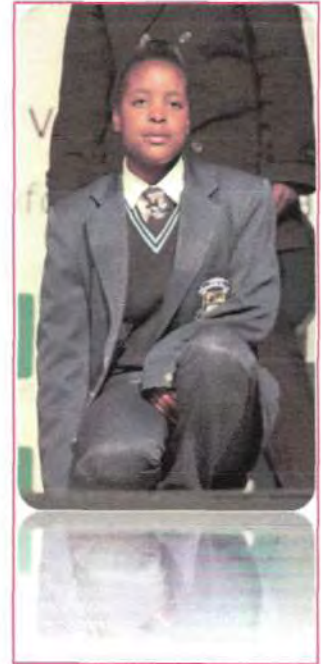


NKOSI ALBERT LUTHULI YOUNG HISTORIANS AWARD 2011



NAME: NOKUTHULA NDLOVU

SCHOOL: EQINISWENI SECONDARY SCHOOL

DISTRICT: JOHANNESBURG EAST (D9)

PROVINCE: GAUTENG

GRADE: 10 C

TOPIC: REFUGEES IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Good but no pg numbers.

REFUGEES IN SOUTH AFRICA

WHAT IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee can be defined as:

- A person who flees for safety as in times of war to another country.
- Someone who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, natural disaster, hunger or oppression.



Good intro

** Specifically focusing on refugees*

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

On the 29 October 2004 the United Nations High Commission for refugees released the statistics that, "Africa has over 4.2 million refugees, second only to Asia". Roughly the equivalent number of people seeking asylum are refugees in Africa as in Europe.

South Africa did not recognise refugees until 1993, and it was only following the transition to democracy that the country became signatory to the United Nations and organisation of Africa United Convention refugees. However refugees even if they lacked official recognition- have been a significant feature on South Africa landscape and concern in the country for decades. In the 1980's South Africa was home to an estimated 350 000 Mozambicans refugees many of whom have now returned.

A refugee act governing the admission of asylum seekers was passed in 1998 and became effective in 2000.

Relevant info.

A refugee can apply for a permanent residence after 5 years of continuous residence since the date of asylum have been granted. Only recognised refugees can apply for Identity Document and an asylum application handed in adjudicated with 180 days including the appeal.

For many post apartheid South Africa has become both an imagined Mecca of economic opportunity or haven from war-torn or troubled lands. In some instance the increase of number refugees, foreigners or immigrants in South Africa has created tension with many South African citizens. Most of South Africans refugees come from countries like The Democratic Republic Of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Angola, Somalia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

PUSH FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE REFUGEES:

Push factors can be defined as factors that leave people with no choice to leave their country of origin.

- ✓ Starvation
- ✓ War
- ✓ Poverty
- ✓ Lack of jobs
- ✓ Certain situations

PULL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE REFUGEES:

Pull factors are factors of personal choice.

- ✓ Economic factor
- ✓ Social factor
- ✓ Political factor
- ✓ Geographical conditions

These people mostly envy things that South Africa have and want to be part. However it's a good thing if it doesn't lead to bad impacts such as crime, rape etc.

very relevant & information

REFUGEE CAMPS IN SOUTH AFRICA



MIDRAND, GAUTENG PROVINCE, 2008

REFUGEE CAMP refers to the shelter for the persons displaced by war, political oppression religious problems Or a temporary settlement built to receive refugees. Hundreds of people may live in one single refugee camp. Unlike all other African countries, South Africa does not have any refugee camps. Asylum seekers and refugees live in urban regions and survive without any assistance. If they need help they approach local government structures. A good example is Embekweni- a remote township of 70 000 people in the heart of the wine producing Paarl Valley about 100 km from Cape Town. Mbekweni refugees, who originates from Angola, Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Somalia, live among the local community. They face problems because assistance is not institutionalised and resources from the international community are limited. Most have tried to cope by doing a petty trade such as selling sundry such as sweets, cigarettes, fruits etc. by the roadside. And the lucky few found a casual employment as security guards and car washers. Delays in refugee status determination are one of the main challenges faced by asylum seekers in South Africa.

Noting that the info above refers to people
in the WC a picture of a refugee camp in
the WC would have been more appropriate.
But no penalty for this!

