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The Impact of Non-Tariff Barriers on Intra-Regional Trade Performance: The Case of Trade between Uganda and South Sudan.

The study sought to investigate the impact of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) on the performance of intra-regional trade between South Sudan and Uganda. The study was guided by the following study objectives; identify and categorise the various Non-Tariff Barriers; examine the relationship between NTBS and intra-regional trade performance and identify the other challenges facing intra-regional trade performance between Uganda and Southern Sudan.

The study adopted a cross sectional design with a population of 36 respondents from which comprised the sample size. Data was collected from both public and private officials, and traders using self-administered questionnaires and an interview guide. The findings on the various Non-Tariff Barriers between South Sudan and Uganda proposed corruption, harassment of traders and truck drivers, insecurity across borders, multiple revenue collection centres, extortion of money from truck drivers at border crossings, poor road infrastructure, delays in clearance at border entry points, theft of cargo in transit among others as some of the NTBs. In regard to the relationship between Non-Tariff Barriers and performance of intra-regional trade a significant relationship was observed. Among the challenges facing intra-regional trade performance were poor infrastructure, lack of mutual recognition of standards, non-liberalised foreign exchange regime in South Sudan, bureaucratic business registration processes, language barrier, large influx of counterfeit goods from China and lack of a critical export business database necessary for policy and market development. The study recommends, therefore, that the two countries promote infrastructure development, capacity building among traders, commit standards, support each other to enforce security, establish a liberalised foreign exchange regime in South Sudan among others. To study the true nature and quality of the effect of NTBs on the performance of intra-regional trade, a longitudinal study is more appropriate.

Key Words: Non-Tariff Barriers, Intra-Regional Trade Performance, Uganda, South Sudan