



# **Linking Giants and Smalls: Strategic Partnerships between Large Firms and South African SMEs in the Post-2008 Era**

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## **Abstract**

This Commentary examines strategic partnerships between large firms and small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa post-. No empirical data were used; the analysis is based on secondary research and case studies of existing partnerships. While many partnerships show promise, challenges such as resource allocation and cultural differences persist, necessitating tailored support strategies from government bodies. Government should facilitate more targeted training programmes for SMEs in negotiation skills and market understanding. Financial institutions should provide better support for SMEs to participate effectively in these partnerships.

**Keywords:** *African integration, comparative advantage, developmental capitalism, governance structures, institutional reforms, market access, SME development*

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