

# Report on Apartheid

by Kenneth Ballenegger

## Introduction

For this history project, I interviewed teachers of my school who lived in South Africa during apartheid what their feelings was on the matter, and other controversial questions on the topic. The first question was whether the teacher interviewed was born in South Africa. Most were, and their families before them have been for generations.

The next question was whether they considered themselves to be a South African, or an European living in South Africa. All but one replied that they considered themselves a South African. It is interesting to see how in the next answers, the one teacher who considered himself a European felt much more negatively towards the current administration than the others, who, even though they realized that things are not as they should be, thought that the situation is better now under ANC rule than it was under Apartheid.

Another important thing to note is that most of the teachers interviewed are whites, with the exception of one Indian teacher.

## How Apartheid Affected Personal Life

Teachers surveyed reported that being white affected their career positively. They would receive benefits such as free university to become teachers. Even though they felt the system was unfair, they lived with it, and admit that it was of benefit to their career and personal life. A white person lived better under apartheid than now.

## Safety and Crime

Teachers interviewed do not feel that crime is now significantly higher now than it was before, because they consider Apartheid to be a "Crime Against Humanity". However, they do acknowledge that the crime situation in South Africa is bad, and that it is partly due to the ANC's incompetence and corruption. "I think increased crime is due to inefficient justice system (maybe result of some affirmative action posts), ineffective police system (lack of funding from government) and lack of death penalty threat." said Mrs. Morrisson. Interviewed teachers generally agree that a tougher stance on crime is required of the ANC.

Other studies available on the internet and statistics from the SAPS have shown that crime is, in fact, higher now than it was under apartheid. In August 2001, a highly controversial article by a black journalist, Vusile Tshabalala, was published asking the question whether Apartheid killed as many African people as are now dying because of the government's negligence. Some interesting statistics are mentioned: between the beginning of apartheid and its abolition in 1994, population has increased ten-fold from 3.5 million to 35 million. Life expectancy also doubled. This shows that health conditions were improved by the apartheid regime, and by the end of apartheid, South Africans had a much higher life expectancy than any other African country. Lastly, another important statistic is that only 5.6% of the 21'000 political violence casualties were caused by SADF repression. The bulk of casualties were caused by conflict between different black tribes, or anti-apartheid organizations, and in terrorist attacks such as bombing of shopping malls and land mines by MK and POQO.

Another study in the Soweto township confirms the fact that violence has dramatically increased following the abolition of the apartheid system: "Older residents regard the 1950s and 1960s as particularly safe, but also describe the 1970s to the mid-1990s as less dangerous than the post-apartheid period. Available statistics, while by no means infallible, confirm that there was an increase in violent crime in many areas throughout the 1990s."

## ANC: Incompetence and Corruption

Teachers interviewed agreed that the ANC is not doing their job as they should. They however do believe that they were successful in their job of getting rid of apartheid, but that now that their job is done, they are becoming corrupted and stopped thinking about the greater good of the South African people. "Sadly, many have been corrupted by power", said Mrs. du Bois about ANC leaders. However, two teachers interviewed cite Trevor Manuel as an example of an ANC leader who has shown integrity and competence.

Corruption doesn't only affect high-ranking politician and leaders, but is also present on a much bigger scale in the administration of the country, and especially in the South African Police Service. This is what a Soweto resident has to say about the SAPS: "They are criminals. They rob people, demand bribes, it's always there... Whenever you see a roadblock, especially in Soweto, you know that there is money involved. They only do roadblocks when they are hungry and need money to buy liquor or something like chicken." (quote taken from another study on Soweto)

## Neo-Apartheid in South Africa & BEE Affirmative Action

All of the teachers interviewed believe that what happened in Zimbabwe is a very real threat to South Africa, and that action has to be taken in order to make sure it doesn't happen. Multiple surveyed teachers mentioned "protecting the judiciary system" and "closely monitoring the future presidents" as things to do in order to make sure that what happened in Zimbabwe has no chance of happening here. The future presidents have to be surrounded with competent aides and leaders. Corruption must also be kept in check, letting the judiciary branch be separate from the executive branch of government and letting them investigate corruption in high hierarchical places fairly and without bias.

The protagonists of neo-apartheid argue that, because they were the victims of vicious discrimination under apartheid, it is simply right that they put laws in place to discriminate 'fairly' so as to 'level the playing fields'. And of course, every decent-minded person is in favour of level playing fields. That is what we said when we voted for change and that is what we hoped we would get.

But that is not what is happening and that is not, as it turns out, what was intended.