THE RECENT EMERGENCY CAMPS IN SOUTH AFRICA



South Africa is set to set up seven camps around the country for foreign migrants workers who have fled the recent wave of anti-immigrant violence. The seven new camps will take up to 70 000 people from the increasingly unsanitary conditions at temporary shelters put up around state buildings. The decision comes despite an agency advises that South Africa lacks experience necessary to run the camps.

CONDITIONS AT THE REFUGEE CAMPS



Conditions are usually are very unfavourable at the refugee camps. At the Methodist Church, Small street in Johannesburg in 2008 most foreign nationals were accommodated as a result of the notorious xenophobic attacks. There is overcrowding, lack of resources, scarcity of enough food, etc.

METHODIST CHURCH, 2008

XENOPHOBIA IN SOUTH AFRICA

Xenophobia can be defined as the unreasonable fear, distrust or hatred of strangers, foreigners, refugees or anything perceives as different.

How does this link to the first stanza.

PROGRAMMES AND INSTITUTIONS THAT CAN ASSIST XENOPHOBIA ARE:

- South Africa human rights commission
- Human Rights committee of South Africa

According to the UNACR, of the 23 000 refugees recognised in 2002, many arrived via several asylum or transit countries. They came expecting to improve their lives drastically, but many end up disappointed when they fail to find their jobs or access to social services.

Doctors, Engineers and teachers have had to settle for menial jobs, while their children access to primary school has improved, it is much harder at the secondary and tertiary levels. Only because of the violation of human rights and discrimination.(That however lead to xenophobia)

XENOPHOBIA CAN MANIFEST ITSELF IN SEVERAL WAYS IN A COUNTRY.

- ✓ Victimization by police
- ✓ Brutal assaults
- ✓ Murder
- ✓ Ethnic cleansing
- ✓ Mass expulsion in the country

The recent xenophobia violence in South Africa was primary directed against foreigners living in some poorest urban areas of the country. However it has almost/ also impact on those who acquired citizenship by virtue of their specialised skills, such as medical doctors, academic scientist and engineers. And it has also impact on those having ligaments work on study permits, such as the tens of thousands of Mozambicans mine workers ,mathematics teachers from Zimbabwe and foreign university students.

REASONS FOR XENOPHOBIA:

1. Failure to maintain the rule of the law
 - ✓ Crime
2. Border control
 - ✓ Responsibility
3. Corruption
 - ✓ Policy
4. Employment
 - ✓ 40% Failure to find proper jobs
5. Education
 - ✓ Government biggest failure. 1% of black matriculants achieve high results
6. Solving economical growth

- ✓ Poverty association
- 7. Foreign policy
 - ✓ Foreigners
- 8. Service Delivery
 - ✓ Government targets
- 9. Race relation
 - ✓ Discrimination

HATE CRIME SOUTH AFRICA AND POLICY ON REFUGEES

South Africa at the moment has no legislation covering crimes that are motivated by prejudice or that specifically target people on the basis factor such as race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual origination or region. Consortium for refugees and migrants in South Africa is a member of the crimes working group which is lobbying for the introduction of policy and legislation on hate crimes as this is one of the means necessary to address xenophobia violence in South Africa.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST



Universal Declaration on Human Rights speaks about the rights for all the people of the world and each nation which is part of the global village has the responsibility to protect and promote human rights for all people of the world irrespective of nationality, race even region. When South Africa attained freedom and ushered in the democratic era drafted the constitution which it's bill of rights supports and promote human rights for all the people.

Human Rights First builds respect rights and the rule of law to be held to ensure the dignity to which everyone is entitles and to stem into tyranny and violence. But are Human Rights of foreigners valued in South Africa?

ARE HUMAN RIGHTS VALUED IN SOUTH AFRICA?

“The victimisation of African refugees in South Africa is unbearable, the commission for the promotion and protection of the rights of culture, religion, linguistic communities,” laments Human Rights Commission of SA. The commission is concerned about the ongoing violence of Africa refugees in South Africa across the country particularly in Limpopo where a victim was killed by community members lately. Many refugees in South Africa are not being respected. They are called by names and are badly treated in a bad way that can even lead to death. This is not appropriate because the rights are meant not to be violated. It is in Ivory Park where people witness the bad treatment given to refugees by police officers. What they do is that they take all the things they sell for survival, and according to me these people sell because they don't want to commit crime. Now if the very same South African police officials violate human rights, who are they suppose to report to if not the very same police officials. I, as the speaker, personally think that most South Africans have lost their sense of humour towards humanity. We have come to a point where love and humanity is lost. Killing our brothers and sisters is not worth it, because we are all Africans and humans and the advancement of human rights and the promotion of democracy are pillars on which South Africa's foreign policy rests.

SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN POLICY is a set of documented principles and operations which have been adopted by the South African parliament on how South Africa should conduct itself when relating to other regional, continental and international nations and organisations in terms of various issues that affect South Africa and such countries e.g. economically, politically etc. The underlying principles which serve as guidelines in the conduct of our foreign relations include:

- a commitment to the promotion of human rights;*
- a commitment to the promotion of democracy;*
- a commitment to justice and international law in the conduct of relations between nations;*
- a commitment to international peace and to internationally agreed-upon mechanisms for the resolution of conflict;*
- South Africa must strive to be a responsible global citizen;*
- South Africa supports the global free trade system;*
- Confidence-building and cooperation should be prominent trends of South Africa's African policy;*
- Peace-making and conflict-prevention should receive priority consideration;*
- ✓ *As far as South Africa's means allow, all efforts to alleviate the plight of refugees and children in Africa and elsewhere and particularly the work of the UNHCR must be supported,* Foreign policy document states.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1) The government, Human Rights Commission, UNHCR (United Nations Human Rights for Refugees), S.A Migrants Project, Lawyer for Human Rights, Home affairs and other organisations that deal specifically with Human Rights must sponsor dialogue (discussions) amongst the youth of South Africa to speak about Refugees & Xenophobia and it should be televised. (1)

2) Social Sciences and History curriculum should cover Refugees as one of the chapters. This will help my fellow learners to be clear about these issues surrounding the history of refugees in Africa.

3) The oral history competition should have different programs and one of it should focus specifically to refugees and xenophobia. This very same program should be given a full television coverage from the district eliminations to the national finals like this one.

4) "Adopt a refugee Program" should be introduced, whereby young South Africans in schools and institutions of higher learning can adopt a refugee with the aim of learning the skills and the history of such a refugee.

5) Essay competitions, that speak specifically with the problems that relate to refugees and xenophobia, must be published in the main stream newspapers.

6) Together the government and the human rights organisations should introduce "Educational exchange program" for young South Africans to visit, as an edu-tour, the countries where our liberation leaders found refuge during the hard times of apartheid.

7) The government should come up with the initiatives and strategies to solve the problem of unemployment.

8) The border gates should be tightened to avoid illegal refugees ✓

9) Track down all the refugees and assist them with asylum registration, because those who are not registered are the ones who cause crime.

10) Traditional leaders must alert their people about the danger of intolerance and xenophobic attacks like what King Goodwill Zwelithini did on the 25th of September at George Coch, Johannesburg.

If our government can have a political will all the points I have mentioned are realizable. The recommendations tabled above if can be turned into resolutions and be fully implemented will bring back the spirit of ubuntu and tolerance in our country.

IN CONCLUSION, allow me to quote the unknown author who once said, *"We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colours-but they all have to learn to live in the same box"* If we can learn to spread love and the spirit of togetherness the world will end up with no wars. I stand not for foreigners, but here I am to speak for refugees and what is right for human kind. No man is an island so we surely need to leave together in harmony and peace. In a way that none of the human rights will be violated. LETS TAKE TIME INTO ACTION: Humanity is the only key that can help us access a world with no discrimination.

INTERVIEW 1

Kafi Lamusi is a Somali who owns a Tuck-Shop in Ivory Park extension 9 1622. He is from the town of Belet Hawo in Gedo region in Southern Somalia. He left his home in 2004 to seek refuge here in South Africa. Q-stands for Question and A-for an answer. Thuli is an interviewer and Kafu is an interviewee.

Q: When did you come to South Africa?

A: I came here in 2004

Q: Were there specific reasons as why you came to South Africa?

A: I came here as the results of the political issues, governing policies in my country, starvation and war between Northern and Southern Somalians. These are the reasons why I came to South Africa.

Q: Are there any personal experiences you had in your country?

A: We were chased away from our own lands by men who had weapons, and as these happened I saw the dark future of my children. If only peace could be made then and we accepted president Yusuf even though he was from Northern Somalia. As long as we don't unite a gun takes a lead in Somalia in such a way that one should use it to protect his family. In mind I only had to think about food then the bringing up of peace.

