The Nexus between the Migration of Labour, Good governance, and Sustainable Development in South Africa: A Critical Analysis Review

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Abstract

South Africa attracts a diverse set of immigrants from neighbouring countries and the rest of the African continent. The high numbers of mainly African arrivals have coincided with weakening economic growth, rising poverty levels, inequality, and high levels of unemployment. This has created socio-economic and xenophobic tensions between citizens and foreign migrants and accelerated the emergence of right-wing anti-immigrant movements such as Operation Dudula and others. The involvement of foreign labour in the South African economy is an important political and socio-economic issue within the country and in other African countries. In this work, we consider South Africa's history as an important migrant destination and analyse the nexus between labour migration and good governance as critical drivers of sustainable development. We highlight the importance of migration within the context of the United Nations and its agencies, as seen in the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact for Migration, and the Global Compact for Refugees. This political recognition of migration as a key issue at the global level has also materialised at South Africa's local, provincial, and national levels. To enable the discussion of this complex phenomenon, the paper relies on a robust and systematic analysis of existing literature on migration of labour, good governance, and sustainable development. The paper contributes valuable insights on the nexus between migration, good governance, and sustainable development in Africa.

Keywords: *Migration, Labour, Good Governance; Sustainable development; South Africa.*

1. Introduction

South Africa has a long history of migration from neighbouring countries, which accelerated after the discovery of gold in present-day Johannesburg in the 1880s (see, for instance, Hart, 1989; Beavon, 2004; Harrison and Zack, 2012; Moyo and Cossa, 2012). The migration continued throughout the colonial period through a system of contract labour agreements where the South African colonial government signed deals for labourers' recruitment from neighbouring countries such as Mozambique, Lesotho, Malawi, and Swaziland (Wilson, 1976). While migration was carefully managed during the colonial and apartheid period, the post-1994 period ushered in a more liberal approach, which has been characterised by a large influx of immigrants from neighbouring countries and further afield on the African continent and beyond (Moyo and Zanker, 2020; Musoni, 2020; Mlambo et al., 2023).

Migration researchers have highlighted that South Africa remains an attractive destination for immigrants due to its highly developed economy and stable democratic institutions (see, for instance, Moyo and Zanker, 2020). However, the last couple of years have seen stagnating economic growth, and rising levels of poverty, inequality, and unemployment, which threaten the perceived gains of the democratic dispensation. This has shorn the spotlight on South Africa's handling of migration which has wide-ranging socio-political and economic implications (Betz & Phiri, 2020). The continued influx of migrants, mainly from other African countries, and the stagnating economy have contributed to a rise in xenophobic sentiment and episodes of violent xenophobic attacks, reflecting a significant escalation of social unrest and tension between migrants and South African citizens (Mngomezulu, 2016, Misago, 2019; Mlambo et al., 2023). These issues are further compounded by the deterioration of employment opportunities in the country, raising concerns about the prospects for sustainable development and social cohesion (Diko & Tipoy, 2020). The role of governance in addressing the challenges associated with migration is crucial to understanding the potential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Africa and fostering an inclusive and prosperous society for all residents, regardless of their origin (Abubakar, 2020).

Migration is also directly linked to several of these goals, including Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) (United Nations, 2015). While good governance is essential for achieving these goals, it also offers a framework for action to address the challenges related to migration. It encompasses transparent and accountable institutions, participatory decision-making processes, and policy coherence; this can be ensured through migration policies that are aligned with sustainable development goals, promote social cohesion, protect human rights, and address the challenges faced by migrant workers. Again, migration can contribute to sustainable development by addressing labour market gaps, stimulating economic activity, and promoting diversity and cultural exchange. However, the challenges associated with migration, such as xenophobic attacks, socio-economic inequalities, and integration issues, must be addressed through effective governance mechanisms to ensure that sustainable development is inclusive and equitable.

