

Exploring the nexus between poverty, livestock looting and violence sprees: Provincial focus on South African civil unrest

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Abstract

South Africa has experienced several episodes of protests, looting and violence, as a result fears are growing about food security as these scenes continue across Gauteng (GP) and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province respectively. The violence erupted on Thursday, 8 July 2021 in the KZN Province, reportedly in protest to the imprisonment of former president Jacob Zuma after he was found guilty for 'Contempt of Court' by the Constitutional Court for 15 months and his release called by die-hard supporters. Some of the displayed actions are regarded as the worst violence witnessed in South Africa since the 1990s. As a result, community members were left reeling after days of violence and looting, which caused widespread destructions and more than 200 deaths registered. Negatively, this was widely reported globally, unfortunately; the looting of livestock of informal traders in the rural and urban areas of the Two (02) selected provinces were largely witnessed. Therefore, the nexus between poverty and stock theft looting and violence sprees formed an exploratory premise of this study, focusing on GP and KZN Province civil unrest.

This study adopted qualitative research approach, with an aid of non-empirical research design: Systematic review, closely looking at recent reputable reports across South Africa, using the GP and KZN Province as case studies to explore the nexus between poverty and livestock looting and violence sprees during South African civil unrest, the collected data was restricted from 2007-2021 (i.e. 14 years' projection, not in sequence). This study established that this lucrative sector was targeted by opportunistic large organised criminals, cast fears to the local livestock farmers. The Cattle, Chicken, Goats, Pigs and Sheep were looted during this point of chaos in the two mainly affected provinces of South Africa. Around 20 billion of damage is currently estimated thereof. It is also provided that this was caused by the political and economic shortcomings in South Africa. This study also showcased that the informal livestock traders should not be demolished in the wake of unrest to avoid compromising food accessibility for millions of vulnerable consumers and depleting their reliable source of income for street vendors who rely on such consumers for survival. It is recommended that opportunities created by criminal networks to loot livestock in these provinces should be clearly understood by the National government, together with the degree of anger and hostility. Equally, the notion that the nature of livestock looting and related violence and its causes, should be aligned with the created existing opportunities during this period. Thus,

this was driven by the organised opportunistic criminal elements, with livestock becoming targets, this have little to do with the initial cause of the reported protest, further invalidating the envisaged nexus.

Keywords: Provincial focus (GP and KZN Province), South African civil unrest, The nexus between poverty, livestock looting and violence spree.

Introduction, background and problem exposition

The involvement of households in agricultural activities for subsistence farming can play an important role in reducing the vulnerability to hunger of rural and urban food-insecure households. The results show that out of 16, 2 million households, about 2, 5 million households (15, 6%) were involved in agricultural activities in South Africa in 2017. Provinces that are predominantly rural and with high levels of poverty such as Limpopo (25%), Eastern Cape (20%) and KZN (20%) Provinces had the highest proportions of households that relied on agricultural activities to supply their own food. Most households involved in agricultural activities were involved in the production of 'Fruits and Vegetables, Grain and other food Crops,' as well as in 'Livestock and Poultry farming.' Although the main source of income for these households was social grants, most households involved in agricultural activities indicated that the main reason for their involvement is to supplement food for the household. While food inadequacy and hunger remain a challenge, South Africa has made significant progress towards reducing the number of South Africans and the proportion of households who experienced hunger in 2002, Statistics South Africa [Stats SA] (2019). Their services are play a pivotal role to the country's economy, accounting for at least 40% of the township economy, supporting more than 500 000 people through direct earning, and this sector is also regarded as a very important layer of the country's economy. The informal enterprises provide income and employment to an estimated 3 million employees and business owners. The recent Stats SA (2021) (in Hlakanyane, 2020) on the 'Labour Force Survey' provided that approximately 1 in 6 South Africans who are employed, work in the informal sector, moreover, the National Development Plan (NDP) estimates that this sector will create between 1.2 to 2 million new jobs by 2030, it is also valued to be around 28% of the South Africa's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Hlakanyane (2020).

According to Verma (2006) (Khumalo, 2015), informal trading is very important in developing countries and is the means for survival for many poor people. Urban areas attract an abundance of poor people every year who are drawn by the opportunities that are available, but who then find it difficult to survive in the city as they are unskilled. Even skilled people discover that employment opportunities and a means of survival can be difficult to find (Verma 2006) as the towns do not have the capacity to absorb all the people who come there. A possible solution to this problem, which can potentially stimulate economic growth and facilitate economic activity within these urban areas, is informal trading. Informal trading has the potential to contribute towards solving problems in towns such as high levels of unemployment, high levels of crime and the high number of poor people living within rural and urban areas

(Verma 2006). Informal trading is an income generating activity where individuals engage in exchanging goods or services along streets and sidewalks with passing pedestrians and motorists. Informal trading has been recognised as a way in which people can sustain their livelihoods and has contributed to enabling the people who practice trading to support their lives (Masonganye 2010). However, opportunistic criminals are taking advantage of the current state by looting livestock from the informal traders in South Africa.

According to Masonganye (2010), South Africa's informal sector is growing in line with the rate of unemployment, as people seek ways to economically sustain themselves. This is a sector to which people resort because the barriers to entry and the technical expertise needed to run an informal business are minimal. It is, however, an area of concern for the government, as scholars acknowledge the existence of the informal traders and a fight to integrate them with the formal business stream has resulted (Masonganye 2010). In support to this submission by (Masonganye 2010), poverty remain a key development challenge in social, economic and political terms; not only in South Africa but throughout the developing world. It is not colour discretionary, thus, the scenes on various South African newsrooms across the country confirms. The economic hardship and the looting of livestock and violence is always a debatable issue in the criminological cycle. Seminal authors on this subject confirm that poverty leads to crime in large extent [Stock theft included], however, some of them offer completely apposite views on this arising matter. In essence, there is limited co-integrative relationship between poverty and property related crimes [Stock Theft cited] in a short, medium and long-term. Notably, poverty has been indirectly linked to stock theft, therefore, more research is necessary to arrive to a definite answer. In post-apartheid South Africa, fighting the legacy of poverty and under-development has always been a central theme of the National government. To this course, in 1994; the Reconstruction and Development Plan (RDP) and the National Development Plan (NDP) published in 2011 (Scher, 2008). On the 23rd of June 2021, the Stats SA (2021) posted that Females are more impoverished than Males in South Africa, with poverty headcount of 58, 6% as compared to 54, 9% for males. The poverty headcount equals to 56.8%, with the poverty gap recorded around 27, 9%.

Different factors contribute to high levels of violence, the high levels of inequality, poverty, unemployment, social exclusion and marginalisation, among others. Importantly, to fight livestock looting and related violence; the focus should be on its root causes, including, socio-economic conditions and the Criminal Justice System (CJS) holistically. However, the normalisation of violence is affecting South African citizens (Scher, 2008). Violence is seen by many as a necessary and justified way of resolving conflict, the former president jailing last week for contempt of court cannot justify these actions. For example; the Limpopo Province lead the provincial poverty levels across South Africa, with 78, 9%, while KZN registered 65% and GP recording 33%, Stats SA (2021). The pending question is: *Why the residents of Limpopo Province are not looting livestock and exercise violence actions to conform to the nexus to poverty?* As a recourse, the crime prevention and ultimate elimination of livestock looting and violence are some of the priority goals of the National Development Plan (NDP), 2030. Generally, crime [Stock theft as well] affects all people irrespective of their

backgrounds, and it is a topic that attracts a lot of media attention. Analysis will show that some groupings are affected by certain types of crime more than others and the crime statistics are essential in order to understand the temporal and spatial dynamics of specific crimes. Such understanding is vital for planning targeted interventions and assessing progress made towards achieving a crime free nation where “people living in South Africa feel safe at home, at school and at work, and they enjoy a community life free of fear. Women walk freely in the streets and children play safely outside,” Scher (2008) and Stats SA (2020b).