Q: Is everything well for you here in South Africa?

A: I can say so because I am able to make money with the goods I sell so I don't starve.

Q: Are you well treated?

A: I, actually, can't tell I thought I would be but there is a lot of hatred and discrimination here in South Africa.

Q: Do you ever think of going back to Somalia?

A: Somalia is my home, obviously I wish to go back, but due to the situation, I rather stay here and be happy though I am not safe.

Q: If you were to change something what could it be?

A: Humanity in South Africa and peace in South Africa

Q: Lastly, what would you advice the South African who practice xenophobic attacks on other nationals?

A: I would advise them not to hate foreign natives because refugees bring skills in their country and as such it be the economy and the people of this very same country who will benefit from the economic growth.

Thuli: Thanks for your cooperation. I wish you a safe stay here in South Africa and hope your business flourishes.

Kafu: Welcome also wish you well in your school work that you are preparing for.

INTERVIEW 2

Erneshto Msimango is a Zimbabwean national who lives in Ivory Park extension 9 and he is a shoe-marker. He was born in Bulawayo and he is a Ndebele. He came to South Africa in 2001 when Zimbabwean economy had a very serious blow under the leadership of Robert Mugabe.

Q: When did you come to South Africa?

A: I came here in 2001 after the Zimbabwean economy had a serious blow in 2000 .

Q: What was your reason for leaving your country of birth?

A: I needed a job that would help me to support my family and a place for safety since Zimbabwe has turned to be a corrupt country. The bread basket of Africa is now a basket case. It's very painful. There is political and economical strives in my native land.

Q: Is there any personal encounter you would love to tell me, whether political, economical or otherwise?

A: Yes, here in South Africa and Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe I was plugged into an electric chair and I decided to escape to South Africa in order to find peace. But I became hopeless when xenophobia took place the past years and still even today.

Q: Is your life better here in South Africa as compared to your country?

A: I can say so but not really. There are people who lack respect and belittle us aliens on daily basis here in SA. They call us kwerekweres (*a word, usually, used to refer to African nationals who are not South Africans*) as if we are less human.

Q: Do you ever think of going back home to your country?

A: I do go back to my country to see my family but I just can't stay there and see then starving.

Q: What would be your advice to the South African nationals who have hatred to the foreigners, especially African natives?

A: It is very painful to see your own black brother mistreating their own black brothers. They forget that Zimbabwe and other African states are the ones that assisted South Africa during the time of need (in the apartheid era). In the world you will never be sure of what the future hold in store for you. Zimbabwe was once a bread basket but today is a basket case. The same can happen to South Africa. South Africans must respect other humans irrespective of their national origin as they were respected during the time of apartheid.

Thuli: Thanks very much for lending me your ears and time. May God bless you in all your endeavours.

Erneshto: You are mostly welcomed.

INTERVIEW 3

Mr. Thubakgale is the deputy principal of Kaalfontein Primary School in Ivory Park. He is the member of the Branch Executive Committee of the ANC in one of the branches in Tembisa. He is also very active in teacher politics and the member of SADTU TEMBISA BRANCH. I chose him to try and get a balance view since he is a South African and also to extract issues that relate to policies such as foreign policy on refugees since he is political aware.



Q: How are you sir? My name is Nokuthula Ndlovu. I am from Eqiniswa Secondary School. Thanks for responding to my request to do an interview as part of my oral history project. Sir can you please tell me your names and what you do for living?

A: I am Mr. Thubakgale, the deputy principal of Kaalfontein primary school.

Q: What is the foreign policy?

A: Foreign policy is the set of principles on how a country should conduct itself in relation to other countries. May it be economically, politically or otherwise.

Q: Do you think the number of foreign nationals in South Africa is reasonable? I yes why and if not why not? I cannot say yes or know, but I have a worry about those who come here illegally and do illegal activities.

Q: Do you think the xenophobic attacks, particularly, on the Zimbabweans,

Mozambicans and Somali nationals was justifiable in 2008 and recently? The attack cannot be justified in anyway. South Africans also had their time in foreign lands but they were well treated. People like president Zuma spent most of his political life in foreign lands but they were not attacked and those are the people with other comrades who help in the attainment of our liberty.

Q: Is there any policy that controls the influx of people into our country? If it's there what is it? The department of foreign affairs is responsible for controlling the influx of foreigners though it seems as if they are not implementing well their policies. There is a Refugee Act of 1998 which need to be tightened.

