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Dear Dr Ndanduleni Bernard Nthambeleni (Executive Director Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA))

The following is a proposal for a research study that will firstly identify the experiences of black immigrants in order to understand how this has impacted on their perception of South Africa during the 2015 xenophobic attack within the community of Chatsworth.

I believe that the results of this study will yield useful information for the purpose of drawing concerns to the nation in relation to how others may perceive South African society to be. As a result of this research communities will be knowledgeable towards the matter of xenophobia and as a result implement measures to eradicate the problem at hand before it becomes a labelling brand of South Africa internationally.

This proposal offers a guide toward raising the growing concern of xenophobia in South Africa. Thus I am submitting this proposal to your organisation in the hope of obtaining funding as you would note that this project is both practicable and ethically feasible.

Yours sincerely
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Title:
The experiences of black immigrants and how this has impacted on their perception of South Africa during the 2015 xenophobic attack within the community of Chatsworth.

Introduction:
The proposed study will attempt to investigate the experiences of black immigrants within the community of Chatsworth where specific attention will be placed on black foreign nationals between the ages of 13 to 40, the study will investigate how the experiences of the xenophobic attack has impacted on their perception of South Africa as a country. The study will be conducted using a qualitative methodology which involves collecting data in the form of spoken language; this will be based on personal interviews that involve a semi-structured interview and content analysis. The study framework will be conducted using a descriptive-interpretive (hermeneutics) paradigm which focuses on the experiences of individuals. This methodology would be appropriate in order to facilitate a clear, rich understanding of the subjective experiences and perceptions of foreign nationals during the 2015 xenophobic attack.

Literature Review:

1. Defining Xenophobia

Xenophobia is seen as a form of irrational hatred towards others who are perceived to be “outsiders”, unknown or different from the rest within a particular society. The most common form of xenophobic violence is caused through racism amongst people of different ethnic groups within society. The term “xenophobia” can be simplified with “xeno” referring to something uncommon or foreign, and “phobia” simply meaning fear. Xenophobia relies heavily on the stereotypes and myths that people perceive to be true about foreign nationals (Boepple, 2014;
Steenkamp, 2009; De Jager, 2011). The event of xenophobia is expressed through the negative treatment of foreign nationals by local citizens, they express their hatred through verbal abuse, public hostility by residence as well as even going to the extent of committing violent acts of discrimination as well as murder (Chigeza et al, 2013).

2. History of xenophobia

Since the 1990’s, the development of xenophobic awareness has increased by the South African department of Home Affairs with much emphasis being placed on migrants and migration which has been significantly inspired by our late former president Nelson Mandela, he believed in the importance of reconciliation with one another and this notion has been adopted by the ANC as well as many South African citizens. Post-apartheid democracy has been greatly recognised and praised both nationally and internationally for its ability to achieve the peaceful inclusion of all inhabitants in South Africa. After, the oppression many had experienced during the apartheid regime, the fight for equality and democracy was finally achieved creating a new democratic South Africa in which a sense of “belonging to the nation for all” where the main goals (web 1). However, what Nelson Mandela had stated in his speech as the new South Africa being a “rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world”, has now been contradicted by the May 2008 xenophobic attack as well as the government’s failure to manage the situation of the attack (Hayem, 2013).

During the year 1994, several organisations had accused foreign nationals of causing a negative impact within South African societies, they have been labelled criminals and abusers which eventually caused these immigrants to be put into camps in hope that they would leave to their home countries. The violent attempt to rid foreign nationals then grew rapidly during 1997 where looting of foreign businesses by locals had taken place which still continued during the 2015 xenophobic attack (The Guardian, 2015). This led to the 1998 mob murder which claimed the lives of a Mozambican and two Senegalese asylum seekers. In March
2000, the South African Police Services arrested immigrants thereafter taking them to deportation camps (Steenkamp, 2009; LeRoux 2006). We could clearly see the evolution of xenophobia over the past 21 years taking shape, with the expression of South African hatred to foreigners growing more intense and brutal due to the lack of control being implemented by the government. By using the research which entails the experiences of foreign nationals to gain their understanding and perception of South Africa, the government can increase their knowledge about the xenophobic issue and therefore take action towards implementing strategies to eradicate the problems we face as well as transform how South Africa is currently perceived internationally (Steenkamp, 2009).

2.1 Apartheid and its relation to the xenophobic attack

During the apartheid era migration was not seen as an uncommon movement in South Africa as several migrants from neighbouring countries crossed the borders to provide cheap unskilled labour to both the mining and farming industry (Steenkamp, 2009). One could therefore conclude that South Africa has always been as a country that was acceptable to migrants and that violence against foreign nationals has been an on-going element during apartheid (De Jager, 2011). During the drastic shift from a society governed by apartheid towards a democratic nation, much of our countries laws and regulations had also shifted to suit the needs of the people living in South Africa. Although our South African constitution was not solely built on gaining a multi-racial or multi-cultural recognition it has used democracy as a foundation to gain equality in order for everyone to have access to the same rights irrespective of their race or any aspect that distinguished one individual from another (Hayem, 2013).