In developing countries [South Africa forming part of it], the informal economy tends to remain very pervasive and contributes largely to stock theft. Many factors are responsible for this trend, lack of trade facilitation, inadequate border infrastructure, and limited access to finance and market information, corruption and insecurity, limited knowledge, education and business management skills. Moreover, “*it is the inclusive nature of the informal food economy that explains its resilience*” (Malabo Montpellier Panel, 2017). Looting on local farms has left farmers and farm workers living in fear. The rural and urban livestock farmers, as well as the informal traders are enduring the most due to this unrest, especially in the GP and KZN Province, where they are unable to harvest and transport produce - but they have also lost livestock and crops to the looting sweeping across the province. Black Farmers Association of South Africa President [Dr Lennox Mtshagi] (2021) (in McCain, 2021) stated that the organisation’s members had seen livestock and equipment looted from their farms. Collaborating this statement, Botha (2021a) shares that he ‘Watercrest Mall’ was one of many shopping centres in Durban to come under fire as violent protests and looting continue unabated in the KZN Province. Business owners have resorted to firing gun shots into the air to keep looters at bay, while the South African Police Service (SAPS) were reportedly nowhere to be seen. Moreover, this verbatim expression highlight the negative take on this practice “*I have never experienced anything like this in my life ... They have pulled this place apart,*” Looters have taken everything they can lay their hands on,” mentioned Johan de Jager, the Director of Hanly Market Agents (2021) (in Botha, 2021a).

Consequently, the looting and large-scale destruction of property and infrastructure in KZN and parts of GP, including the ransacking of more than 200 ‘Bottle Stores,’ and other livestock has put food security at risk (BusinessDay, 2021). As a result, dozens of people have been arrested after violence and looting erupted in South Africa. Unrest centred on KZN, where ex-president Jacob Zuma is jailed, and in the economic capital Johannesburg (GP). In a statement, the local SAPS arrested 37 people in the Eastern province of KZN and 25 in Johannesburg by the time of drafting this study. While the protests appear to have been triggered by the highlighted Zuma’s 15-month sentence for contempt of court, they have been amplified by a sense of economic desperation as the country faces tightened restrictions amid a Third (3rd) wave of the Corona virus disease-2019 (Covid-19) pandemic (Africa News, 2021). To further show the significant of the current wave of livestock looting and related violence, the Agriculture South Africa (Agri SA) Executive Director [Christo van der Rheede] hinted on the following in verbatim:

“He warned of growing food insecurity with the looting continuing in Two (02) major

provinces ... South Africa runs the risk of people not being able to buy or access food. This will lead to hunger and starvation on a national scale, which in turn will fuel even more social unrest and mayhem ... Fresh produce, especially tomatoes, cannot be kept for long because it goes off then you sit with a problem ... By then also, other farmers had their sugar cane fields destroyed and, in some instances, other produce was set alight. We have also seen a large scale of theft of livestock at one of the markets in KZN... people ran away with Chickens, Pigs, Goats and Sheep. Those are big losses for farmers," Solomons (2021)

Subsequently, Masweneng (2021) reveals that the 'Poultry industry' has had to euthanise stock that could not be moved to farms across the country for placement due to the violent riots. However, this industry 'has been beset by violent mobs of thousands of people 1) Invading farms, 2) Stealing Poultry, Livestock and Equipment, 3) Destroying infrastructure, and 4) Endangering the lives of industry employees. Numerous cases of Arson have been recorded, and threats to burning down large Poultry processing plants have been real. While the industry grapples with the impact of highly pathogenic Bird flu, the farm invasions have destroyed all biosecurity measures present on those production units, and these flocks are now at risk of infection. These acts of violence, lawlessness and looting were endangering the Poultry sector that is key to food security in South Africa, an industry whose finances were already under enormous pressure due to high input costs, the impact of Covid-19 and hard lockdowns, and recently the bird flu outbreak,' Izaak Breitenbach (2021) [Head of the South African Poultry Association] [In Masweneng, 2021].

In addition, Coleman (2021) highlights that the violent protests and looting sweeping South Africa at present have far-reaching implications for the agricultural industry. Although the financial losses suffered by the industry to date are difficult to quantify, the closure of roads and burning of trucks, among other incidents, mean agricultural products cannot be transported from farms to markets and harbours for exports. The "Timber, for instance, cannot reach the markets and the same goes for products, such as; Milk, Eggs and Meat. Perishable products cannot be held indefinitely and must be discarded in the long run, resulting in major losses for producers. Coupled with the foot-and-mouth [disease] outbreak in the province and the ensuing ban on the movement of cloven-hoofed animals, producers are currently facing huge challenges," said PJ Hassard (The President of the KZN Agricultural Union - Kwanalu) [2021] (in Coleman, 2021). It was also shared that the protest action also had a serious impact on the availability of basic foodstuffs since the distribution thereof had become virtually impossible in the affected parts of KZN Province. Although the SAPS was doing its best to prevent and contain the protests, it seemed it lacked sufficient manpower do so effectively. The problem was that it is nearly impossible for the SAPS to act proactively since the outbreaks of violence [Are] jumping from one locality to [Another] without any indication where it can be expected next. But they are trying their best under tremendously difficult conditions.

Furthermore, Angus Williamson (2021) [The Chairperson of the Red Meat Producers' Organisation - RPO in KZN Province] (in Coleman, 2021), welcomed the recent President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa lifting the ban on livestock auctions that had been in place since the end of June as part of the latest Covid-19-related lockdown restrictions. He said that "however, that it was practically impossible to restart livestock

auctions because of the large-scale disruptions caused by the civil unrest. The entire agricultural value chain in the province is affected. I know of a host of agribusinesses that closed their doors for the time being because of the looting and destruction. Retailers have also shut their businesses in fear of the looters and vandalism."

Botha (2021b) states that the Trucks transporting food and those carrying produce for exporting have grinded to a halt as drivers fear for their lives. With shops in several malls already looted, food stocks are low and cannot be replenished. Christo van der Rheede (The Executive Director of Agri SA) [2021] (in Botha, 2021b) confirms that the looting of shops, stoning of Cars, blocking of roads, burning of trucks and crops, as well as *stock theft* were posing a serious threat to food security in the country. Therefore, South Africa runs the risk of people not being able to buy or access food. This will lead to hunger and starvation on a national scale, which in turn will fuel even more social unrest and mayhem, thus, van der Rheede of Agri SA (2021) (in Botha, 2021b) appealed to the Presidency to declare a national state of emergency, which it said should go hand in hand with the deployment of security personnel in all affected areas. In addition, we also call on the Presidency to ensure that our logistical infrastructure such as roads, harbours and airports continue to function in order for food to be delivered. With the National route in South Africa 'N2 and N3' currently blocked, citrus shipments destined for exporting were being held back by producers. The industry was in its peak season and exports to the value of R592 million were under threat.