Q: If you were the president which regulations would you change or introduce to respond sharply on the crisis of refugees in South Africa? I will look base on what is happening in a country. Not all the foreigners are suppose to be refugees. Some of them their countries are in a good state but they still came to South Africa

Q: Why you think South African government does not want to build refugee camps?

A: What makes ordinary South Africans to think that foreign nationals take their jobs? Most of foreign nationals have skills that present them employable; they come to our country with a lot of skills. South Africans have the problem of pride. They can't sell on the streets to make a living out of that. Soon they start saying you have taken their jobs.

Q: What is good and bad about the foreign nationals?

A: The sense of humour. They have ubuntu and the majority have skills which will benefit our country economically. The bad thing is that there Are those who come with wrong intentions; those who smuggle drugs and commit heist.

Q: How South African government, as the global player, can assist in reducing the xenophobic attacks and the influx of foreign nationals into our country?

A: We should starts in the schools look at the age group that were involved, most of them are youth between 18 -30. Check our schools in terms of curriculum they do not address the relevant topics that speak to the African History very well. The curriculum should cover African history than any other chapters.

Q: South Africans mostly attack their black brothers and sisters? Your thoughts on that?

A: It is very unfortunate. This is because if you are unable to trace your roots as well you will never know yourself. Knowing your roots will conscientize you to see them as brothers and sisters. Co-operate with all people irrespective of their colour or creed.

Q: The last words on the National Anthem boils to freedom and togetherness. Do you think this is taken in to cognisance.

A: The context in which it comes from it is not well understood. If they can understand where it comes from they will be able to absorb the gist of the National Anthem.

Q: South Africa is know based on Ubuntu. Is it so with the refugees?

A: It is slightly different how it is today and the way it was back then. Seeing an older person I see a mother, sister, brother etc. The question of money is problematic this day in age. If I have financial muscles I turn to forget about other people. So money plays a destructive role in this case. It boils back to the demonic capitalism.

Q: According to you, what can you say about refugees and crime?

A: If they commit crime they have to be deported home. We try to be good to you and you not good. What option are we left with?

Q: Would you say anything concerning the attitude of South Africans on refugees?

A: The attitude should change. If we know our roots the attitude will change. We must start that at our schools because we have so many of these people.