We can therefore draw upon the rights stipulated in the South African Freedom Charter (web 2). This stated that “no one can be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial”. This alone gave foreign nationals a right to live in South
Africa as well as to experience equal rights like every other citizen (Hayem, 2013). This brings about the concept of South Africa being known as a “rainbow nation” which is widely recognised both nationally and internationally. The idea of a rainbow nation was to incorporate the new democratic nation (Chigeza et al, 2013).

The control over internal migration as well as international migration had increased in South Africa as well as other parts of the world. This was the result of South Africa’s new democratic policies which encouraged and welcomed international refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants. Although the laws stipulated in our constitution and freedom charter aimed at protecting the rights of foreign nationals, South Africa failed to protect immigrants from the brutal attacks imposed by South African citizens who perceived foreign nationals as a threat (Hayem, 2013). The xenophobic attack during May 2008 can be defined as a symptom of post-apartheid South Africa. The violent exclusion of foreigners can be termed as one of the main ways in which South African politics are structured (Mosselson, 2010). The brutal attacks imposed on foreign nationals are parallel to the manner in which black South Africans where treated during the apartheid era.

2.2. Post xenophobic attacks

The xenophobic violence in South Africa began during May 11, 2008 in Alexandra which is on the outskirts of Johannesburg, the attack however spread rapidly from one province to the next. Several individuals joined in one the violent riots claiming the lives of approximately 60 people whilst thousands were left homeless as a result of many foreign nationals evicting their homes in fear of losing their lives or placing their families in danger (Mosselson, 2010; Steenkamp, 2009). The xenophobic attack was due to the government failure to offer proper service delivery promised to all its citizens, black migrants that immigrated to South Africa in pursuit for a better standard of living, to gain an education or had migrated as a refugee or asylum seekers that had migrated to escape the struggles they may have encountered in their country became the “target victims” of
violence. Immigrants living in South Africa are perceived to be the main reason for the country’s mishaps (Mosselson, 2010; Steenkamp, 2009).

The May 2008 xenophobic attack made international news as well as headlines in both the local and national papers. The attack led to the destruction of houses and businesses owned by foreign nationals. Approximately 3500 people were displaced and several others lined up at the borders to return to their country of origin in fear of being tortured and killed if they had decided to stay (Steenkamp, 2009).

The perception of South Africa according to immigrants living in South Africa as well as those who fled back to their former country may have been drastically altered as a result of the brutality imposed by citizens of South Africa. Instead of living up to the promises of democracy, as well as the reference to our country as being identified as a “rainbow nation”, the South African government may lose their chances of gaining foreign investments as well as being defined from a positive perspective internationally, they would rather be looked at as a country where brutal murders and hatred towards foreigners are rife (Mosselson, 2010). Xenophobia may be regarded as a feature of society that experiences much pressure.

3. Struggles of xenophobic victims

Victims of the xenophobic attack are generally non-South Africans. Although some foreign nationals have lived in South Africa for a long time, not all may have been documented as citizens of the country. The impact of the xenophobic violence not only affected foreign nationals but had also affected those citizens who tried to protect them from harm, some of which were married to immigrants as well as those mistaken as refugees have been brutally tortured or killed (Hayem, 2013). Some of the various inhumane acts imposed on foreigners included visible symbolic violence such as necklacing, public killing as well as the use of weapons such as guns and knives. During the 2015 xenophobic attacks,
several other gruesome acts were imposed on foreign nationals, for example setting immigrants alight and the act of cutting off parts of their bodies. As a result of being confined into refugee camps, women experienced the hardship of sexual abuse within the community of Chatsworth (refer to annexure A).

The relationship of the attack imposed on foreign nationals could be described as the power of citizens verses the vulnerability of foreign nationals (Mosselson, 2010). Police officers who are known to protect citizens in South Africa as well as to help minimize the levels of crime within society engaged in utter cruelty towards immigrants as they will be asked to take off their clothes in order to identify vaccination marks that looked “South African”. Due to the brutal treatment against foreign nationals many immigrants sought refuge in various institutions such as the police station, churches, sports grounds etc. (Hayem, 2013).