Justin Chadwick [The Chief Executive Officer - CEO of the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa, 2021] (in Botha, 2021b), states that *"harvesting and packing could not be stopped since producers would then face losing their crops. Instead, fruit was being palletised and kept in cold storage on farms until the roads were safe again. Most cold storage facilities in the [Port of Durban] have closed down, as have the fresh produce facilities. People cannot get to work so there is no one there to operate the ports."* Chadwick (2021) (in Botha, 2021a) also expresses concern about the ripple effect of the disruption in trade, by stating that *"even if the unrest ends now, we will continue to feel the effects for some time to come as the sudden flow of produce will cause bottlenecks at the ports."* He added that *"a sudden glut of citrus on the market once supplies were flowing again would negatively affect prices. If you lose a sales-day you don't gain it later. We will see large amounts of Citrus coming onto the market at once and this will impact returns."*

Meanwhile, Botha (2021a) reports that Sugar Cane farmers were also being affected as Agri SA reported that some sugar cane fields and other Crops had been set alight in the KZN Province, with producers unable to extinguish the fires as they feared for their lives. The situation was also affecting livestock farmers whose feed stocks had been set alight, while various sawmills had also been closed. Although the Avocado season was in full swing, exports had not been overly affected, since most shipments were being sent to harbours in the Western Cape. This prompted Derek Donkin [The CEO of the South African Sub-tropical Growers' Association] [2021] (in Botha, 2021a), to share that *"the producers had been able to circumvent problematic routes and thus managed to ensure a steady flow of produce."*

Van der Rheede (2021) (in Solomons, 2021) went to states that for the looters, *"it's all about eating now"* without understanding how the acts would have an effect

on communities. This lead for the Agri SA appealing to the presidency to declare a national state of emergency to bring an end to the wave of criminality that had taken root in the country. In addition, we also call on the presidency to ensure that our logistical infrastructure, such as our roads, harbours and airports, continue to function in order for food to be delivered. Van der Rheede (2021) (Solomons, 2021) reports that he received information about a farmer from Mpumalanga who had lost R3 million within three days (Friday to Sunday), because he could not deliver fresh produce to KZN. In addition, some farmers' sugar cane fields were destroyed and *livestock, such as Chicken, Sheep and Pigs were stolen*. Equally, the looting of shops, stoning of Cars, blocking of roads, burning of Trucks and Crops as well as theft of livestock were posing a serious threat to food security in the country.

Image 1: A notable picture of livestock looting and other selected stolen items during looting in South Africa



Source: News247GH (2021) and Facebook.com (2021)

Image 1 depicted Two (02) man carrying a pig and a plastic full of meat, with a further showcase of how shops were left empty, when the limited showcased items were stolen, while live Chicken, Goats and other variety of animals were stolen during in the selected provinces of South Africa.

In response, the South African President (Ramaphosa) announced his plans to arrest the spiralling violence and looting of businesses during his address to the Nation. He also laid bare the damage that the violence and looting have caused to the country, warning that food and medication shortages could be experienced in the coming days, as supply chains have been disrupted. He hinted that the country was undergoing the most difficult period since it attained its freedom, and named 10 people who have lost their lives [I.e. Gunshots and petrol bombs reverberated across KZN Province following the said arrest of the former President Jacob Zuma in the early hours of July 8, 2021]. In the days after that, sporadic protests turned into rampant looting, growing more violent and destructive in two of Southern Africa's biggest economic hubs, namely: Durban (KZN) and Johannesburg (GP). Stores were set alight, shops were looted and community members clashed with the police, in what was the worst mass violence in South Africa since the end of white minority rule in 1994. The unrest led to more than 200 deaths, including children, elderly people and police officers and

more than 2,500 people arrested. In a statement on Friday night, the South African President, Ramaphosa, announced that the destruction of property and infrastructure will cost the country billions of rand, Myeni, 2021]. Despite facing a backlash when he said the violence started as a result of 'ethnic mobilisation,' the president reiterated that was the case, but said many people had refused to climb on the bandwagon until criminal elements hijacked the protests. "At the beginning of this unrest, there may have been some people who sought to agitate for violence and disorder along ethnic lines. We know that the majority of our people have, out of principle, refused to be mobilised along these lines. However, what we are witnessing now are opportunistic acts of criminality, with groups of people instigating chaos merely as a cover for looting and theft," he said (Mavuso, 2021). He further insisted that there would be consequences for those found on the wrong side of the law, saying the state will prioritise their prosecution. Emphasising the need to restore calm and get the country running again, he also decided to deploy the Army. According to him, "the Army will work with the police during operations to restore order. It is therefore a matter of vital importance that we restore calm and stability to all parts of the country without delay. It is vital that we prevent any further loss of life or injury. It is vital that we protect property and safeguard social and economic infrastructure. We are therefore mobilising all available resources and capabilities to restore order. "As the Commander-in-Chief of the South African Defence Force (SANDF), I have today authorised the deployment of Defence Force personnel in support of the operations of the SAPS. The National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure, known as National Joint (NatJoint) – has intensified deployments in all the affected areas in KZN and GP," Ramaphosa told the anxious Nation. In addition to those efforts, Ramaphosa said the SAPS was calling up operational members from leave and rest days to increase the presence of law enforcement personnel on the ground ... the National Security Council, which he chairs as Commander-in-Chief, will be meeting twice a day to co-ordinate all measures necessary to restore stability" (Mavuso, 2021).

Dludla and Winning (2021) confirm that South Africans counted the cost of arson and looting that has destroyed hundreds of businesses and killed at least 117 people [I.e. More than 200 deaths recorded], as the spasm of violence began to ebb and the government doubled its troop deployment to 10,000. Pockets of unrest remained, notably in the port City of Durban (KZN), where looters pillaged shops and racial tensions flared. Nevertheless, in the main commercial city Johannesburg (GP), shopkeepers and other residents sifted through debris, cleared up trash and assessed what remained of their ruined enterprises. As initially stated, the rioting broke out in response to the jailing of Ex-President Jacob Zuma last week for his failure to appear at a corruption inquiry. It swiftly degenerated into looting and destruction, driven by widespread anger over the hardship and inequality that nearly three decades of democracy since the end of apartheid have failed to address. The military called up all its reservists to bolster Army and local SAPS who have struggled to contain the unrest. The 'Acting Minister for the Office of President Ramaphosa [Khumbudzo Ntshavheni] (2021) (in Dludla and Winning, 2021) said that the Troop numbers had been doubled since Wednesday to 10,000. This was still fewer than the 25,000 the Minister of Defence [Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula] requested. Ntshavheni (2021) (in Dludla and Winning, 2021) also states that the death toll had risen to 91 deaths in

KZN, Zuma's home province where his support is greatest, and stood at 26 in GP, which includes Johannesburg, making a total of more than 200 killed by the time of drafting this study. A total of 2,203 arrests had been made. Thus, *"we should be worried at the nature of violence that we've seen, the nature of criminality, South Africa's economy was just beginning to recover from the worst effects of the pandemic, this is going to further reverse our economic growth"* warned the Foreign Minister [Naledi Pandor] (2021) (in Dlodla and Winning, 2021).

