

## **An analysis of law enforcement and the control of illicit trade of tobacco product at a selected border post in South Africa**

**Ms Debora Mina Molatjana**

*University of Limpopo, Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, Private Bag X 756, South Africa*

**Assoc. Prof. Siphon Kenneth Mokoena**

*University of Limpopo, Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, Private Bag X 756, South Africa*

### **Abstract**

The article explored the challenges faced by the law enforcement agencies on illicit tobacco smuggling at a selected border post in South Africa. Literature states that globally law enforcement agencies are faced with a huge challenge at borders in controlling the trade of tobacco product and South Africa has no exemption on this matter. The South African Government tobacco control policy has been in place since the early 1990's with legislative instruments requiring mandatory health warning labels on tobacco products, banning public and underage smoking. Porous borders and corruption of officials working at the borders are the exacerbating illicit tobacco. An explanatory qualitative method design was used in this study which helped to gather data to explain the phenomenon in more depth. A purposive sample was used in the study to select participants in the following law enforcement agencies, namely; South African Police Service (SAPS), South African Revenue Service (SARS) and South African National Defence Force (SANDF). The article found that though there are coordinated efforts to prevent, combat and detect illicit cigarettes there is a need for adequate resources like storage facilities, sniffer dogs and scanners at the border. It was concluded that there is an existence of some form of coordination of activities relating to operations at the border within the law enforcement agencies responsible for curb illicit trade.

**Keywords:** Law enforcement, Illicit trade, port of entry, policy.

Full Text: [PDF](#)



This work is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

European Journal of Economics, Law and Social Sciences ISSN 2519-1284 (print) ISSN

2510-0429 (online)

Copyright © IIPCCCL-International Institute for Private, Commercial and Competition law