According to Machava and Polzer (cited in Mosselson, 2003) had discovered that according to research conducted, migrant labourers felt inferior to their employers as they were not allowed to take time off for any personal usage. Immigrants who do not have sufficient documentation are unable to pursue legal challenges against their employer; their vulnerability of having their salary stolen was high as they could not open any bank accounts without proper documentation. These “documentations” can be related to the “pass” black citizens were required to carry around during the apartheid era, a time when the black community was oppressed and exploited by the apartheid government (Mosselson, 2010). We therefore see the link between the apartheid era as well as the xenophobic attack where individuals where asked to carry their documentation. Foreign employees working for South African businesses were treated as slaves under the threat of being deported to their country.
4. Reason for xenophobic attack

Foreign nationals where used as scapegoats for many of the negative aspects or incidents experienced in South Africa, they are accused for committing crimes, stealing jobs, transmitting diseases as well as several other ills experienced in South Africa (Steenkamp, 2009). Other factors like foreign policy’s competition for resources and the development of stereotypes gave South African citizens fertile ground for the growing intolerance and un-acceptance of African migrants (LeRoux, 2001). Although internal migration did occur from rural settlements to the city, migrants who were both relatively new to the country and state functioned as a convenient target for victimisation (LeRoux, 2001).

In South Africa the estimates of immigrants ranged from 12 million dropping down to 7 million then to 5 million and now a conservative 3 million (Mosselson, 2010). Although South Africa was opened towards receiving many African migrants, the large influx of illegal immigrants has been considered a threat to the nation of South Africa in socio-economic terms (Mosselson, 2010). Firstly the illegal movement of people from across the border violated the state’s regulation and process challenging their power therefore resulting in another reason for the violent attack imposed on them. The underlying cause for the attack is due to the poor socio-economic conditions that are prevalent within South African societies.

The impact of much of the struggles experienced by South African citizens have resulted in their bitterness and hostile treatment towards immigrants that are perceived to have gained a better standard of living rather than those originally from South Africa. However, due to the lack of little being done to eradicate the situation right at the outset, violent xenophobic attack continues to be a threat towards people and communities in this country. Citizens portray their anger through harsh comments such as, “we do not want foreigners here”; “they must go back to their country”; “phuma amakwerekwere, phuma!”, “this country is ours-they should leave”, “the foreigners must leave or die” (Hayem, 2013).

Although one could argue that South Africans have the right to expose their concerns, it is the government whose sole priority should be to implement
measures to deal with these concerns in an orderly fashion to avoid the irrational and inhumane violent attacks against another human being irrespective of their nationality or colour, we as humans all share similar characteristics and should not be treated as vile creatures.

5. Reason for migration

Many immigrants sought refuge within South Africa as a result of push factors which includes political and economic instability in their country of origin. Other factors such as the pull factors attracted large amounts of immigrants who then benefited from economic opportunities available in South Africa. Many of these migrants from neighbouring countries crossed the border to South Africa also as a result of seeking job opportunities and escaping as asylum seekers from the struggles experienced in their homeland (Mosselson, 2010).

During the 1980’s a large number of refugees from Mozambique, Zimbabwe and other neighbouring countries fled political struggles and pursued refuge in South Africa. Majority of these immigrants where poor and unskilled individuals however integration within the South African continent was not an issue for them (Steenkamp, 2009). South Africa has been described as a migrant receiving country during the period of apartheid however the large amounts of migrants within the country became the area of concern in which the xenophobic attack had emerged (Mosselson, 2010).

6. Benefits of integrating foreign nationals

On May 25, 2008 during the xenophobic attack, former president Mr. Thabo Mbeki declared that as citizens of South Africa we should always remember that the economy was built by the incorporation of labour from Africans drawn from all countries within Africa (Hayem, 2013). Other African countries have contributed a lot towards the development of South Africa before and after the apartheid era. African countries have played a major role in the past to gain liberation movement therefore we should not turn a blind eye towards their
suffering as many of these individuals during the apartheid era had lost their lives as a result of working in the mines and farms.

We have all experienced the struggles and hardship alike therefore we should support one another rather than violently attacking each another. By incorporating foreign nationals, South Africa could benefit a diverse understanding of culture and ideas that will create a positive impact as foreign labour had been a significant part in the development of our South African economy Hayem, 2013).

7. Governments blindness to xenophobia

During the post xenophobic attack of 2008, former president Mr. Thabo Mbeki opposed the creation of refugee camps in which he believed would cause a division between foreign nationals and South African citizens, he was rather in great favour of the integration of foreign nationals with citizens of South Africa (Mosselson, 2010). The government in this sense did not do justice towards protecting foreign nationals. Although many may consider “harmony” to be the ultimate goal between immigrants and citizens, however during this time of violent attacks being imposed on the victims, integrating both groups was not the best solution governments could’ve made.

The 2008 attack was not considered as a major crisis but rather an act of “criminal behaviour”. Mbeki made this clear when he profoundly stated that his people were not diseased by the afflicting of xenophobia, his statement had directly contradicted the violent treatment imposed on the victims costing many to lose their lives in the process as well as the current violent attack we are now facing within our society. Had the government not turned a blind eye to the crisis right at the outset, our current situation of xenophobia would have seized to exist. The government has failed to make any sound decision towards protecting foreign nationals living in South Africa. Foreign nationals where looked upon as temporary citizens living in South Africa however, this was not the case as many immigrant have gained permanent citizenship to live in this particular country.
Regarding the attack as being something minor was an irrational outlook perceived by the government.