In some neighbourhoods, vigilante groups have sprung up to protect their property. But there was also evidence the latest chaos may be exacerbating the racial tensions that are a legacy of the apartheid system. *"In Durban's Phoenix (KZN) neighbourhood, home too many South Africans of Indian descent, authorities reported conflict between them and Black citizens. "There are ugly scenes playing out on the streets of Phoenix, the racial direction that these unrests are taking must be arrested speedily,"* shared the Minister of Police [Bhekokwakhe 'Bheki' Hamilton Cele] (2021) (in Dlodla and Winning, 2021). Twenty people have been killed in Phoenix since the start of the violence. Individuals were still seen carrying objects near a warehouse after violence erupted following the jailing of former South African President Jacob Zuma, in Durban (KZN) on the 14th of July 2021. In response, the members of 'Private Security Companies' walked at a looted shopping mall as the country deployed the Army to quell unrest in Vosloorus (GP) this was also reported on the 14th of July 2021. As a result, volunteers clean up the streets after days of looting, in Durban (KZN) and GP areas, on the 15th of July 2021, Dlodla and Winning (2021). Moreover, an informal slum housing poor Blacks was burned down in the KZN City of Pietermaritzburg, the mayor for the municipality that includes it said. The ransacking of stores has left food and other essentials in short supply, and the closure of many petrol stations has also hit transport supply lines, Dlodla and Winning (2021).

At Diepkloof Mall in Soweto (GP), South Africa's biggest township, about 50 people swept up broken glass and packed empty shoe boxes into plastic rubbish bags. Clothing stores were empty and looted Automated Teller Machine (ATM) machines lay strewn around. *"It is heart-breaking ... Everything is gone. It is going to take months to be back up again,"* said Ricardo Desousa [Manager of a ransacked butcher shop in Soweto's Bara Mall] (2021) (in Dlodla and Winning, 2021). His staff were helping clean up the damage. While *"they are not going to get paid. There is no money,"* he further shared. The destruction of businesses is likely to exacerbate the poverty and desperation that partly fuelled the riots. Half of South Africans are below the official poverty line and unemployment stood at a record high of 32.6% in the first three months of 2021, due partly to the impact of Covid-19.

Furthermore, pillaging continued in Durban (KZN), where crowds in the Mobeni neighbourhood rolling away trolleys loaded with maize meal and other staples were seen. As initially indicated, former President Zuma, 79, was sentenced last month for defying an order to give evidence at a judicial inquiry probing high-level graft during his time in office from 2009 to 2018. He has pleaded not guilty in a separate case on charges including corruption, fraud, racketeering and money laundering, saying he is the victim of a political witch-hunt. But his downfall has opened up a power struggle within the African National Congress (ANC), in power since the end of apartheid in

1994. Zuma loyalists make up the strongest faction opposed to the current President Ramaphosa. Therefore, William Gumede [A professor in governance at the University of the Witwatersrand] (2021) (in Dlodla and Winning, 2021), stated that the chaos was likely to cost the African National Congress (ANC) in lost votes. *“Black people lost the most ... businesses were affected, with mainly Black employees without work. So, you can imagine the anger towards the ANC among many former supporters.”* He went on to say. The unrest has also disrupted hospitals struggling to cope with a third wave of Covid-19. They are running out of oxygen and drugs, most of which are imported through Durban (KZN). Some vaccination centres have been forced to shut in the country, Dlodla and Winning (2021).

As previously indicated, the deadly violence and looting that rocked South Africa were planned, President Ramaphosa (2021) (in Aljazeera, 2021) has alleged, during his first visit to areas affected by the worst unrest in the country's post-apartheid era. *“It is quite clear that all these incidents of unrest and looting were instigated, there were people who planned it and coordinated it.”* President Ramaphosa (2021) (in Aljazeera, 2021) made the remarks when he visited Ethikwini Municipality (KZN), which includes the port city Durban, one of the worst hit areas in a week of looting that destroyed hundreds of businesses. At least more than 200 people have died, some shot and others killed in looting stampedes. *“We are going after them, we have identified a good number of them, and we will not allow anarchy and mayhem to just unfold in our country,”* President Ramaphosa (2021) (in Aljazeera, 2021).

Methods and materials

Supporting the adoption of the non-empirical research design: Systematic review in this study; Gough, Oliver and Thomas (2012:5) and Punch (2014) explain this form of research design identifies, describes available research literature ‘using systematic and explicit accountable methods and pre-specified formalised tools for searching and integrating literature, aided by qualitative research approach. To accomplish data collection methods; seminal literature [Documentary] sources where selected, Creswell (2014) reveals that researchers may collect qualitative documents, such as the public documents, such as newspapers, minutes of meetings or official documents and they can also ask questions to documents in the same ways as one might ask questions of the study participants (Matthews & Ross, 2010; and Maluleke, 2016).

To this course; the medicinal plants media releases, South African online newspapers and media reports, journal articles and internet searches (I.e. Electronic databases - Google Scholar, EbcOHost, Emerald Insight, Jstor, ProQuest, Sabinet, Sage Online and Science Direct) and other 2021 seminal online newspaper articles on this subject, including the National Development Plan (NDP), 2030, National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS), 1996/2021, Draft White Paper on Safety and Security, 2016, Stats SA reports [2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021], World Bank Group Report (2018) and World Bank South Africa (2021), among others (Creswell, 2014; and Maluleke, 2020). The sampling methods involved the ‘non-probability: Purposive sampling’ focusing on data primarily relevant to the study subject. The keywords/phrases were used to

filter info relevant to reach data saturation of the research problem, while applying Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA) to identify the themes to respond and verify the study objective. This was applied to present honesty reporting relating to the consulted literature, (Liamputtong 2013; and Mokwena & Maluleke, 2020). The reviewed data was restricted to 2007-2021 (I.e. 14 years' projection, not in sequence) to demarcate inclusion/exclusion criterion. For data analysis, the Textual Analysis (TA) was adopted, solely depending on a very detailed analysis of the collected data, Mokwena, Motsepe, Maluleke and Shandu (2020).

Literature review, theoretical frameworks and discussions

South Africa is culturally and historically rich nation located at the tip of the African continent, bordering the Indian and South Atlantic Oceans, a home to 56.5 million people, the country represents a unique case of national development with several new advances. South Africa appears as one of the unique and distinct Sub-Saharan African countries that strives to achieving advanced and industrialized level of development (Ikejiaku, 2009). South Africa's political transition is known as one of the most remarkable political feats of the past century. It is said that the ruling ANC has driven the policy agenda since 1994 until 2016.

Crime and poverty is described by Anderson (2009) as a major economic and social problem in most developing countries including South Africa. Crime in South Africa includes all violent and non-violent crimes. Crime levels has been attributed to poverty, problems with delivery of public services, and wealth disparity (Department of Community Safety, 2004). Poverty in South Africa is a broad and complex issue with a history of unspeakable inequalities and a rocky development path over the past 20 years have left millions below the poverty line (Stats SA, 2017). Poverty is consistently highest among black South Africans, the less educated, the unemployed, female-headed households, large families and children. Further, poverty has a strong spatial dimension in South Africa, a demonstration of the enduring legacy of apartheid (World Bank Group Report, 2018).

In an attempt '*to understanding the nature of crime and poverty in South Africa;*' the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation [CSVR] (2007) was contracted by the South ANC government to carry out a study of the nature of crime in South Africa. The study pointed out different factors which contributed to high levels of violence which includes the normalisation of violence, a subculture of violence, the vulnerability of young people due to inadequate child-rearing followed by poor guardianship and youth socialisation, the high levels of inequality, poverty, unemployment, social exclusion and the consumption and abuse of alcohol is seen as a direct cause or contributing factor in any murder, attempted murder, assault.