This paper reflects on the relationship between the labour migration, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa and discusses this in the context of rising levels of unemployment and xenophobic violence. The paper discusses the position of foreign labourers in South Africa's labour market, the high levels of unemployment, and the causes of xenophobic tensions in the country. The paper also looks at the role of governance and whether it has an impact on the prospect of achieving sustainable development in South Africa.

The position of foreign labourers in South Africa's labour market

The flow of labour migrants to South Africa has been a long-standing issue, with the country historically attracting many migrants from within the Southern African region and other parts of Africa (Crush & Tawodzera, 2017; Nzima and Moyo, 2023). These migrants have primarily been attracted by the prospect of better economic opportunities, with many finding work in South Africa's thriving labour market (Gordon, 2018). In recent years, the South African government has implemented various measures to regulate the influx of foreign labourers into the country, including the introduction of stricter immigration policies and requirements for work permits (Gordon, 2018; Zanker & Moyo, 2020). However, these measures have not prevented great numbers of foreign labourers from continuing to seek work in South Africa, often in precarious and informal employment situations (Gordon, 2018; Crush & Tawodzera, 2017; Moyo & Zanker, 2020; Nzima & Moyo, 2023).

One of the major challenges faced by foreign labourers in South Africa is xenophobia and discrimination. Despite their contributions to the economy, foreign labourers and migrant entrepreneurs often face hostility and prejudice from local communities and within the workplace (Ngota, Rajkaran & Mang'unyi, 2019). The xenophobic mindset is a result of socio-economic disparities, competition for scarce resources, and fears of job displacement, creating tensions and social divisions within the labour market (Crush, 2017; Mlambo et al., 2023). Moreover, foreign labourers repeatedly experience exploitation and abuse, including low wages, hazardous working conditions, long working hours, and restricted access to social protection mechanisms, making their overall experience in the South African labour market quite challenging (see, for

example, Griffin's (2011) and Jinnah's (2020) discussion of the experiences of domestic workers in South Africa).

The prevalence of informal employment arrangements exacerbates the vulnerability of migrant workers, especially the undocumented ones, as many migrant workers operate beyond the scope of labour laws and regulations, which makes them susceptible to exploitation by unscrupulous employers (Uprety, 2020). On the other hand, the contribution of foreign labourers to the South African economy cannot be underestimated, as they often fill labour shortages in key industries and send remittances back to their home countries, contributing to poverty reduction and economic development in those countries (Tevera & Chikanda, 2014). Particularly, the construction industry has become a popular destination for migrant labourers from countries such as Malawi and Zimbabwe (Gordon, 2018).

The impact of foreign labourers on good governance and sustainable development in South Africa.

The presence of foreign labourers has raised concerns regarding the possible detrimental effects of foreign labourers on sustainable development and good governance (Adepoju, 2010). According to Crush & Chikanda (2015), these concerns are frequently caused by the idea that hiring foreign labourers may lead to increased competition for scarce resources like housing, healthcare, and education. Furthermore, foreign labourers may exacerbate existing social tensions, as some South Africans view them as threatening their employment opportunities (Fine & Williams, 2019).

Despite these concerns, there is evidence to suggest that the presence of foreign labourers can contribute positively to good governance and sustainable development in South Africa. For example, foreign labourers often fill critical labour gaps in key industries, which can help to support economic growth and development (Crush & Tawodzera, 2017; Ngota, Rajkaran & Mang'unyi, 2019). Also, the remittances sent by foreign labourers to their home countries can contribute to poverty reduction and economic development in those countries, which in turn can lead to more stable and prosperous regional neighbours (Tevera & Chikanda, 2014). To harness the potential benefits of foreign labourers, the South African government should focus on improving the governance of migration processes and ensuring that foreign workers are adequately protected and integrated into the

labour market (Adepoju, 2010). This can be achieved by implementing policies and programmes promoting social cohesion, equal access to resources and services, and protecting migrants' rights (Adepoju, 2010).

