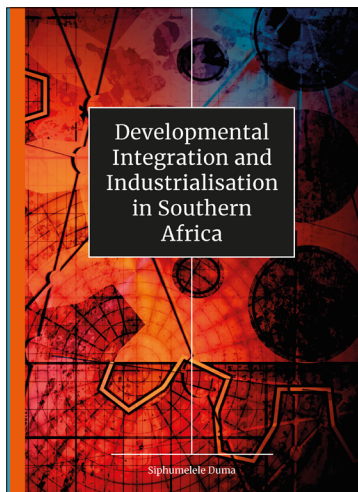


Developmental Integration and Industrialisation in Southern Africa

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A corpus of literature emphasises the need for industrialisation and integration if states belonging to regional blocs aspire to prosper economically, politically, socially, technologically and culturally. In Southern Africa, gains have been made mainly in political cooperation and solidarity but remain desperately underdeveloped regarding regional integration. Yet, current realities made evident through the advent of Covid 19 pandemic, the ongoing climate change-induced crisis, the energy crisis and the vexing challenges of migration call for the urgent need for regions that ought to foster and prioritise developmental integration and industrialisation.

The text, *Developmental Integration and Industrialisation in Southern Africa* by Siphumelele Duma exposes this glaring gap in the literature by taking stock of the developmental integration and industrialisation matrix of the region whilst at the same time proffering solutions on

what needs to be done for the realisation of the critical goals of these notions.

In the synopsis, Duma explicitly makes the thrust of his text clear – to examine the impacts and contribution of developmental integration on the regional industrialisation process in SADC. In the process, the text would determine whether this initiative has contributed to an increase in the significance of the SADC region's manufacturing sector (as a measure of industrialisation), as well as what accounts for the failure of developmental integration to accelerate the industrialisation process in the SADC region. Whilst Duma's book analyses the performance of all member states using industrialisation economic indicators for the period 1992 to 2020, it specifically nuances its analyses to a sample of three countries considered as the fastest growing economies in the Southern African region, that is Botswana, Mauritius and South Africa. In dissecting this thrust, the text is organised into nine thematic chapters.

Chapter one is titled Introduction, Understanding SADC's Quest for Industrialisation. It lays the background by contextualising the global south's quest for development integration and industrialisation by locating such to the legacies of colonialism. In the case of Africa, Duma rightly points out the genesis of the continent's pursuit of development integration and industrialisation through the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos (LPA-FAL), 1980–2000. This sought to ensure the self-sufficiency of the African continent by creating an industrial base in each member state, which was to be designed to meet the interests of the particular country and which would be strengthened by complementary activities at the sub-regional and regional levels.

In chapter two, Duma juxtaposes the notions of developmental integration and industrialisation in Southern Africa through the deployment of neo-structuralism and neo-liberalism as theoretical lenses. He is aware of the limitations of these theories, especially concerning the exaggerated calls to limit governments in the affairs of industrialisation and development. The historical attainment of

statehood in Southern Africa, where liberation movements had to take arms makes them vanguards and architects of any developmental trajectory or industrialisation exploits within the region.

The debate is further pursued in the next chapter, where the colonial motives of industrialising and developing metropolises at the expense of the colonies resulted in a deliberate deindustrialisation of African states. There was thus a need to put in place development and industrialisation initiatives to recover the losses of colonial exploits which were never for the development and industrialisation agenda of the Southern African region. It is for this reason that Chapter Four chronicles the historical evolution of SADC from cooperation to integration. SADC as a regional organisation evolved out of SADCC, an offspring of the Lusaka Declaration of 1980 and the Front-Line States (FLS) consisting of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The FLS was an informal and loosely coordinated political alliance that had attempted to aggregate its member states' power to pursue a specific foreign policy objective in Southern Africa. The FLS had a twin objective of waging liberation to decolonise the region and, simultaneously, forging African unity buttressed through political and cultural symbiosis. The expression and mechanisms of the struggle were coordinated and executed under the FLS' security arm of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee – ISDC. These security dynamics, to some degree, continue to shape the political and security cooperation of the region and help entrench collective thinking among regional members. This historical background as Duma avers, makes one understand the regional developmental agenda of industrialization and integration better.