The study conducted by The Borgen Project (2020) reveals that nearly half the adult population of South Africa lives in poverty. Equally, the Stats SA (2020a) reveals that about 49.2% of the population over the age of 18 falls below the Upper-bound Poverty Line (UBPL). Secondly, women are generally more vulnerable to poverty. According to South Africa's Living Conditions Survey [LCS] (2015) 52.2% of women fall below the UBPL, compared to 46.1 of men. Additionally, the research shows that

74.8% of women-led households follow below the UBPL, whereas only 59.3% of men-led households do. Thirdly, Covid-19 has made poverty worse in South Africa. With over 500 000 cumulative cases as of August 2020, there is no doubt that the pandemic has exacerbated many of the underlying issues surrounding poverty in the country. Fourthly, Inequality of all sorts characterizes access to income and poverty headcounts in rural areas are significantly higher than that of urban areas.

Evidentially, '*some of the factors contributing to crime and poverty in South Africa*,' Escareno (2008) indicates that crime is complex issue that may stem from many sources, but a lack of education, generational poverty, and the rupture of family structure each seems to play a prominent role in criminal activity. There is a high propensity that crime increases during periods of political transition, coupled with instability and violence because during periods of instability, regular policing activities are diverted towards controlling violence and crime levels consequently multiply (Schonteich & Antoinette, 2001). Schonteich and Antoinette (2001) further argues that number of explanations can help to understand high levels of crime and poverty in South Africa. Such explanations includes the impact on levels of serious crime of the country's ongoing political and socio-economic transition, the connection between the country's past and contemporary criminal behavior, the impact of the proliferation of firearms, the growth in organised crime, changes in the demographic composition of the country and the consequences of a poorly performing CJS and the structural challenges and weak growth have undermined progress in reducing poverty, which have been heightened by the Covid-19 pandemic. The achievement of progress is household welfare is severely constrained by rising unemployment, which reached an unprecedented 32.5% in the fourth quarter of 2020. The unemployment rate is highest among youths aged 15 and 24 at around 63% (World Bank South Africa, 2021). Therefore, the following key statistics are essential to understand a nexus between livestock looting and violence sprees, in comparance to poverty in the GP and KZN:

- Percent of households that felt safe walking alone in the dark = 31.8%
- Percentage of households who were satisfied with police in their area = 54.2%
- Percentage of households who never saw police, in uniform and on duty, in their area of residence = 23.1%
- Percentage of households that thought courts were too lenient to criminals = 45.6%
- Percentage of households that are willing to welcome a former prisoner into their church/mosque = 79.6%
- Percentage of household heads that are willing to marry a former prisoner = 22.2% (Stats SA, 2020)

Importantly, the Stats SA (2019) outlines 'the five notable facts about poverty in South Africa,' [This was done to establish the unfounded link between livestock looting and violence sprees in the GP and KZN, in terms of the recent experienced poverty] the LCS is part of Stats SA's household survey programme and provides detailed information on households' living circumstances, as well as their income and expenditure patterns. Information from this survey was used to compile the report entitled: '*Men, Women and Children: Findings of the 2014/15 LCS.*' Some of the findings outlined in this report were as follows:

- **Approximately half (49,2%) of the adult population were living below the UBPL**

According to the LCS (2014/15) (in Stats SA, 2019), there were 35, 1 million adults (Aged 18 years and older) in South Africa in 2015. When looking at the poverty headcount by sex using the UBPL, adult males and females experienced a headcount of 46, 1% and 52, 0%, respectively. Adult females experienced higher levels of poverty when compared to their male counterparts, regardless of the poverty line used.

- **GP and the Western Cape had the lowest proportion of adults UBPL**

The provinces with the highest headcount of adult poverty are Limpopo (67, 5%), Eastern Cape (67, 3%), KZN (60, 7%) and North West (59, 6%). For these four provinces, significantly more than half of their population were living in poverty. The GP and Western Cape had the lowest proportion of adults living in poverty at 29, 3% and 33, 2%, respectively.

- **Female-headed households mostly felt the experience of poverty**

According to the LCS (2014/15) (in Stats SA, 2019), approximately 40, 0% of South Africans were living below the UBPL. The poverty gap (the distance away from the poverty line) and severity of poverty measures were larger for female-headed households compared to households headed by males. The proportion of females living below the UBPL was 16, 9 percentage points more than that of households headed by males (About 49, 9% versus 33, 0%). Almost six out of every ten households headed by males (59, 3%) compared to over seven out of every ten households headed by females (74, 8%) in traditional areas were living under the UBPL.

- **Poor children were twice as likely to have no access to safe play areas**

Having a safe play area is fundamental for the healthy development and growth of a child. At the UBPL, more than half of non-poor children (53, 7%) lived in neighbourhoods with safe play areas compared to just a quarter of poor children (25, 7%)

- **Poor households headed by females had better access to housing and electricity, but not to water, sanitation and refuse removal services**

About 91, 4% of poor male-headed households were connected to electricity compared to 95, 2% of poor female-headed households. For poor female-headed households, 69, 6% had full access to water compared to 71, 7% of poor male-headed households. Empirically; the unrest that has taken over South Africa especially in the KZN and GP, has left farmers in fear and have made them run a loss in terms of the livestock that has been stolen. Different videos on social media has suffered showing people stealing Sheep, Goats, Chickens, Pigs and even Cattle, as initially indicated in the previous sections of this study. In the KZN Province, South Coast, *Amanzimtoti*, the township of *Illovu* experience a shocking looting of a farm. In this farm, which is close to the road (Sbu Mkhize highway), Cattle were shot by different men on the head, apparently four would jump inside the farm and drag the Cattle closer to the fence. The shot Cattle were slaughtered inside the farm, as a result, people nearby came in numbers to carry the meat away with 'Buckets and Plastics.' The men who slaughtered the Cattle inside the farm barbecued some of the meat for a meal.

It looked as if this was planned because the men who slaughtered the Cattle already

had knives, buckets and axe with them, that would be of assistance in slaughtering and taking the meat. The biggest concern here is that it seemed most people who looted the meat were just doing this to eat the meat now and not even looked at how the community would be affected by this. The farm was a supplier for the local Butchery, with the farm looted to that degree there is no hope of it recovering which in turn places us as the community in crisis of not having access to food and high prices of meat bought from supermarkets. Some insight has been shined on this looting as people came with expensive Cars to commit this crime; some even removed number plates to conceal identifications as they load meat into their respective Cars. Children as young as 8 years, especially boys were amongst the looters running around catching Chickens and pulling Goats and Sheep to give them to the parents. Majority of the looters covered themselves with Masks and Hats to hide their identities in case a video or pictures were taken during this act of criminality.

