

## **Exploring alternative border securitisation policies for managing undocumented migration in South Africa.**

The study found that undocumented migrants are migrating to South Africa for access to economic opportunities. For instance, one respondent explained why undocumented migrants choose South Africa as their destination country for economic opportunities.

*"It should be considered that South Africa as a big economy in the region remains a favourable destination for economic migrants who, in most cases, enter or sojourn in the country illegally". (Respondent, 1).*

Another respondent posited that because South Africa is the most developed country in the region, there is a perception that:

*"There are many opportunities for low-skilled workers, especially in mining and domestic work areas. In recent years, we have noted the increase of workers from mainly Lesotho and Zimbabwe in the agriculture sector as farm workers". (Respondent 3).*

In the 2022/23 financial year, the DHA (2023) deported 22 436 employed undocumented migrants and fined their employers in industries such as farms, retail, freight and logistics, mining, hair salons, supermarkets, security, construction, religious and educational establishments and massage spas.

Respondent 8 argued that from the undocumented migrants that they have apprehended in the harbour, South Africa is viewed *"as a land of opportunities for employment"*.

Another respondent concurred and posited that this is not a new phenomenon:

*"Many undocumented migrants have been drawn to South Africa for years by the promise of economic opportunities". (Respondent, 11).*

This study also found that the migration patterns for such workers are circular and seasonal, corroborating the literature in this study. In fact, one respondent argued that most undocumented and documented migrants from the region are not migrants who

are coming to live in South Africa permanently, but are instead circular migrants who are also sending remittances to their countries of origin:

*"from all of our experience, there is a lot of movement around trade, whether its sex workers, whether its trade to come and buy goods in South Africa and take it back home".  
(Respondent, 9).*