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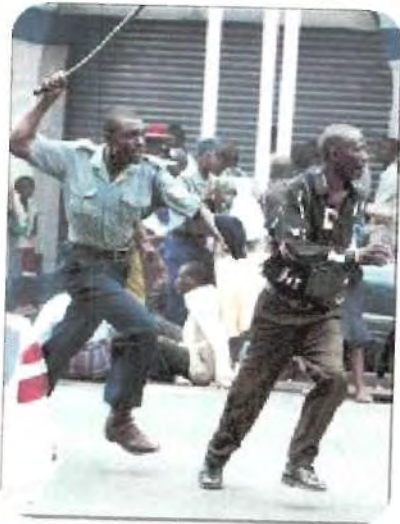
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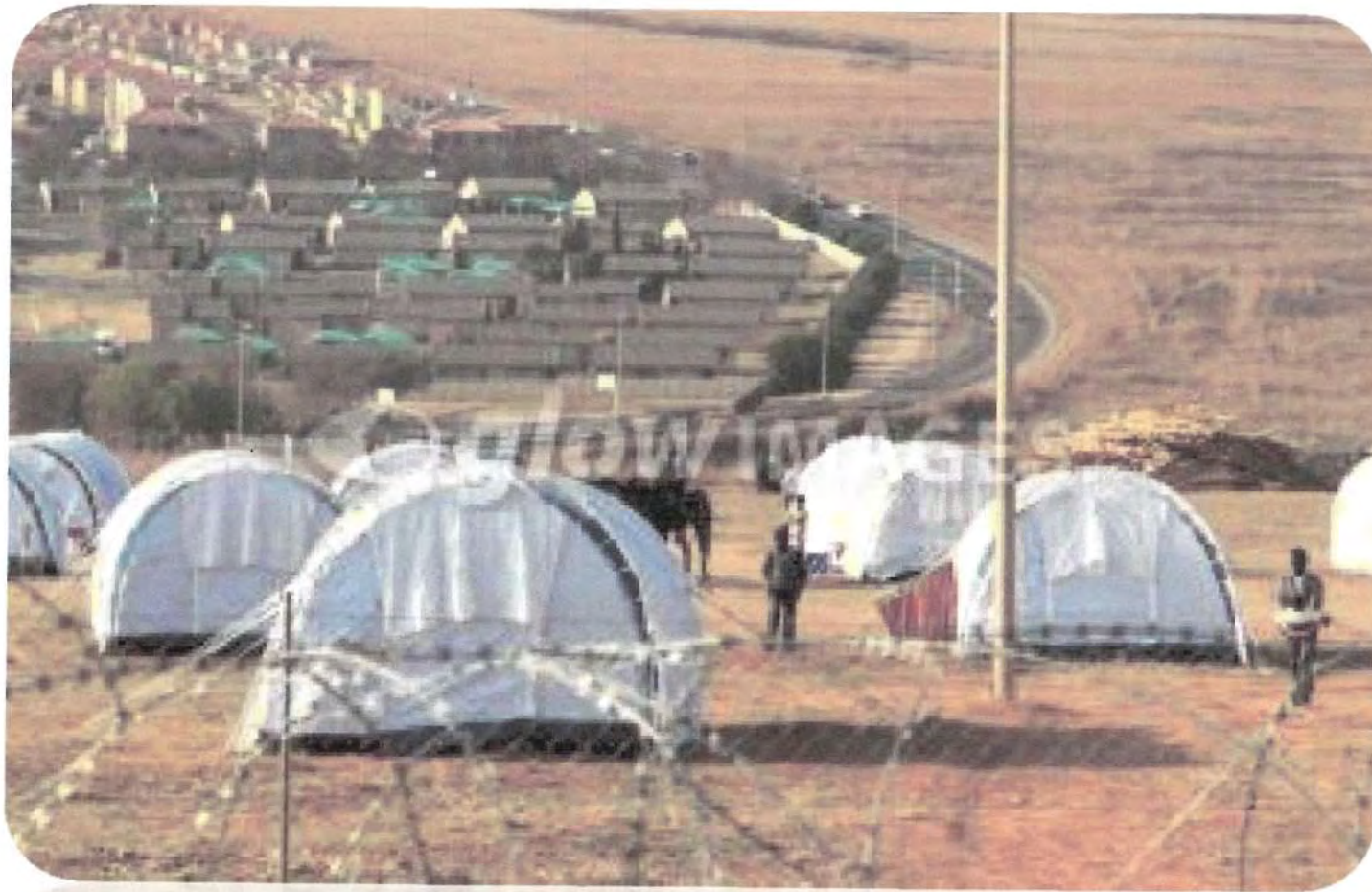
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS



FACTORS THAT CAUSES REFUGEES



REFUGEE CAMPS IN SOUTH AFRICA



XENOPHOBIA IN SOUTH AFRICA

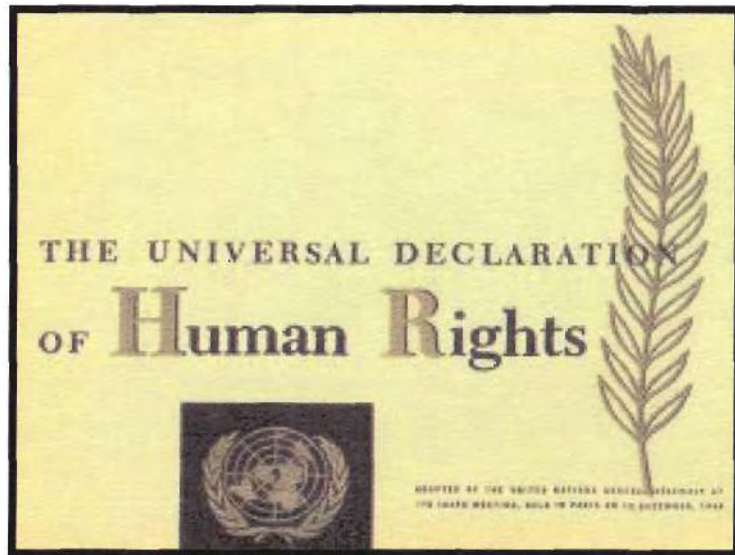


WHAT IS IT?
PROGRAMS & INSTITUTIONS THAT ASSIS
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HOW IT MANIFEST ITSELF?
REASONS FOR XENOPHOBIA
Hate crime SA