Crime has been committed to the highest level in the local farms that were attacked by the looters and one cannot speak freely and state that it was the black poor marginalised South Africans as those who took the meat, transported it into different parts of KZN Province, such as; Adams mission Sunside, Makhutha and *Illovu* township. Another farm which is owned by a different person on the same road (Sbu Mkhize highway) just close to *Umbumbulu* almost got attacked, but by the time the looters moved from the one closer to *Illovu* township, security was already placed around the farm and the security force announced to the people that they will shoot to kill to anyone who comes close to the farm or even stops their vehicle next to the farm. Looters moved away as the Gumede brothers' security secured the place for a whole day of Monday (12/07/2020) and Tuesday (13/07/2020). Those who went to check on the night of Wednesday (14/07/2020) found that the local farm was partially empty, the light weight livestock, such as Chickens, Goats, Sheep and Pigs were all taken away, even Calves were moved to another location, which was not near highway. The place looked deserted and the lights were switched off, but movement of Cattle were heard and looters also got scared of the unknown, as some thought and voiced to others that the security force can still be inside waiting for them and that what keeps back the looters from looting the local farm.

As the civil unrest progressed, the looters moved to different parts of GP and KZN Province, hoping to loot more livestock and sentimental goods. The farmers in the KZN Province have taken the matter into their own hands and are shooting to kill those who dare try to enter private property without permission. These opportunistic acts of criminality (As the president of South Africa called them) are surely going to leave South Africa in starvation and hunger. The way things are looking presently, livestock farmers near *Illovu* of KZN Province might close their Shops and move elsewhere, as they are not seen as part of the immediate community, while this move can affect these communities, as some of the community members work in these farms and are going to lose their jobs, this will cause limited demands for 'Fresh meat supply,' as the 'Frozen meat' is going to run out soon. Thus, the local citizens are panic buying especially frozen products.

Therefore, food security is one of the most talked about topics presently, as the blockage of transportation and lack of freshly produced goods are common, for example; the

Coastal Region of KZN Province is already experiencing high prices and long queues to access basic needs. The looting may have happened in the process of voicing out our needs as a country but now it has come to back to us as the suppliers will increase prices and people will be out of jobs thus spiking the unemployment rate. It going to take years to build up and restore the GP and KZN Province respectively, the insurance companies are placed under pressure to assist the store and the local farms in rebuilding the damaged property and pay for stock loss.

Criminological theories to best explain civil unrest in South Africa: the livestock looting and violence sprees and poverty nexus

The Rational Choice Theory and the Differential Association Theory were used to explain the current happenings in the GP and KZN Province based on livestock looting and related violence and the creation of poverty nexus in this regard.

Rational Choice Theory

The Rational Choice Theory developed by Ronald Clarke and Derek Cornish recognised the influence the environment has on the offender's choice taking into consideration that crimes are purposive and deliberate acts, committed to benefit the offender (Cornish & Clarke, 2008). It proposes that if given a chance, or right opportunity, any person will commit a crime (Felson & Clarke, 1998). This theory focuses on the motivation of the offender in cost-benefit terms thus explain how and why crime occurs. The offender decides to commit a crime if the benefit (Reward) outweighs the cost (Punishment). The theory suggests that a potential offender has four primary choices to consider: whether to commit the crime or not, whether to select a particular target or not, how frequently to offend, and whether to continue or discontinue from committing crime (Andresen, 2010). Different factors such as psychological, familiar, social, and economic factors play a role in the individual choice to offend. An offender usually decides on a particular target and this decision is dependent on the environment and the absence of a potential guardian, for example security as seen during the civil unrest, where different livestock were looted. The frequency of crime is depended on the offenders social networks, peer influences, monetary need and likelihood of the crime succeeding. The choice to continue with a certain criminal activity is often dependent on internal factors (I.e. Crime detection, difficult? Targets and the age of criminals) and external factors [Marital status, carrying an injury or employment status] (Andresen, 2010).

The approach presented by this theory makes it possible to reduce the risk of offending by identifying possible opportunities that lead a person to make the decision to commit a criminal offence. The approach is most often used in situational crime prevention as it allow to determine the time and place where crime is likely to occur. This theory also seeks to modify the environment to make crime less persuasive (Often referred to as target hardening). Thus, the interpretations of criminal activities lie in the fact that human beings, unlike inanimate objects, think for themselves and have the ability to choose. For various reasons human beings can decide on any given day to commit crime or to abstain from doing so. It remains difficult to predict very

complicated human behaviours relating to criminal acts. In essence, human beings are rational and calculating in nature that does things to avoid pain and produce unnecessary pressure, they have a free will, which they can use to elect to engage in either criminal or no-criminal behaviour. Criminal behaviour will be more attractive if the losses are estimated to be greater than the gains and the more certain, severe and swift the reaction to crime are, the more likely it will become that the penalties will control the behaviour (Fraud Examiners Manual, 2015). Therefore, the potential offenders calculated the gains of looting livestock and losses [Possible arrest] before they decide to disobey the law, has its roots in the beliefs that human beings are rational and calculating creatures and therefore, do things in order to avoid pain and produce pleasure. In summation, the livestock looting and related violence in the GP and KZN Province conform to the following principles of this theory.

- People have free will (Either rich or poor), which they can use to elect to engage in either criminal or non-criminal behaviour [Either to loot livestock and display violent behaviour nor decides otherwise].
- Criminal behaviour will be more attractive if the gains are estimated to be greater than the losses [This talks to SAPS capacity, leading to the deployment of SANDF, aided by the Private Security Companies].
- The more certain, severe and swift the reaction to crime, the more likely it is that the penalties will control the behaviour [Looking at soldiers reactions and community guards], Fraud Examiners Manual (2015).

As initially stated, the Rational Choice Theory was developed by Cornish and Clarke (1985). This theory views criminal behaviour as the outcome of decisions and choices made by an offender. The theory has its roots in classical criminology. The Rational Choice Theory postulates that: "crime is a function of a decision-making process in which the potential offender weighs the potential costs and benefits of an illegal act" (Fuller, 2012:84). The Rational Choice Theory is thus the: "concept that offenders calculate advantages and disadvantages not only of breaking the law, but also of what type of offense to commit" and it has practical implications for criminal justice policies (Fuller, 2012: 84). Additionally, the theory posits that criminal behaviour is a matter of personal choice that is made after the individual has considered its costs and benefits. This theory contends that law-abiding behaviour is the product of careful thought and planning. "Offenders choose crime after considering both personal factors such as money and situational factors such as target availability and security measures. Before deciding to commit a crime (Livestock looting and related violence), the reasoning criminal evaluates the risk of apprehension, the seriousness of expected punishment, the potential value or benefit of the criminal enterprise, his or her ability to succeed, and the need for criminal gain" (Siegel, 2011:84). Cornish and Clarke (1985) see criminal behaviour as the outcomes of decisions and choices made by the offender. Offense and offender-specific crime According to this theory, crime is viewed as being 'offense-and offender-specific.' In terms of the offense, offenders: "React selectively to the characteristics of an individual criminal act" (Siegel, 2011: 86). A linkage was initiated to the commission of livestock looting and violence sprees with the Rational Choice Theory, this may be committed for the benefit of an individual or organisation. The benefits or gains derived from livestock looting can be committed

by an individual may be direct, such as the receipt of money out of sales. Thus, the stock theft offenders are motivated by a desire for pecuniary gains upon committing this crime.

