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## **NEPAD: Failure of articulation and ineffective market-based integration and SMEs development in Africa**

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### **Keywords**

*NEPAD; SMEs; Economic Integration; Markets Development*

### **Abstract**

*NEPAD, "is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and firm and shared conviction, that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path to sustainable growth and development, and at the same time to participate actively in the world economy...anchored on the determination of Africans committed to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalising world". This reflects the visionary challenge(s) of the leadership in the face of what seems an intractable, perennial continental phenomenon. The implementation of the six core thematic areas of NEPAD was supposed to create the impetus for rapid sustainable development, propelled by SMEs within the region. Thirteen years after, it seems an unrealized dream. This paper evaluates NEPAD's original six themes in the context of the region's in-country and intra-country support infrastructure. Two, whether a more integrated regional economic union, founded on market need-complementary, serves a more viable regional economic purpose. Third, and to the extent that entrepreneurial opportunism, need recognition and environmental circumstances impact entrepreneurship, with it, national output, this paper evaluates the viability of NEPAD and recommends, where indicated, alternatives. This paper concludes with a discussion of possible new research focus and the market implications.*

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