The relationship between the migration of labourers, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa is complex and multifaceted. Managing the effects of foreign labourers requires effective governance. Good governance hinges on transparency and accountability in managing foreign labour. South Africa grapples with challenges such as corruption and weak enforcement mechanisms, hindering effective regulation of migrant workers. For instance, a report by the Public Service Commission highlighted corruption in recruiting foreign nationals in South Africa's public sector (Public Service Commission, 2022). Such instances undermine trust in governance institutions and perpetuate the exploitation of foreign labour.

Strong legal and administrative frameworks enable countries to handle foreign labour more effectively, protecting workers' rights while also safeguarding national interests (Servais, 2020). However, Makara (2018) argued that the concepts of good governance are undermined by the widespread exploitation of foreign labour in countries with weak or corrupt government mechanisms. Such environments are rife with problems, including human trafficking, poor working conditions, and denial of fundamental rights. Foreign labour migration can support economic growth by reducing skill gaps and raising productivity (Uprety, 2020). However, social inequality is made worse, and the unequal distribution of economic gains jeopardises sustainable development. For example, socio-economic disparity has developed from South Africa's mining industry's reliance on migrant labour, where migrant workers are routinely exposed to unsafe working conditions and little remuneration (Altman et al., 2018) . Disparities like this make attaining sustainable economic growth and prolonging poverty cycles more difficult.

Xenophobia and Unemployment in South Africa: The Nexus

Mlambo and Mlambo (2021) argue that xenophobia in South Africa has become a pressing issue in recent years, with numerous incidents of violence and discrimination against foreign nationals. One of the most significant factors is the perception that foreign nationals are taking jobs away from South Africans (Peberdy, 2021 & Abdulfatai, 2023). This perception has been fuelled by the country's high unemployment rate and lack of economic opportunities. Many South Africans believe that

foreign nationals are willing to work for lower wages, which makes it more difficult for local workers to compete. For example, in 2019, there were reports of violent attacks against foreign-owned businesses in Johannesburg, resulting in the deaths of at least 10 people (O'Brien, 2019). In response to the attacks, many foreign-owned businesses were forced to close, resulting in significant job losses for both South Africans and foreign nationals. Another factor contributing to xenophobia, according to Mbuyisa (2021), is the belief that foreign nationals are involved in criminal activities. This belief has been fuelled by high levels of crime in South Africa and the perception that foreign nationals are more likely to engage in criminal behaviour. In some cases, this perception has led to the targeting of specific nationalities, such as Nigerians, who have been associated with drug trafficking and other criminal activities (Mbuyisa, 2021).

Furthermore, in 2019, there were reports of violent attacks against foreign nationals in Pretoria, fuelled by the belief that foreigners were involved in the drug trade (Bekker, 2019). These attacks displaced thousands of people, many of whom were forced to seek refuge in temporary shelters. Finally, xenophobia in South Africa is also fuelled by the perception that foreign nationals are taking advantage of the country's social welfare system. Many South Africans believe that foreign nationals are accessing social welfare benefits without contributing to the country's economy. This perception has been fuelled by a lack of understanding and awareness of foreign nationals' contributions to the country's economy. Unemployment in South Africa has deep-rooted historical, structural, and institutional causes. The legacy of apartheid-era policies continues to shape the South African labour market, perpetuating high levels of inequality and limiting access to quality education and skills development opportunities for most of the population (Steinberg, 2015).

The country's economic structure is characterised by a heavy reliance on the mining and agricultural sectors, vulnerable to fluctuations in global commodity prices and demand (Steinberg, 2015). This economic vulnerability, combined with a lack of diversification and investment in growth sectors, has contributed to high levels of unemployment, particularly among young people and low-skilled workers (Steinberg, 2015).

