' network. Perhaps, this might be because of solid social cohesion of criminal syndicates in different countries across the SADC region. This stance is justified by Boone, et al (2003), who indicate that as per the South African Police Service (SAPS), there are various crime syndicates who have operated both beyond and inside the country boundaries since the end of isolation. Perhaps one should highlight that the member states are all the countries in collaboration in the SADC, (SADC, 2001). Meanwhile, a study by Ntsereko (1997), indicate that the SADC member countries share similar crimes throughout and beyond borders, including the transportation of stolen and counterfeit goods across SADC countries, particularly stealing of vehicles continues to gain prominence in the borders. Ntsereko (1997), further claims that international collaboration and support amongst SADC member countries has reduced a significant proportion of stolen commodities crossing borders, because of organizations such as the "Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Committee" which is at least effective. Therefore, "Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Committee" seeks to eliminate and prevent stolen items from crossing borders (Van der Spur, 2009; SADC, 2020). This,

however, demonstrates the SADC's willingness to expand international collaboration in the fight against international organized crimes (organized crimes that transpires in different countries).

3. Challenges facing the southern african development community region

3.1. *The Status-quo of Poverty*

The major drivers of organized crime in the region are uneven economic growth and social inequality within SADC nations (UNODC, 2016). This refers to the poverty incidence and economic inequality in the SADC region. Poverty is one of the factors that makes it difficult for countries to fulfil their national objectives. The SADC continues to witness first-hand deplorable conditions that poor people tend to endure mostly daily and in reality (SADC, 2021). As a result, individual people continue to be stuck in poverty, without housing, money, or the basic needs of life. In that, poverty levels are severe in nations like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zimbabwe, which subsequently, force many people to turn to crime as their only means and hope of survival (Quinn, 2017 Ramirez-Garcia, 2020). It should come as no surprise that South Africa is a big brother in the SADC region, or least attempting to be one, which is attempting to resuscitate itself from economic recession and perhaps is seen as a "heaven" to destitute people across the SADC region. However, the misfortune is that when people from neighbouring countries come to South Africa looking for work, they are frequently met with "xenophobia." This calls into question the efficacy of intersectoral approach in addressing criminal actions and maintaining peace. Preventing crime should not be just the responsibility of law enforcement authorities; it is a societal issue that necessitates intersectoral approach from the SADC member countries.

To stay relevant to the theme, Quinn (2017), indicates that roughly 72% of the Zimbabwe's population dwell in chronic poverty and that 84% of poor people reside in rural areas. The author also highlights that roughly 4.1 million people in Zimbabwe experience malnutrition and hunger because of draught. Similarly, Philip (2020), shows that the number of people of homeless people is alarming. Ramirez-Garcia (2020) makes a similar assessment by indicating that approximately 72% of the population in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) lives in absolute poverty and that the violence against women and children from the internal armed forces occupies the attention of the government. However, despite South Africa making progress, it is still grappling with the inherited inequality from the apartheid government. Ramirez-Garcia (2020) Shows that the gap inequality and poverty is dominating wherein, women tend to experience more poverty than men. The hardships of poverty that the SADC countries experience is anticipated to soar if the intersectoral approach is not in motion to practically solve these socio-economic conundrums.

3.2. *Illicit Trafficking*

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2016), illegal smuggling is an element of the organized crimes that continue to plague the SADC region. Therefore, theft of cars, hijacking of vehicles, sex trafficking, unlawful