The application of the Rational Choice Theory may inform policy and practice to curb or even eradicate reoffending because it proposes that punishment should be imposed for any crime that has been committed, as the offender has weighed the advantages and disadvantages before committing that crime, (Stock theft in this regard). Therefore, the Rational Choice Theory supported the notion that perpetrators of livestock looting and related violence know before they commit this crime that it is an offence. Therefore, either 'Civil or Criminal' penalties should be imposed for all livestock looting or related violence cases with proven intent. In the context of the Rational Choice Theory, conspiracy is linked to cases where potential stock thieves commit this crime for monetary benefit. This implies that they weighed the benefits of committing this crime and decides wilfully that they would gain financially regardless of losses to the local informal traders. The potential offenders normally weigh the advantages of committing this crime against the possibility of arrest and imprisonment to decide whether to commit this crime or not. Their criminal behaviour in this instance affords them with immediate benefit with a slight risk of being caught and a lesser risk of punishment.

Analysis of the Rational Choice Theory

The authors submit that the Rational Choice Theory is in line with the functions of the CJS, which propose that offenders should be punished for committing stock theft because they have weighed the benefits and calculated the advantages prior to committing it. This means that they knew what the consequences of their criminal act might be. The Rational Choice Theory also assumes that criminal behaviour is a personal choice. However, in some cases, the stock thieves negligently commit this crime since they do not consider the impacts caused by it, they think that they are merely solving their personal financial problems. They are not aware of how their actions will affect the agricultural sector. The Rational Choice Theory proposes that people are encouraged to maximise their preferences by acquiring wealth and power through livestock looting. However, not all such choices are economically driven, and preferences can be maximised based on the determination of other values. The following question was posed by Samenow (2004), namely: *"Is crime the only choice that some people have in order to survive?"* (Samenow, 2004) (in Anon, 2008). Furthermore, Samenow (2004) views crime as: *"...being almost a normal, if not excusable, reaction to the grinding poverty, instability, and despair that pervade criminals' lives"* (Samenow, 2004) (in Anon., 2008). However, after extensive research, Samenow (2004) posits that criminals *"choose to commit crimes [and that crimes are] caused by the way [the person] thinks, not by his environment"* (Samenow, 2004) (in Anon 2008). Equally, Samenow (2004) adds that *"behaviour is largely a product of thinking. Everything we do is preceded, accompanied, and followed by thinking"* (Samenow, 2004) (in Anon., 2008). So, rather than regarding criminals as victims, Samenow (2004) concluded that criminals are: *"... victimisers who had freely chosen [Sic] their way of life"* (Samenow, 2004) (Anon,

2008).

The key word in Samenow's (2004) argument is 'chosen'. In fact, an article in a British newspaper stated the following: *"Crime is a career of choice for young urban men aspiring to better things. Humans have free will and can choose the course they want to take, even under difficult circumstances. To be sure, millions struggle daily against social injustice and poverty, or they may live in dysfunctional families, but they do not become criminals"* (Samenow, 2004) (in Anon, 2008). In support of this article titled: 'Criminals cause crime', Samenow (2004) states that it is not *"bad neighbourhood, inadequate parents ... or unemployment [that] contribute to the causation of crime. Crime resides within the minds of human beings and is not caused by social conditions"* (Samenow, 2004) (in Anon, 2008).

Sutherland's Differential Association Theory

The Differential Association Theory provides that social learning theories are attached to a fact that "crime is a product of learning the norms, values, and behaviours associated with criminal activity" (Siegel, 2011: 174). Social learning can involve the actual techniques of crime (Learning how to commit stock theft nor loot livestock, while displaying violence), as well as the psychological aspect of criminality (How to deal with being guilty of stock theft nor looting of livestock?). Edwin H. Sutherland, in his theory, proposes that, through interaction with others, individuals learn the values, attitudes, techniques, and motives for criminal behaviour, while predicting that an individual will choose the criminal path when the balance of definitions for law-breaking exceeds those for law-abiding. However, one critique levelled against differential association stems from the idea that people can be independent, rational actors and individually motivated.

The principles of Sutherland's Differential Association Theory

The following principles that govern the Differential Association Theory, and how they impacted this study, are discussed below:

- **Criminal behaviour is learned:** Sutherland implies that *"criminality is learned in the same manner as any other learned behaviour"* (Siegel, 2011). For the purpose of this study, this implies that stock theft offenders or looters learn to commit this crime in different ways, as seen during the South African civil unrest.
- **Criminal behaviour is learned as a by-product of interacting with others:** Sutherland states that *"an individual does not start violating the law simply by living in a criminogenic environment or by manifesting personal characteristics associated with criminality such as a low Intelligence Quotient (IQ) or family problems. People learn as they actively socialise and interact with other individuals who serve as teachers and guides to crime"* (Siegel, 2011). This implies that stock theft offenders or looters learn to commit this crime against the informal traders during unrest. Thus, individuals are not born criminals, but they learn criminal behaviour through interaction with other people who have knowledge and experience of committing it.
- **Learning criminal behaviour occurs within intimate personal groups:** Sutherland is of the view that *"people's contacts with their most intimate social companions – family, friends, and peers have the greatest influence on their development of deviant behaviour and an antisocial attitude"* (Siegel, 2011). In the case of livestock looting and violence, the offenders might have grown up in families where there are family members who commit commercial crimes for

monetary benefits where children viewed it as a way of living and gaining easy wealth.

- **Learning criminal behaviour involves assimilating the technique of committing crime, including motives, drives, rationalisation, and attitudes:** *“Criminals learn the proper terminology for their acts and acquire approved reactions to law violations. Criminals must learn to react properly to their illegal acts, such as when to defend them, when to rationalise them, and when to show remorse for them”* (Siegel, 2011). For instance, criminals learn to commit stock theft or become a looter for their various personal gain.
- **The specific direction of motives and drives is learned from perception of various aspects of the legal code as favourable or unfavourable:** Sutherland states that *“because the reaction to social rules and laws is not uniform across society, people constantly meet others who hold different views on the utility of obeying the legal code.”* This implies that stock thieves’ offenders react to favourable conditions and perceptions that this crime is not perceived seriously.
- **Differential associations may vary in frequency, duration, priority, and intensity:** Sutherland is of the view *“that whether a person learns to obey the law or to disregard it is influenced by the quality of that person’s social interactions”* (Andreoni, Erard & Feinstein, 1998). The stock thieves or livestock looters are adults who might be employed or self-employed. Although they might have learnt criminal behaviour in their early years, this crime is often committed by people aged 18 and upwards.
- **The process of learning criminal behaviour by associations with criminal and anti-criminal patterns involves all of the mechanisms that are involved in any other learning process:** *“Learning stock theft nor livestock looting behaviour patterns is similar to learning nearly all other pattern sand is not a manner of mere imitation,”* (Siegel, 2011).
- **Although criminal behaviour expresses general needs and values, it is not excused by those general needs and values, because non-criminal behaviour expresses the same needs and values:** This principle suggests that *“the motives for criminal behaviour cannot logically be the same as those for conventional behaviour”* as the desire to accumulate money or social status, personal frustration, and low self-control can be causes of stock theft.

Analysis of Sutherland’s Differential Association Theory

The Differential Association Theory is important because it does not specify that criminals come from a disorganised context or are necessarily members of the lower class. However, Sutherland’s work fails to account for the origin of criminal definitions. For instance, it fails to explain how expert criminals teach potential offenders. This poses the question: *“Do stock thieves teach other potential criminals to commit this crime during civil unrest?”* The other criticism is that this theory is only based on rationality and ignores the fact that poverty and their ‘teachers’ for the benefit of both the ‘teacher’ and the offender may motivate some offenders. Sutherland’s belief that crime is a function of the inherent inadequacy of people in the lower classes. According to the principles of the Differential Association Theory, crime occurs as

the result of a learning process. This implies that no individual is born a criminal, but that people learn criminal behaviour at a young age. For instance, a 14-year-old child might start by stealing money at home and, as he/she grows up, he/she easily learns to commit other types of crime, including stock theft. It is also evident that people learn criminal behaviour through interaction and socialisation with others who have knowledge about and skills in terms of a particular crime.