Xenophobic Attacks and the Dudula Movement

Thus far, we have discussed xenophobia and some of the socio-economic drivers of the attacks on African immigrants. The xenophobia tracking platform, Xenowatch recorded a total of 1011 incidents of xenophobic violence between 1994 and 2023 (see figure 1). This resulted in 559 deaths, 124 706 displaced, and 5111 businesses looted (Xenowatch, dashboard, 2023). Due to the nature of xenophobic violence, which frequently involves several incidents, underreporting, and a lack of particular information, the figures in this report understate the true amount of victimization. While Gauteng, the Western Cape, and KwaZulu Natal provinces continue to be the most afflicted, xenophobic violence is spreading more widely throughout all nine provinces of the nation (refer to Figure 1).

Figure 1: Incidents of Xenophobic Attacks in South Africa (1994-2023[1])

Province	Total incidents
Gauteng	390
Western Cape	175
KwaZulu Natal	166
Eastern Cape	104
Limpopo	54
Mpumalanga	39
Free-State	30
North West	29
Northern Cape	17
Unallocated	7

Source: Xeno Watch Dashboard 2023

As illustrated in Figure 1, Gauteng, Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal have the most frequent incidents of xenophobia and have been identified as the hotspot provinces from 1994 to 2023. Violence is common throughout the nation's major cities, towns, townships, informal settlements, and rural areas. The documented instances of xenophobia by province from 1994 to May 2023 demonstrate that xenophobic events have occurred in all provinces in varying degrees, with Gauteng being the leading province. It is not surprising that the

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[1]Some xenophobic attacks in South Africa go unnoticed and unreported to the South African Police Services (SAPS).

Dudula movement is said to have started in Gauteng in 2021 before spreading to other provinces (Myeni, 2022). Dudula, an isiZulu word that means "to force out" or "knock down," alludes to the goal of the movement, which is to drive immigrants out of the country. According to Myeni (2022), the Dudula movement is a vigilante group that harbours xenophobia. Their objective is to influence the South African government to act against illegal immigrants and those who are allegedly engaged in criminal behaviour and perpetuating social ills in society (Ndaba, 2022; Alfaro-Velcamp, 2023). Myeni (2022) further reports that the movement prioritises ensuring that South Africans have stable employment and control over local enterprises like spaza shops in townships. The organisation claims South African government is not doing enough to relieve people of their repulsive living conditions. According to the secretary of the organisation, fewer illegal immigrants will help to reduce crimes that they are believed to have incited (Myeni, 2022). Blaming immigrants for economic challenges is a simplistic view that fails to address underlying structural issues. The Dudula movement does not address the root causes of immigration or provide sustainable solutions; instead, it perpetuates a cycle of violence and discrimination.

The link between Poor Governance, International Migration, and SDGs in South Africa

Poor governance has been identified as a critical factor contributing to the poor regulation of international migration in South Africa (Abubakar, 2020). The lack of effective migration policies and the weak implementation of existing policies have resulted in a challenging environment for migrants, which can hinder the achievement of SDGs (Crush & Chikanda, 2020). The influx of migrants has pressured public services, housing, and infrastructure, increasing competition for scarce resources and exacerbating social tensions (Pillay & Maharaj, 2020).

International migration positively and negatively impacts achieving SDGs in South Africa (Betz & Phiri, 2020). On the one hand, migrants contribute to economic growth, filling critical labour gaps in key industries and sending remittances back to their home countries, which can contribute to poverty reduction and economic development (Lebese & Dubihlela, 2020). Furthermore, the high influx of migrants can strain public services, contribute to increased competition for resources, and exacerbate social tensions, which may hinder progress toward SDGs (Moyo & Ziramba, 2020). For example, the achievement of SDG 8

(decent work and economic growth) is influenced by the impact of international migration on the labour market, as migrants often face discrimination, low wages, and poor working conditions, which can perpetuate inequality and limit social cohesion (Lebese & Dubihlela, 2020).