CONDITIONS AT THE REFUGEE CAMPS



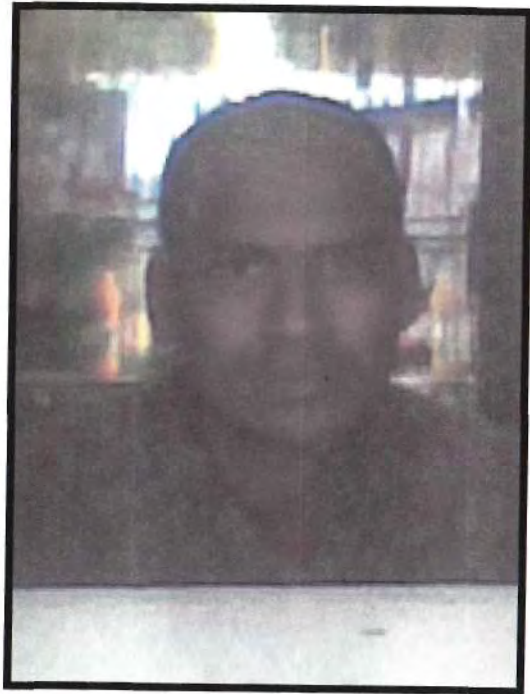
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL & FOR EVERYONE



INTERVIEWS

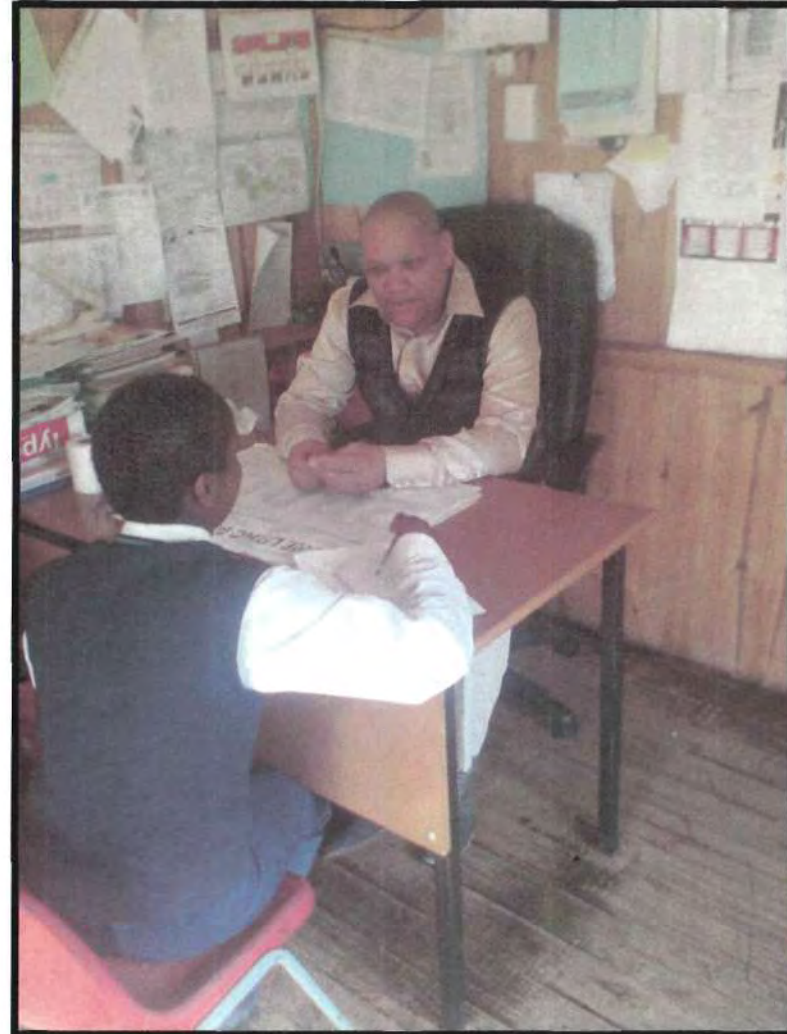
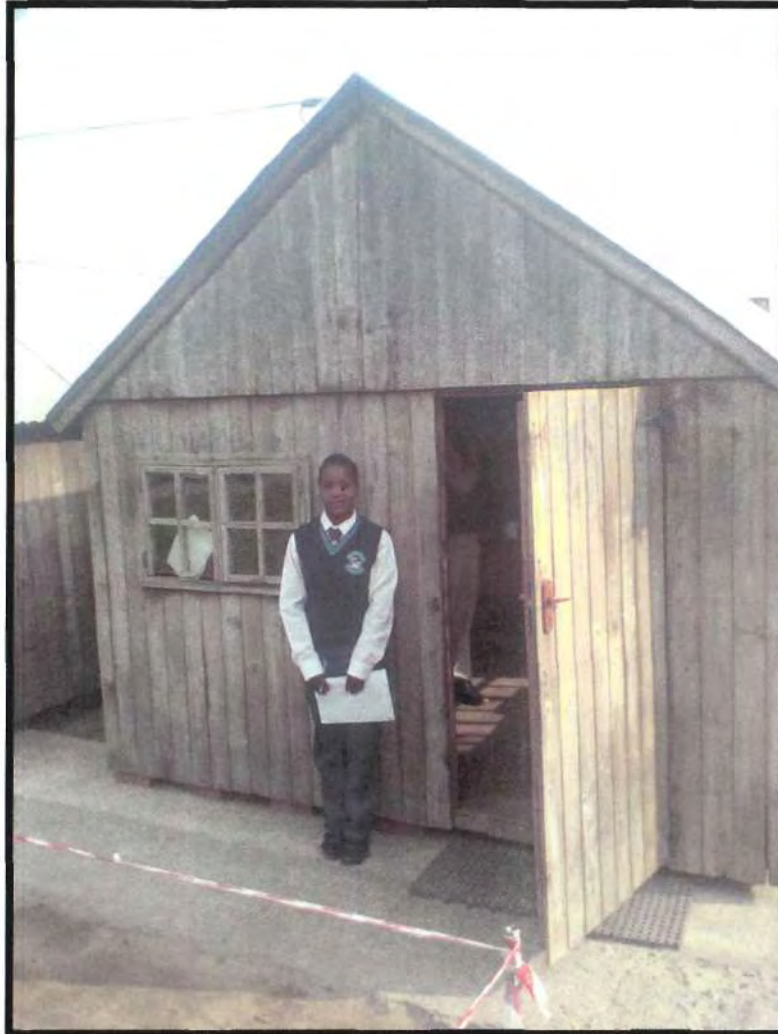


