

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

**Mohale Ernest Selelo**

*Department of Development Planning and Management, University of Limpopo, South Africa*

**Khutso Piet Lebotsa**

*Department of Development Planning and Management, University of Limpopo, South Africa*

### 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.

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