The challenges associated with migration governance in South Africa include weak implementation of existing policies, corruption, and a lack of coordination among government agencies (Crush & Chikanda, 2020). These challenges can exacerbate the negative impacts of migration on the achievement of SDGs, as they hinder the effective integration of migrants into the economy and society and limit the potential benefits of migration for development (Diko & Tipoy, 2020). Poor governance also contributes to the erosion of social cohesion, as it fosters mistrust between migrants and host communities and can lead to social exclusion, discrimination, and even violence (Landau, 2011). This lack of social cohesion has implications for several SDGs, including SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) (Pillay & Maharaj, 2020).

Several strategies have been proposed to address the challenges associated with migration governance and ensure that migration contributes positively to the achievement of SDGs in South Africa. These include improving policy coherence and coordination among government agencies, strengthening the capacity of institutions responsible for migration management, and promoting regional cooperation on migration issues (Nshimbi & Fioramonti, 2020). In addition, efforts should be made to promote social cohesion and address the root causes of migration-related social tensions, such as by improving access to quality education, healthcare, and housing for migrants and host communities (Akanle & Adeyeye, 2020).

Methodology

Methodologically, we reviewed secondary literature available from various online databases. In our search for literature, we followed a systematic literature review process. Secondary sources were obtained from online databases like EBSCOhost and books, chapters in books, journal articles, and credible online sources.

Systematic Literature Review

Paul and Criado (2020), and Kraus et al. (2020), highlight that a systematic literature review is suitable when the researchers seek to understand the specific or general methods, theories, and constructs used in research. We followed a PRISMA 2020 flow diagram (see Figure 2) in a systematic literature review to understand the processes and constructs used in this paper.
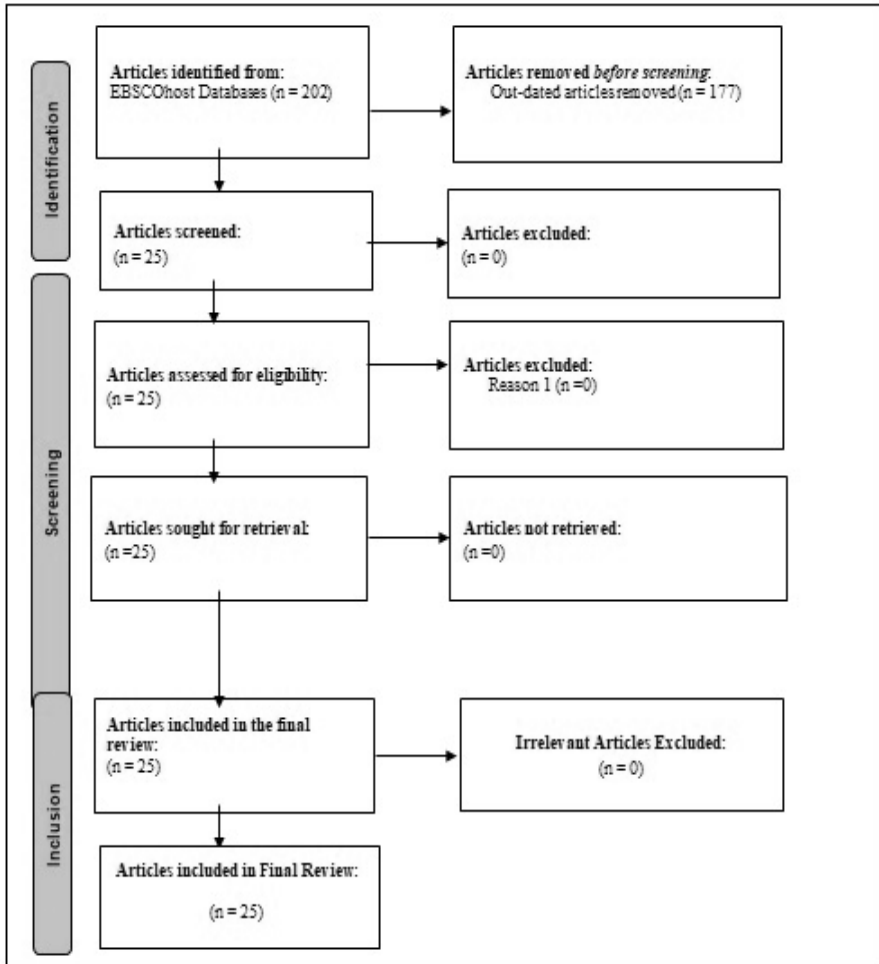
Figure 2: PRIMSA flow diagram