Moreover, there are motives or drivers for any criminal act. The application of Differential Association Theory was pivotal in this article since it does not specify that criminals are individuals held in great esteem and of high or lower social status who, in the course of a seemingly honest business transaction, unlawfully benefit themselves in their private capacity, including stock theft and livestock of looting, financial intrigue and the exploitation of regulations and legislation (Laws), caused by greed, large profits and low risks, poor tracing and prevention, crimes on reported, availability of computer technology, poor legislations, Learning Theory, Anomie Theory, rational choice, opportunity and knowledge (Stevens & Cloete, 2010: 52-53). This is particularly applicable in terms of stock theft and livestock looting and related violence during civil unrest in South Africa. However, Sutherland's work fails to account for the origin of criminal definitions.

Conclusions and recommendations

This study concludes that large organised criminality in South Africa / gangster elements were seen looting livestock in the GP and KZN Province, it is believed that these ill-actions are caused by elite politics nor political leaders. The persisting hardships are cited post 27 of democracy, as approximately 50% of populations are still classified as poor, and the youth with the age between 15-24 remain unemployed. This resulted in the current episodically violence witnessed, where livestock were looted with ease. The xenophobic attacks in 2008, 2015, 2020 and currently [2021], are also cited as some of conspiracy theory for the poor to targets assert of each other [Livestock in this case]. However, a nexus between poverty and livestock looting incidences [As well as related violence] in the GP and KZN Province were unfounded by this study.

Negatively, the reported death, looting sprees, violent protests and criminal acts persists unabated in the GP and KZN Province, the looters continue to ransack shops, malls and looted livestock, despite deployment of the local SAPS and SANDF and Private Security Companies in these provinces. The tensions remained high in Durban (KZN) and other parts of GP. This can lead to a shortage of food, fuel supply, and loss of jobs, medicine and other essential supplies. This is also regarded as a threat to food security largely. Furthermore, this is a memory that will redefine who we are in future, as the poor are going to feel the effects of the witnessed scenes. Ultimately, we are going to suffer from this as a country. As a result to get a loaf of bread become difficult to buy in GP and KZN Province. The few shops that are opened have extreme long ques and people are panic buying, not adhering to Covid-19 regulations, it is like we are in a war situation. This is coupled with the 3rd wave sweeping across the country as initially revealed in this study.

It is also concluded that the livestock looting in the GP and KZN Province, and destructions of local farms impacts on livelihood results from poorly performing economies, deficient governance, ignored profile of inequality and injustice, corruption and inadequate allocation resources. This have a huge economic impacts to instability. Therefore, the triggers of this collective violence is based on unresolved trauma in society, structural economic crisis, governance and leadership, this should be urgently re-addressed.

It is should be understood that the informal food sector - from the field to the market constitutes a large proportion of agricultural trade in developing countries. To harness the potential of this vast section of the economy, policymakers and the private sector must facilitate stakeholders' access to training, and technological innovations, whilst also their difficulties into account, as illustrated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the informal economy, "*includes legitimately-produced goods and services that do not necessarily follow formal processes such as standards regulations, business registration or operational licenses.*" Informal trade is not necessarily illegal, but it is also illegal, and yet it is vital to country economies. The informal sector generates up to 90% of employment opportunities in some sub-Saharan African countries, while also accounting for a significant share of GDP. The sector often supports the most vulnerable people in society, including women, youth and the rural poor (Malabo Montpellier Panel, 2017).

Therefore, the following recommendations are made by this study:

- Criminal activities against livestock should not be tolerated, we should be guided by the rule of law, and the Constitution should reign supreme.
- Recognising poverty when analysing the causes of livestock looting and violence should be largely considered.
- The adoption of an integrated strategy that involves governmental and non-governmental departments to address these conditions and political factors associated with stock theft and livestock looting, as well as the related violence.
- The proper implementation of the NCPS, as adopted in 1996 should be exercised. While noting that this strategy failed due to lack of a shared understanding of crime and policing among politicians, lack of funding, a disregard for socioeconomic conditions, and the inability of police to deliver immediate and visible results on crime prevention.
- Transforming the degree of anger from the populace, should be regarded as lessons to be learned for future in the rural and urban areas of South Africa (GP and KZN Province).
- The interventions should go beyond diagnosis of this practice [Livestock looting], however, it should provide possible ways to avert the current situation.
- A dire need for preparedness to combat, police, prevent and investigate livestock looting and related violence efficiently should be staged, coupled by a new set of skills, a long-term collaborative concrete goals should be seriously sought to deal with poverty, inequality and unemployment effectively.
- South African solutions urgently required, while, not borrowing from other countries, this should be readdressed at all costs.
- The observations of the theoretical principles of Rational Choice Theory and the

Differential Association Theory should be prioritised to make sense of the causes of livestock looting and violence and possibly constitute the nexus of poverty to this causation.

- Effective operations under the Community Safety Plan and the National Crime Combating Strategy should be geared towards livestock looting and violence in the GP and KZN Province.
- Community and sector policing should be effectively implemented for the wellbeing of the country to become collective efforts. A recent example should be the collation of the Business Against Crime, Community Policing Forums (CPFs) / Communities on the guard, Private Security Companies, Taxi operators, SAPS and other law enforcement agencies across GP and KZN Province.

Moreover, the NCPS, 2021 argues for a closer intergration and transformation of the CCJS as a prerequisite to fight crime adequately. The NCPS, 2021 represents a major step forward in the debate on criminality in South Africa, placing the concentration on preventive as opposed to reactive measures to counter crime. The Draft White Paper on Safety and Security (2016) proposes explicitly that local government should be responsible for the implementation and co-ordination of social crime prevention programs within its areas of jurisdiction. The Draft White Paper on Safety and Security, 2016 suggests that local government should work with CPFs and play part in initiating, implementing ad maintaining 'Social Crime Prevention' strategies in line with broad National and Provincial guidelines; developing interventions aimed at preventing victimisation and deterring offenders; leading ad coordinating crime prevention strategies and interventions; re-orienting municipal services to facilitate crime prevention; and ensuring that development projects take account of crime prevention principles. The local elected Councilors should be seen as the central individuals to offer planning and functions of stock theft prevention across the municipality. They should regular attend the CPFs meetings and work closely with the local SAPS, as a form of joint crime prevention strategies (Shaw, 1998).

Stats SA (2017) share that alleviating poverty in South Africa must start with a focus on the poorest of the poor by implanting projects which can generate sustainable income in the community, as reducing poverty requires the creation of jobs and enterprises. Borgen Project (2020) suggests the Ten (10) effective ways to reduce poverty [Not to contributes to livestock looting and related violence] in the world namely; develop and implement rapid and sustained economic growth policies and programs, improving management of water and other natural resources, invest in and implement agricultural programs, encourage countries to engage in trade as a path out of poverty, create and improve access to jobs, providing all people with access to basic social services, progressively developing social protection systems, empower people living in poverty, remove barriers and provide access to technology and innovation.

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