KAFI LAMUSI FROM
SOMALIA

ERNESTO
MSIMANGO FROM
ZIMBABWE



AN INTERVIEW IN THIS SMALL OFFICE WITH THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OF KAALFONTEIN PRIMARY SCHOOL




SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN POLICY

Minister of International Relations and Co-operation
. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **1) DIALOGUE & DISCUSSION ABOUT REFUGEES AND XENOPHOBIA**
 - **2) SS & HISTORY CURRICULUM PROVIDE CHAPTER FOR XENOPHOBIA**
 - **3) INITIATIVES & TV COVERAGE FROM DISTRICT TO NATIONAL**
 - **4) “ADOPT A REFUGEE PROGRAM”**
 - **5) ESSAY COMPETITIONS & MUST BE PUBLISHED IN MAIN STREAM NEWSPAPERS**
 - **6) EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS TO VISIT OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES**
 - **7) INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIES TO SOLVE THE UNEMPLOYMENT.**
 - **8) THE BORDER GATES SHOULD BE TIGHTENED TO AVOID ILLEGAL REFUGEES**
 - **9) TRACK DOWN ALL THE REFUGEES AND ASSIST THEM**
 - **10) TRADITIONAL LEADERS MUST ALERT THEIR PEOPLE**
 - **THESE MUST BE TURNED INTO RESOLUTIONS**
- 

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, allow me to quote the unknown author who once said, “We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colours-but they all have to learn to live in the same box”

If we can learn to spread love and the sprit of togetherness the world will end up with no wars and suffering caused to fellow human beings to other... Thank you!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ❑ Eqinisweni Secondary School
- ❑ Mr. Shishenge, Coach Eqinisweni
- ❑ Mr. Kunene, Principal Eqinisweni
- ❑ Mr. Kafi Lamusi, Somali National
- ❑ Mr. Erneshto, Zimbabwean National
- ❑ Thubakgale J, Kaalfontein Primary School
Deputy Principal

