

## **Municipal Politics and Local Development. Regulation Conflicts and Issues about the Proliferation of the Street Markets**

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The long lasting economical crisis affecting the town city of Kinshasa has strongly altered the possible earnings and incomes of the citizen and the municipality. Then, numerous citizen decided to start informal street markets activities as a way to find a regular source of income. The process was so successful that informal activities steadily invaded most of the streets leading to the « Grand Marché » which became soon overcrowded, dirty and obstructed to traffic. Instead of strictly applying the law, the town council gave a kind of official recognition to this rapidly expanding street markets expansion which revealed to be a growing source of income and earnings. But, the Grand Marché is bordering several Municipalities which find great interests and regular incomes in taxing the street markets activities. But as the territories are no so well delimited between these administrative stakeholders they are in a state of rivalry which quite often leads to conflict.

This paper reports such a conflict setting two Municipalities of Kinshasa bordering the Grand Marché against the Town council of the Hotel de Ville.

The point at issue is the relation that regulation conflicts about the use of the urban space and territory have with urban local development. To find their financial resource In the prevailing context of political and economical crisis, the local Municipalities of Kinshasa actually resort to expedients that are very questionable in terms of urban sustainable development. And, as our conflict case shows the income currently extracted from the street markets is generating a kind of urban spatial disruption quite different from what one would expect for a sustainable local development.