resource exploitation, and drug trafficking are all examples of organized crime which is prevalent in the region (Fafore & Adekoye, 2019). Meaning an organized crime is cautiously orchestrated and it is actually more than two people. This sort of crime occurs as a result of a lack of information exchange between countries regarding criminal activities (Fafore & Adekoye, 2019). Poor coordination of law enforcement authorities to regulate illicit and criminal activities exacerbates the issue of organized crime and necessitates an intersectoral approach (UNODC, 2016). This suggests that law enforcement agencies in the region do not report crimes in a regular and timely manner. To substantiate the latter argument, poor border control encourages illegal trafficking and the smuggling of narcotics, vehicles, abduction of females, and unlawful trade, among other things (UNODC, 2016). Despite the SADC member states' introduction of the Integrated Programme Approach (IPA) to address the regions' comprehensive challenges, the region continues to suffer from social and economic challenges. However, given the region's unfavourable environment, the efficacy of the intersectoral approach remains in question. Thus, Fafore and Adekoye (2019), argues that South Africa is vulnerable to gold theft, which is part of organized crime that occurs in Gauteng and the Northern Cape provinces. The authors go on to claim that Mozambique is a transport hub for other nations, allowing for the smuggling of guns and other weapons in the region. These instances are required to examine the existence of the intersectoral approach and the extent to which it aids in the prevention of such dilemmas.

3.3. Human Trafficking

The conflicts, wars and mishaps in the DRC continue to rise in the face and presence of the African Union (AU) and the intersectoral collaboration of the SADC member states. Human trafficking in the DRC is inevitable. What is democratic about Congo if armed groups continue to abduct young girls and women from their home villages and force them into the "modern day slavery" and military services? (Ramirez-Garcia, 2020). Despite the efforts from Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the DRC still faces a huge challenge of human trafficking because Ramirez-Garcia (2020) portrays that around 3, 107 children ran-away from the highly armed groups by 2019. According to the United States Department of State (2020), traffickers exploit young children, women from Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia force them into hard labour, and sex trafficking. The Department reports that initially women and children would be recruited lure them by offering a sort of employment opportunities with good reimbursement and consequently they force them into labour and molest them.

3.4. Cross-Border Control

In order to maintain peace, security, and stability in the region, border-controls' efficiency, efficacy, and administration are critical. Hence, Addo (2006), suggests that border-control is required to ensure and promote the maintenance of economic development, social and economic stability, economic integration and reduce socio-economic crimes amongst SADC countries for the region's long-term economic growth. The migration of refugees and trade of products across borders is unavoidable. However, incompetent leadership, poor planning and lack of coordination in SADC

border control, on the other hand, threatens and promotes the unlawful movement of commodities and subsequently, organized crime thrives in the end (Addo, 2006). The border control is increasingly becoming one of the issues that occupies the top of the agenda in the SADC region. Minnaar (2001) indicate that borders should at least be able to facilitate free trade movement across the SADC region. However, from the thought of Minnaar, this paper establishes that while there is a need for free trade in the SADC, there should be a tight security to detect and control of crimes in the borders. The sovereignty and authority of SADC's law enforcement agencies, security, and the integrity of SADC countries are all endangered and undermined by illegal activities that occur in cross-border region (Addo, 2006). However, the cross-border control glitches that the SADC region has are also shared by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and East African Community (EAC) regions. One could make an analysis that individual countries' inability to respond to and regulate illegal activities within their borders is the cause of this cross-border control failure and the ongoing crimes. This permits organized crime organizations made up of individuals and corporations to illegally sell products across borders and in the SADC countries.

A study conducted by Minnaar (2001), posits that the SADC borders suffer from the organized criminal syndicates such as money laundering, drug smuggling and stealing of cars. The author further highlights that although the weakness and poor border control do not cause these crimes, it is subsequently it easy for the criminal syndicates to commit crimes. However, Ng'andu (2019), agrees that poor capacity to control and monitor porous borders in Zambia exposes the country to be vulnerable to illegal migration. The illegal migration that Zambia is faced with, is also a similar case in South Africa wherein, the country continues to experience influx of illegal migrants particularly from Zimbabwe. Perhaps, this might be due to a lack of an intersectoral approach amongst SADC countries, as well as differing national policy interests. Minnaar (2001), finds that Border Affairs Co-ordinating Committee (BACC) was established in 1996 with an aim to reach policy agreement amongst SADC member states in relation to border control. Unfortunately, to date, SADC region is facing a plethora of challenges in relation to preventing socio-economic crimes in the SADC borders.

