

'Maputaland's Ecosystem of Crime'. The weight of history

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Abstract

The paper looks at the manner in which the heritage and history of the Maputaland has created the conditions for the penetration of the criminal economy. Its rich ecosystem and 'remoteness' but ideal interstitial geo-political location, are amongst primary factors that enable the ascendancy of criminality.

Central to the growing economy of illicit goods and services, is the dual system of governance. Ill-defined functions within traditional governance, makes traditional structures and practices vulnerable.

However ample opportunities are created for commercial, political and criminal predators to integrate their goals in greed and power with malleable, corrupt traditional leaders doing the same.

Community life and resilience to these developments is profoundly difficult when the traditional authority aligns itself with criminal structures increasingly embedded in those communities.

The research tracks how transfrontier organised crime is infiltrating and integrating with aberrant local systems of land and resource use.

Presenter

CLIVE POULTNEY

Clive Poultney is currently a researcher and consultant at Mboza Rural Resource and Risk Management. Clive began research in Maputaland in 1978 after doing an honours degree in anthropology at Natal University Durban. This was duly done with a colleague from UND and eventuated into an organisation called Community Organisation Research and Development (CORD). CORD worked from local field stations and expanded into other parts of Kwa Zulu Natal. Poultney also saw active service in the liberation army as an operative in Maputaland and worked in other African countries in community development, natural resource and risk management as well as tourism. More recently this led to combatting environmental and convergent crime.

Discussant

CONSTANCE GALEO MOGALE

Constance Galeo Mogale is a leading South African land activist whose experience and dedication spans over 20 years in the sector. Since 2017, she has been at the helm of the Alliance for Rural Democracy as its National Coordinator. She holds a Post Graduate Diploma (Land and Agrarian Studies) from the University of Western Cape and is part of the 2018 cohort of the prestigious Atlantic Fellows for Racial Equity programme. Currently Ms Mogale is registered as a MPhil student with SARChI Chair in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies at the University of the Western Cape.