



Citizenship, Violence and Xenophobia in South Africa: Perceptions from South African communities

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TODAY'S PRESENTATION

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- Origins of the report
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Findings
- Recommendations

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ORIGINS OF REPORT

- CEO (Dr Olive Shisana) asks D&G to undertake rapid response to xenophobic violence crisis
- D&G, headed by Dr Kwandiwe Kondlo, team of 33 including 8 PhDs currently doing major projects on violence and crime
- 5 Year Review: should be collecting more local data

ORIGINS AND PROCESS

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- Xenophobia team: Dr Adrian Hadland, Dr Peter Kagwanja, Suren Pillay, Nthabiseng Mohlakoana, Vanessa Barolsky and Vinothan Naidoo, plus Prof Chiroro from University of Pretoria
- Given 2 weeks to come up with a rapid response document

OBJECTIVES

- Provide understanding and knowledge about xenophobia
- Direct policymakers
- Contribute to alleviation of crisis
- Identify future research needs
- Mobilise rapidly and effectively
- Act in public interest using public resources

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The Study

Four elements:

- Review of media reports
- Evaluation of scholarship, local and global
- Focus group discussions (in Alexandra, Mamelodi, Tembisa and in Imizamu Yethu)
- Interviews with stakeholders

Findings and Recommendations

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Findings 1

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Five themes critical to tensions:

- Role of government
- Scale of immigrant influx
- Pace of housing policy
- Impact on gender dynamics
- Competition for resources

Findings 2

Outbreak should have been predictable:

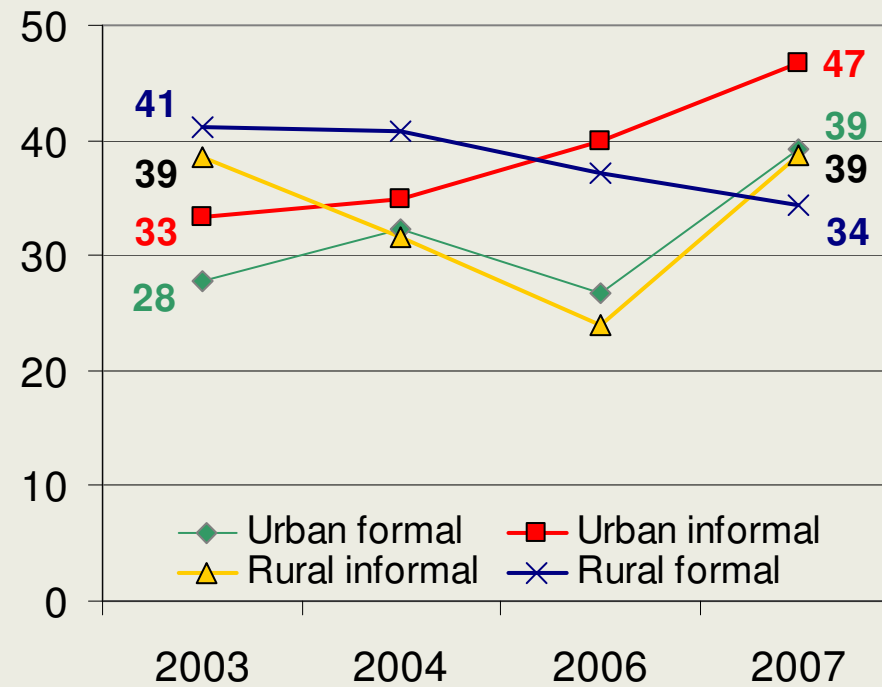
- SA's long track record of using violence as means of protest, esp in areas affected
- Documented tensions over migration policy and housing implementation, exacerbated by developments in Zimbabwe
- Repeated protests over service delivery
- Data indicating growing restlessness with foreigners (including violence from 1994)

Findings

Social tolerance: xenophobic sentiments

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Percent of South Africans saying they welcome no foreigners to the country, 2003-2007



FINDINGS 3

Expected findings:

- Not only, or even first, country to experience xenophobia
- Competition for resources, especially jobs and housing
- Government inefficiency and lack of delivery
- Fuelled by unemployment and the economy
- Failure of migration policy
- Migrants stereotyped, usually falsely

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FINDINGS 4

Unexpected findings:

- Dramatic differences in how genders (and generations) experience xenophobia
- ‘Foreigners’ not only African, but also non-local, eg sePedi and isiTsonga, Pakistani, Chinese and South African
- ‘infection’ of violence as means of protest
- Challenge to legitimacy of state (communicate)
- Specificities of local conflict (difficult to generalise); general state of siege

RECOMMENDATIONS

- NB: Based on acknowledgment of critically important role played by citizens of other countries, including from the African continent and beyond, in SA's econ and in our cultural and social life
- Unregistered or illegal residents deeply vulnerable to criminals, exploitation, prejudice and violence

RECOMMENDATIONS (11)

- National summit or indaba on foreign nationals and immigrants in SA – towards social integration and peaceful co-existence
- Establish and support local community forums on migration
- Audit of RDP houses and development of policy on their occupation
- Border control and citizenship

RECOMMENDATIONS (contd)

- Residency amnesty & formalisation
- Deal with corruption at Home Affairs, in loc govt and within SAPS
- Employment: minimum wage, skills and employer responsibilities
- Incentivised partnership programmes
- Crime
- Retention of Skilled foreign workers
- Cultural interventions to foster a new consciousness and identity



THANK YOU

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