4. The inter-sectoral approach in the southern african development community

To combat socio-economic crimes in the region, an inter-sectoral approach could not function in isolation. There are significant bodies or organizations that form part of the SADC alliance in the fight against organised crimes. The following is a critique as well as a concise overview of the organizations that work hand-in-glove to promote the inter-sectoral approach in the fight against and prevention of socio-economic crimes in the region.

4.1. Southern African Development Community and Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organization (SARPCCO)

The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-ordinating Committee (SARPCCO), which was established as a multi-lateral body in 1995, is an official forum that

brings together all the Southern African region's police chiefs (Van der Spur, 2009; Dietrich, 2016). Van der Spur (2009) further asserts that the body is dedicated to preventing and combating cross-border crimes in the SADC region. Therefore, the SARPCCO is the primary international police force in the region. With its target on various commercial, economic, and social crimes such as human trafficking, counterfeit goods and illegal migrants are among the types of crimes targeted by the organization. This is a component of the inter-sectoral approach, which aims to promote regional cooperation. The SARPCCO's goals include, among other things, ensuring effective collaboration and reducing criminal activity, supplying accurate and reliable data about criminal activities in the area, promoting peace and security, and ensuring effective management and competent cross-border supervision (SADC, 2012). Notwithstanding the outlined goals, the SADC region remains to be plagued by light weapon, arms and drugs trafficking, cash-in-transit robberies, terrorism, illegal mining, and violence against women and children (SADC, 2021).

Dietrich (2016) emphasises that organizationally, SARPCCO performs the functions of a professional organisation by convening yearly meetings of chiefs of police from around the SADC region to discuss matters of common interest and plan appropriate responses to regional crime challenges. Until now, it is proclaimed that the SARPCCO continues to operate as a relatively independent structure which has mainly been unconstrained by other SADC structures (Dissel and Frank, 2012). In practice, this has led to lack of cooperation between SADC bodies like the Organ on Politics, Defense, and Security Cooperation (OPDSC) and SARPCCO. However, because of its independence from SADC as the highest decision-making body, SARPCCO has been able to operate without political interference in the form of political backing. Surprisingly, the structure is reliant on SADC's general ability to offer political direction, administrative support, and financial resources (Dissel and Tait, 2011). Moreover, the structure relies heavily on the funding contributions of third parties such as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other member states to finance its operational programs. The assertion that SARPCCO can engage independently on the socio-economic crimes in the region on a strategic angle without political interference and third parties is farfetched and rhetoric, bearing its reliance on third parties for financial resources, political guidance and administrative support (Dissel and Frank, 2012). Continually, it is safe to say SARPCCO's lack of a dedicated budget compromise its absolute autonomy and institutional capacity and effectiveness to embark on cooperative ventures to fight and prevent organised crimes in the region.

4.2. Southern African Development Community and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

The INTERPOL is an imperative channel of international police cooperation among 194 member states, including all SADC member states. It plays a key role of Sub-regional Bureau for Southern Africa in Harare from a perspective of cooperation among the SADC member states (Szumski, 2020). Hence its role is to expand and improve international police cooperation while assisting and facilitating the work of established INTERPOL bodies. It also wants to be a part of the SADC's initiatives of maintaining peace and stability in the region (Addo, 2006). Continually, it provides support and services for cross-border operations in Africa, focusing on

environmental crime, humane trafficking, drug smuggling, and car theft, among other things. The INTERPOL is the only organization that provides SADC member states with the opportunity to engage in multilateral police cooperation with countries all over the world, as well as access to sophisticated databases and the ability to conduct international searches through the INTERPOL notices and diffusions system (Szumski, 2020). However, in the fight against socio-economic crimes, INTERPOL cannot act alone, which is why it has forged a partnership and collaborates with SADC, SARPCCO and African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), this collaboration is important in the present juncture (INTERPOL, 2018). As a result, INTERPOL's principal mission is to assist law enforcement and police agencies in combating crime and conducting investigations as efficiently as feasible (INTERPOL, 2018).