Figure 2: Systematic Literature Review as guided by the PRISMA 2020 flow diagram: *Authors own compilation.*

As indicated in Figure 2, we used electronic sources such as e-books and peer-reviewed academic journals from the EBSCOhost database. The EBSCOhost database was chosen for this paper because it allowed us to search for academic information from multidisciplinary scholars.

In our literature search, we searched for articles on the nexus between migration of labour, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa. We used a Boolean/Phrase to search for keywords like "nexus between migration of labour" and "good governance" OR "and sustainable development in South Africa". We found 202 articles from this search, published between 1978 and 2024. Scholars like Antony et al. (2020) argue that only recent literature should be reviewed and included in the final analysis. Thus, we limited our search and focused on articles published between 2017 and 2024. From this search, we then got 25 articles. These articles were from sources like Academic Search Ultimate (5), Africa-wide Information (3), E-journals (10), Humanities Source Ultimate (3), and Sociology Source Ultimate (4).

The final review and analysis included 25 articles, and about 177 articles were excluded because they were outdated. Some of these outdated articles did not contain relevant literature on the nexus between migration and internal migration of labour, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa. A total of 25 articles is considered a small number in this paper, which shows an existing gap in literature and knowledge of migration of labour, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa. An existing literature gap indicates that limited research is being done in the fields of migration of labour, good governance, and sustainable development in this country. Given these gaps in literature and empirical research, this paper calls for more multidisciplinary research to fill in the existing literature and knowledge gap on the nexus between labour migration, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa.

The authors of this paper worked together and thematically analysed the selected literature and developed themes that relate to the nexus between migration, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa. During the thematic analysis process, focus was given to xenophobia as a consequence of migration and a major setback in sustainable development in South Africa.

A major limitation of this critical analysis is that the researchers relied on secondary sources of data and could not augment the data with face-to-face interviews with migrants who are or have been victims of xenophobia in South Africa. The researchers could not interview

migration officers and governmental officers to gather in-depth and rich data on the policies they have implemented and their effectiveness.

Results

The results from the literature search indicate that there is limited attention and scholarly emphasis on the issues relating to migration of labour, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa. Results indicate that much attention has been given to cooperative governance efforts towards fulfilling the 2030 'Sustainable Development Agenda'. Results from the 25 articles in the final review indicate an existing gap in migration, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa. Looking at the nexus between the migration of labour, good governance, and Sustainable Development Goals in South Africa, this paper observed that the gaps in the research have had consequences leading to xenophobia and social unrest in South Africa. Table 3 indicates some of these gaps.

Gaps of Xenophobia.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	Effectiveness of the government, international migration officials, UN, and AU in promoting sustainable development in South Africa
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Most unskilled migrants often live in socio-economically depressed regions, making poverty part of their daily lives (Tshishonga, 2022). According to Betts et al. (2017), both governments from the sending and receiving countries are failing to improve the socio-economic outcomes for migrants, including the provision of international support to: • mitigate xenophobic attacks on migrants • provide adequate shelter to the homeless • expand the social protection systems; and • facilitate the integration of migration officials like the UNHCR, IOM, International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Bank, and the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development project (KNOMAD).
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	The government and migration officials from both the receiving and sending countries failed to facilitate access to sufficient and nutritious food by migrants (Matlin et al., 2018). Furthermore, they failed to develop sustainable agriculture practices that can improve food security in South Africa. Due to food insecurity, a lot of unemployed

