



The Impact of AfCFTA on Regional Supply Chains in Southern Africa: A Survey Inquiry into Sierra Leone's Perspective

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Abstract

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to enhance economic integration in Southern Africa by reducing trade barriers and promoting regional supply chains. A survey was conducted among key stakeholders including government officials, business owners, and industry experts in Sierra Leone to gather data on trade practices and challenges. The survey revealed that while there is potential for increased trade with neighboring countries under the AfCFTA, current logistical issues such as inadequate infrastructure pose significant barriers to implementation. Despite initial optimism about the benefits of the AfCFTA, Sierra Leone faces substantial hurdles in realising these benefits due primarily to poor transportation links and customs procedures. Sierra Leone should prioritise investment in infrastructure improvements and harmonization of trade regulations with neighboring countries to facilitate smoother regional supply chains under the AfCFTA.

Keywords: *African, Continental, Free, Trade, Integration, Supply, Chains*

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