5. Analysis of the intersectoral approach

The inter-sectoral approach's success and efficacy are contingent on planning, successful inter-sectoral activities, an explicitly expressed purpose, and shared values. However, in order to ensure the sustainability and efficacy of the inter-sectoral approach in SADC, political support, administrative support, and financial resources are required (Addo, 2006; SADC, 2012). Political stability would be essential for mobilizing and utilizing SADC's resources for development (Addo, 2006). Furthermore, it will also ensure that perhaps the political will of different nations to work together to silence the guns of crime in the SADC region is well and explicitly proclaimed. To save their countries from criminal syndicates such as Al-Shabab and Boko-haram, governments must engage actively and interactively in political dialogue. Key to achieving and ensuring inter-sectoral approach is resource allocation in the SADC region. As part of the inter-sectoral approach, resource allocation is crucial in preventing crimes in the SADC region. Additionally, money, staff, and the ability of countries to commit and invest resources will be required for the strategy to be effective in addressing socio-economic crimes in the region. The personnel assigned to the SADC body should be equipped and trained to carry out the goals of the inter-sectoral approach from a variety of professions and disciplines. This could be accomplished if all SADC countries agree to identify training development opportunities, share strategy, and reach financial agreements (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2016).

According to statistics, more than half a million people are displaced as a result of the ongoing hostilities, insurgencies, and battles in the northern Cabo Delgado region (Africanews, 2021). Women are being raped, young children are being abducted, and civilians are being killed by the armed group known as the Al-Shabaab. Political and ethnic divisions, inequities and discrimination, poor governance and corruption, and a lack of cohesion continue to plague the SADC region (Africanews, 2021). Moreover, the groups like Al-Shabab have detected these disputes and a lack of an inter-sectoral strategy in the SADC region, and have taken advantage of the gap to infiltrate and perpetuate crimes and violence in some countries. The existence of the ongoing hostilities in the region provides a chance for criminal syndicates to exploit into their advantage. In other words, conflicts are the cause of war crimes in the SADC region. The African Union's (AU) desire to be more involved in the SADC region

to offer help in conflict situations has grown as a result of the Sudanese crises. The AU's goals in all of Africa's regions are to promote peace, security, and long-term economic progress, as well as to ensure that the 2063 Agenda is accomplished (Amos Saurombe, 2010). The economic, political, institutional, security, and social variables all have a perpetuating role in the DRC's conflict. Political observers referred to this dispute as (Africa's first world war).

The DRC is particularly prone to wars and conflicts by international countries outside of Africa because of the existence of natural resources, poor security, and weak institutional competence in the country (SAN, 2020). However, the purpose of spotlighting such a circumstance is to call into question the SADC region's ability in dealing with such horrific situations in the DRC. Despite the AU's exertions and pledge to ensuring peace and stability in African countries, the SADC communities' inter-sectoral approach is critical in accomplishing the continental imperatives. (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2016). Perhaps, lack of institutional coordination in SADC region is one of the inter-sectoral approach's flaws. Managing conflicting interests in the SADC region is difficult, particularly for the SADC leadership. This could be coupled with a lack of coordination of projects and operations, as different countries have their own national objectives. It is difficult for countries to set aside their own interests in order to promote SADC's agenda and inter-sectoral approach. As a result, these issues undermine the inter-sectoral approach's goal and objectives, which are to enable and ensure unity and collaboration in the fight against crime, enhance economic development, and promote peace and security (SADC, 2012).