	South African citizens, especially in the KwaZulu Natal (KZN) province, resorted to looting shops during the July 2021 unrest (Mathenjwa, 2023). Looting retail and food shops has become a common norm during violent protests and xenophobic attacks on foreign-owned shops.
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	The government and migration officials from the hosting and the sending countries have failed to provide resources that improve the quality of the South African health systems to facilitate easy access by migrants and citizens (Matlin et al., 2018). There is little that is done to equip health facilities in South Africa to ensure healthy lives and well-being for both SA citizens and migrant labourers. Most of the poor and mainly undocumented migrant labourers are treated unfairly in most clinics and public hospitals in South Africa (for an extended discussion on medical xenophobia, see, for example, Mvundura, 2024). Recently, Operation Dudula in South Africa has been attacking migrants seeking medical help at local clinics and public hospitals in South Africa (Malatji & Rakubu, 2023). Most of the migrants were severely attacked, but nothing was said or done by the SA government and other countries globally.
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Although the South African government has policies in place that seek to foster inclusive economic growth in South Africa, this has not come to fruition. The government has failed to adequately stimulate sustainable, inclusive, and productive entrepreneurial opportunities and decent work for SA citizens and migrant labourers. South Africa is currently sitting with an unemployment rate of upwards of 32.9 % (Trading Economics, 2023). The high unemployment rate creates unsustainable competition for jobs between citizens and immigrants, which leads to xenophobic tensions. The xenophobic tensions at times escalate into violent conflicts aided by social movements such as Operation Dudula and #PutSouthAfricaFirst movement, which cause alarm and xenophobic sentiments (Malatji & Rakubu, 2023).
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries	The UNHCR, IOM, International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Bank, and the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development project (KNOMAD) have failed to provide for an array of arrangements for burden and responsibility sharing to be arranged to address inequality faced by South Africa (the host country) due to increased migration (Heneghan, 2019). Most of the migrant labourers face unequal access to human rights and social protection, especially during xenophobic attacks. For example, in 2017, migrant truck drivers were murdered by South African citizens daily due

	to a lack of social protection (Crush & Tawodzera, 2017).
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Due to a lack of resources and effective migration laws, gangsterism is increasing at an alarming rate in South Africa. Due to increased migration in South Africa, most cities are no longer safe and conducive for human settlement. For example, to mention a few, in 2022, Elvis Nyathi, a 43-year-old Zimbabwean, was killed in a xenophobic attack in Diepsloot, a night after a day of protest against poor policing of immigration laws (Sinwell et al., 2023; News24, 2022); the mass shootings in South Africa (tavern shootings that occurred in Johannesburg and KZN in 2022), in September 2019, about 1,000 Bangladeshi shops in Johannesburg were looted by 300-500 approximately (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Recognising the increasing occurrences of xenophobia and gangsterism in most cities, it can be said that South African cities are no longer safe, resilient, and sustainable for human settlement (Malatji & Rakubu, 2023). The government is failing to address gangsterism because some of these gangsters are migrants who then escape back to their countries after massive killings of people. Conditions in urban areas are specifically advocated.
Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Immigration is considered one of the major factors that put a strain on the energy supply in South Africa (Rasila, 2024). Increased migration puts strain on South Africa's resources. Currently, South Africa is going through an energy crisis, leading to extensive load shedding (electricity cut-off). Due to load shedding, South Africa is experiencing declining production patterns. Other African countries fail to intervene and assist South Africa in addressing the migration and energy crisis issue (Rasila, 2024).
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Barnett and McMichael (2018) assert that migration becomes their adaptation strategy for people hit by climate impacts (climate change-induced human mobility). Countries like Mozambique are always experiencing floods due to climate change (Uamusse et al., 2020). Due to the failure to combat such climate change-induced disasters, most of its citizens are migrating to South Africa. The United Nations and the African Union are failing to assist African countries to combat climate change (Mulenga, 2019; Naidoo & Gulati, 2020). Thus, this puts much strain on South Africa as most African migrants escape some of the climate change impacts like poverty and hunger, and they come to South Africa in search of greener pastures.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels	The South African government, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations and other relevant multinational stakeholders have failed to address xenophobia and gangsterism in South Africa (Ngcamu & Mantzaris, 2021). Due to the increased massive killings of people, South Africa cannot be considered a peaceful society. The justice system of South Africa remains weak, as most of the gangsters and murderers in South Africa walk freely without being given any punishments. For example, so far, no one has been arrested for the murder of Elvis Nyathi (Vhumbunu & Mawire, 2023) and Senzo Meyiwa (Nomnganga & Masumbe, 2024), to mention a few.
Goal 17: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	African countries are failing to join forces and solve pressing issues like migration, xenophobia, and gangsterism in South Africa (Ekanade & Molapo, 2017). The United Nations and the African Union are failing to mobilise additional financial and other resources to address issues like poverty, hunger, inequalities, climate change, and violence in Africa (Juju et al., 2020).