In Chapter Five, the text outlines several challenges to the African continent in general, and the SADC region in particular noting the main challenges as the lack of finance and a proper supporting infrastructure. The chapter further explores mechanisms SADC has put in place for financial resources to support the region's industrialisation process, especially in terms of investment in infrastructure. The author explores these mechanisms by way of nuancing the efficacy and importance of financing mechanisms for industrialisation, the government-private sector collaboration in pursuit of the SADC industrialisation objectives as well as the SADC Regional Development Fund (RDF). Having looked at the funding sources and possible alternatives, the following chapter focuses on SADC's Industrialisation through Developmental Integration.

This chapter reflects on SADC's industrialisation through developmental integration by exposing the dire straits of a region that had undergone a veritable incipient decline in terms of industrialisation and integration between 1990 and 2020. The author identifies some countries' poor economic performance and trading unprocessed as chief reasons. This is further buttressed by the country case study scan which the text delves into in Chapter Seven. The chapter singles out Botswana, Mauritius and South Africa as typical case studies given that they are the most industrialised at a regional level. The analysis of these three countries is premised on such ingredients as economic indicators that measure industrialisation, including the MVA share of the GDP, the industrial sector's share of GDP and the annual growth rates of these economies.

With regards to Botswana, the author rightly opines that the country successfully recovered from being identified as one of the poorest countries in the world and the region by effectively harnessing resources in the form of diamonds. Mauritius like Botswana is amongst the smallest countries in the SADC region but now stands as one of the fastest-growing economies primarily because of a boom in its manufacturing sector. The industrialisation process of this island country was geared and engineered by the Mauritian government's establishment of a national development bank in the 1960s, to support the island's industrialisation and economic diversification objectives. This has resulted in various small-scale industries involved in food processing, beverages, cosmetics, fertilizer and footwear being established and meeting local needs. South Africa on the other hand is identified as pursuing continuities as opposed to discontinuities in terms of the mineral energy

complex set up by successive colonial and apartheid governments. This has made South Africa the most industrialised country not only at the regional level but at a continental level.

In chapter eight entitled 30 Years of the Developmental Integration Quest for Industrialisation in SADC, Duma locates 2022 as the 13th anniversary since developmental regional integration within SADC was institutionalised. This was largely due to regional leaders' recognition of the significance of industrialisation as a precursor for socio-economic development. However, the chapter exposes the inert pace at which developmental integration and industrialisation have taken place at the regional level. This has resulted in the SADC region's failure to transform its economies due to a lack of deliberate effort in operationalisation. The author notes that there is still a long way to go towards the improvisation of the regional manufacturing sector for synchronising regional and national industrialisation plans and strategies.

The ninth chapter concludes the text, offering practical recommendations required for the Re-engineering of the state to take action in SADC. At the centre of integration between the SADC economies is the goal of industrialisation and development. The SADC economies have a limited production capacity, thus, developmental integration was the approach adopted to help build state capacity through a policy of indigenisation of investments. The author avers that although selected SADC member states consisting of Botswana, Mauritius and South Africa have adopted several ambitious initiatives to industrialise and diversify their economies, the manufacturing sector does not have the required dominance in their economies to ensure sustainable industrialisation.

Regional integration and industrialisation remain the panacea for any country and region serious about an economic takeoff, yet current realities in the SADC region exposed by this text do not demonstrate such agency. The text perhaps remains the most current in addressing the regional developmental integration and industrialisation framework, which if harnessed will largely contribute to the fruition of the much-talked-about Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the Africa Union's Agenda 2063.

Book information

Title: Developmental Integration and Industrialisation in Southern Africa

Author: Duma, Siphumelele

Publisher: UJ Press, 2023

ISBN: 978-1-7764341-8-3

Length: iii plus 145pp