6. Did the approach fulfill its purpose?

In the SADC context, an intersectoral approach might be defined as collaborative action and collaboration among SADC member states (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2016). It does not only refer to government cooperation, as well as the civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector in the SADC region forming partnerships and cooperating to improve SADC trade, cooperation, socio-economic progress, and political stability, among other things. One could argue that the intersectoral approach failed to accomplish its objectives. This is because of the continuous socio-economic crimes in the SADC. The countries continue to witness illegal mining, abducting of children and women, illicit trading in the cross-borders and continuous drug smuggling (Addo, 2006). The approach's commitment in peace and security restoration remains a procedural issue on paper rather than a practical reality that give effect to fighting crime in the SADC. This is perhaps worsened by lack of collaboration, poor investigations, or weak law enforcement agencies.

7. The efficacy and downfalls of intersectoral approach

The Southern African region includes 14 member states of which some are in the developing phase and others are at least developed, ever since the countries joined forces, they have taken it to themselves to address organised crimes in their region. However, Gastrow (2001), explains how the lack of resources has created significant

obstacles, such as lack of credible information about the nature of organized crime in the region and the inability to effectively estimate risks due to increased geographical areas and borders. In contrast, Pallotti and Zambernardi (2016: 230), point out that security cooperation within SADC region has evolved significantly during the previous ten years and member states have managed to initiate a process to build a SADC Brigade (SADCBRIG) within the context of the African Union's (AU) peace and security architecture. The SADCBRIG was established with the intention that it will carry out several tasks, including monitoring missions, pre-emptive deployment and peacebuilding and humanitarian relief efforts (SADC, 2021). Akanji (2016: 114), claims that the SADC member states believe that regional military cooperation will improve their independence and limit western meddling in their domestic affairs and that led to the formation of the SADCBRIG. Meanwhile, Okeke and Odubajo (2018), postulate that the SADC's military cooperation initiatives are being hampered by a lack of vision and it need to specify what kind of security cooperation concept it has implemented, as well as the normative norms and principles that underpin regional collaboration. Be that as it may, perhaps the downfalls of the inter-sectoral approach are poor collaboration and cooperation by the SADC member states. Equally, downfalls such as lack of cooperation, poor allocation of resources, different policy frameworks in different SADC countries make the approach to be susceptible to criminal elements. Lastly, one suggests that because of such downfalls, the approach becomes ineffective.

8. Discussion

The literature shows that the intersectoral approach refers to the collaboration of different countries for a common goal. In this context, it refers to the joint efforts from the SADC member states with an aim to enforce regional peace and security, economic growth and development and low levels of poverty and inequalities. The significance of SADC collaboration is inevitable especially at the current development in the region. This follows the persistence rising of socio-economic crimes in the region. Hence, the literature discussed such crimes which are barriers to countries' stability and development. Meanwhile, the silence of the approach is very loud because it creates an easy path for the criminal syndicates to engage in debilitating activities. Therefore, the approach should be intensified in the fight against such crimes. The literature also discussed some of the organizations that could aid and complement the intersectoral approach in the fight against socio-economic crimes in the SADC region. The discussion of such organizations is necessary to intensify the quest to combat such inhuman socio-economic crimes because no country could exist in isolation. Hence, the adage "one hand washes another" is pertinent to highlight the concerted efforts from the different sectors and organizations to reduce socio-economic crimes in the region.

9. Conclusion and recommendations

The unpalatable milieu that SADC region is experiencing is expected to continue if the shortfalls of the intersectoral approach are not ameliorated. It would be unfortunate

if such socio-economic crimes persist in the presence of the intersectoral approach and SADC member states. The literature unequivocally assessed the effectiveness of the intersectoral approach in the fight against socio-economic crimes. Therefore, in the assessment of the approach, the paper finds that the approach did not fulfil its objectives clearly because the socio-economic crimes continue to haunt the SADC region. Thus, the paper recommends that although there are different organizations that could assist in the fight against socio-economic crimes, the paper isolate the intersectoral approach and recommends that the approach should be re-evaluated, re-visited, and be strengthened by the SADC body. The SADC body should have a panel of experts who could pave a way towards realizing and achieving the objectives of the SADC region and the intersectoral approach altogether.

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