Discussion and Conclusion

Documented literature reveals that migration management is a major issue in South Africa and has also permeated the discourse on sustainable development in the country. Due to the poor management of migration and the prevalence of irregular migration from neighbouring countries, South Africa is increasingly being driven away from engaging with labour migration as a beneficial occurrence. Rather, the discourse increasingly shifts towards restrictionism, which is not helpful for the country and the concerned immigrants. The government of South Africa and the sending countries (where migrants come from), international migration officials, and multinational stakeholders like the United Nations and the African Union are failing to consolidate efforts in the transnational governance and management of migration. Good governance should mitigate social issues that affect both the citizens and migrant labour in South Africa. Though policy on migration often falls principally to a specific government department, policymakers dealing with issues like education, health care, food security, housing, and infrastructure should engage with migration officials at all levels of governance. The government should build effective partnerships among stakeholders from the public and private sectors to address issues like

irregular migration, unemployment, inequalities, poverty, hunger, xenophobia, and gangsterism in South Africa.

At the global level, the government and multinational stakeholders should be involved in migration governance, which has opportunities and difficulties in coordination, leadership, and responsibility sharing. Multilateral institutions like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Bank, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development Project (KNOMAD), the UN, and the AU should partner and assist African countries to solve climate change-induced issues like poverty, hunger, inequalities, and uncontrolled migration. As presented in the reviewed literature, the government has been customarily the main actor in 'migration governance', and in various ways, it remains the key unit in controlling migration. Though international migration requires the cooperation of multinational stakeholders in governance, most African states are often reluctant to enter into formal multilateral or global governance partnerships and agreements concerning migration. This has significant implications for sustainable development. Many African countries have failed to implement initiatives that can create employment opportunities and reduce the flow of people into South Africa. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) like the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mercuso, and the Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), among others, have also had limited success in addressing issues of cooperative migration governance, particularly given the adverse outcomes of migration like xenophobia and social unrest of migrant labour in South Africa. Civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations, for example, have failed to play a critical role in partnering with government authorities and universities to generate research, provide advocacy, and direct services to enhance government transparency and accountability that help respond to migration effects like xenophobia, inequalities, and unemployment.

Recommendations

Addressing the nexus between migration, good governance, and sustainable development in South Africa requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. Also, the issue of xenophobia is a complex

phenomenon; over the years, the government has implemented numerous strategies to combat it. While it is a difficult phenomenon to fix overnight, the following recommendations may assist:

- The government should come up with migration policies that are dual-centred , and that should accommodate local and foreign citizens. This will include transparency in policymaking and regular communication with the public to build support and trust; this approach would require thoughtful planning and careful execution by all relevant stakeholders.
- Clear articulation of the importance of the working sector and the contribution of migrants to South Africa's gross domestic product.
- Clear government policies should be adopted that stipulate clear policies on the appointment of foreign nationals in the South African labour market. It is important to address these issues and create inclusive policies that recognise the positive role of migrants in the economy. Misconceptions about illegal migrants "stealing" jobs and straining public services need to be addressed through evidence-based communication.

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