What we are seeing, instead, is crude and offensive racism. For instance, when the head of a specialist accountancy department in a state enterprise - with professional qualifications as a chartered accountant and invaluable experience as a senior banker - is retrenched by e-mail and replaced by someone with no relevant qualifications or any comparable experience.

*Excerpt from the CBN Archive, Nov 2000 - "Neo-apartheid is coming to get you"*

Many of the teachers surveyed believe that, unfortunately, there is a possibility that neo-apartheid could take place in South Africa, with the ANC becoming a racial government, enforcing policies such as BEE under the pretense of "leveling the playing fields". There is a fear among the individuals surveyed that leaders are racially motivated and do not seek the greater good of all of the country's people.

## Electricity Crisis

The 2008 Electricity Crisis in South Africa is an event which was predicted by analysts and could have been prevented.

In 1997, we were warned this would happen. An official document described that if the target economy growth per year goal of 6% p.a. was reached, we wouldn't have enough power by 2007. The actual growth rate for the past 10 year was 5% p.a. They were warned, and yet the incompetents in charge did nothing. This is how corrupt the country is. The wealthy men in charge use their power for personal gain, and they of course are safe while the rest of the country is in a chaos.

*Excerpt from seoxys.com - "Reasons Why You Don't Want To Live In South Africa" by Kenneth Ballenegger*

Teachers interviewed seem to agree that this was an avoidable situation which can be blamed on the ANC's and Eskom's leadership. "The Eskom debacle can be laid squarely at the foot of the ANC government", as Mrs. du Bois puts it. However, both Mrs. du Bois and Mrs. Morrisson find it important to mention that other areas of the government are doing a good job, and that like any entity, the ANC has weak and strong points. Mrs. Lussi raises an important point which sums up the cause for corruption in South African leadership and indirectly for the electricity crisis: lack of accountability. Leaders are above the law, and they do not fear any kind of punishment for their wrong-doings. All of the interviewed teachers recognize that the systems needs to be more punitive, to combat corruption.

## Benefits of Apartheid on the Economy

Most of the interviewed teachers do not believe that apartheid was of benefit to the South African economy. "Apartheid stifled and restricted growth of SA economy by holding back progress / education of blacks AND by spending huge amounts of money on arms to protect its borders, Also the sanctions by other countries limited growth and increased inflation in SA", says Mrs. Morrisson.

However, the strict authority that the apartheid government upheld through force kept he country in check and did not allow it to fall into a full-scale civil war, unlike most other African countries which where ravaged by civil war and unrest in the second half of the 20th century, which would have been devastating for the economy.

## HIV / AIDS

Statistically, a teenaged girl has more chances to be raped than to learn to read.

Combined with AIDS, this makes South Africa the most dangerous country for women. One in five South Africans is infected. By 2010, we are expecting a cumulative death toll of 5.7 millions due to AIDS. Imagine if everybody in both Durban and Cape Town died. That's how many people 5.7 million is. Alternatively, picture everyone living in Los Angeles and Paris combined dying. (Note: City populations include only the city itself)

Due to the incompetence of our leaders, no effective action is taken to prevent the epidemic. Indigenous locals rape virgin girls because they traditionally believe that having sex with a virgin will cure them from AIDS. But obviously the only thing achieved is spreading of the epidemic.

*Excerpt from seoxys.com - "Reasons Why You Don't Want To Live In South Africa" by Kenneth Ballenegger*

What I wrote for this article on seoxys.com pretty much sums up the HIV / AIDS situation in South Africa. No question was asked in the interviews I conducted specifically on HIV / AIDS, but I feel it is important to mention it regardless. The AIDS epidemic really started getting out of proportions with the end of apartheid. Perhaps it is a coincidence, but perhaps it is a result of the ANC's controversial health care policies.

After apartheid:

The present Aids-HIV epidemic -- against which the Mbeki-regime undertakes no action and still is publicly failing to properly acknowledge -- the World Health Organisation estimates that more than 6-million African South Africans will be dead within the forthcoming decade. And the Mbeki-led ANC regime, which could have undertaken a huge prevention campaign such as Uganda's a long time ago, has done nothing to stave off this terrible death rate.

*Excerpt from stormfront.org - "did apartheid ever kill as many Africans as are now being killed" by Vusile Tshabalala*

## Conclusion

Apartheid is often criticized as a pure evil system, without taking the full factors and results into consideration. When compared to other post-colonial countries in Africa, the situation in South Africa today is much better than anywhere else. This is principally thanks to apartheid system, which albeit repressive and anti-constitutional, prevented full-scale civil war and evolved South Africa and made it into a modern developed country, and improved the quality of living.

Today, a black South African is better off than a black non-SA African.

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