The political silence of our South African government and its failure to protect all immigrants directly indicates that foreign nationals where no longer welcomes in South Africa. Despite the support and positive impact foreign nationals had towards making South Africa what it is today, we have chosen to treat immigrants as aliens to this land. Foreign nationals and countries played a major role in support when South Africa went through the dark tunnel of apartheid, the treatment that was once imposed on black South Africans have now become the treatment we impose on them. The reference made to foreign nationals during the 2008 xenophobic attack by former president Mr. Thabo Mbeki, who had regarded foreigners as being “foreign guests”, indicates that these foreign nationals are depicted as being “guests” to our country rather than citizens who share equal right and as any other South African (Mosselson, 2010).

What has been made a priority during this period according to President Jacob Zuma is our country’s brand to the world rather than the suffering of the people within it. This is evident in the current xenophobic violence of 2015. Whereby president Zuma had personally presented R 50 000 towards the refugee camp in Chatsworth. This however did not act as an aid to eradicate the violent act imposed but to show the world that something is being done. (The Rising Sun Chatsworth, 2015). Although our government has condemned the violent act imposed on foreign nationals, they have arranged for free transportation to immigrants who chose to return back to their country of origin.

The research problem:

On the basis of the above review, the research problem to be addressed would include the inhumane treatment of black immigrants and its impact on their perception of our community and country.
Aim of research:

The aim of this research involves using the experiences of black immigrants affected by the xenophobic attack both directly and indirectly within the community of Chatsworth as a measure of creating an unheard voice of foreigners to share not only their experiences but their view of South Africa and its unreasonable treatment towards those who are in need of their support.

Variables:

The independent variable in this research includes the xenophobic attack and the dependent variable pertains to the foreign nationals who were affected directly or indirectly by the attack.

The key concepts involved in this research includes, xenophobia, immigrants, refugee, asylum seekers, citizenship and democracy. Which are operationalized in this research to broaden our understanding of those affected by the xenophobic attack.

Research Methodology

Data to be obtained:

The data that will be obtained includes the verbal accounts of the experiences and views of black foreign nationals living within the community of Chatsworth who were affected by the xenophobic violence which is an appropriate unit of analysis for this particular hermeneutics/descriptive-interpretive research study. The data that one would have to obtain are the descriptions developing from the interactional context made through the process of interviews which is consistent with the qualitative approach.

Sample/ Subjects/ data sources used:

The source in which information will be elicited from will be through the victims specifically black immigrants of the xenophobic violence. The non-probability
sampling method that will be used is the purposive sampling technique which can be defined as a non-random sampling technique that makes use of different types of methods to achieve all possible results related to a specific topic and it will also give me the opportunity to access difficult to reach individuals (Neuman, 2006). This technique will allow one to access data that is descriptive and easily understood by others, this technique is suitable for the research to be conducted as it will allow the researcher to identify various victims of the 2015 xenophobic attack within the community of Chatsworth.

The sampling size will be between 20 to 30 black foreign nationals within the community of Chatsworth and they would represent the community of foreign nationals as a whole confined within this community. The procedures to be used in order to gain access to the subjects in question will be done by the interaction through various social institutions mainly through the church setting as well as refugee camps (if applicable at the time of data collection).

The purpose and process of the research study will be clearly clarified to the participants as well as the assurance of confidentiality and their full consent to part-take in this research.

Data collection method:

An independent validator will substantiate the reliability and validity of the interview questionnaire, although this research study is seen as a descriptive interpretive study, reliability and validity are not central aspects of the research.

The interviews will be conducted using a semi-structured schedule to suit the situation and experiences of each individual, questions may differ as the interview may progress starting off with more generalized questions and narrowing down to a series of in-depth and structured questions. The questions will be constructed based on the aim of the research as well as the literature review of previous studies. Some of the questions to be asked may include:
How is your relationship with the South African citizens before and after the 2015 xenophobic attack?
What caused you (and your family) to migrate to South Africa?
What where your personal experiences during this period of time?
How did you perceive South Africa prior to this xenophobic attack, and how did it change?

The interview conducted will be voice recorded as well as transcribed if necessary.

The research context:

The socio-politico-cultural context in which the study will be conducted will require the researcher to interact with individuals from various cultural backgrounds who may speak a different language and interpret situations according to their own understanding. Therefore the researcher is required to be considerate and respectful of other cultures or traditions, data collection should be easily interpreted by participants in order to achieve precise responses.

Data analysis:

The method of analysis used is qualitative content analysis, using techniques of coding the data into categories on the basis of the victim’s country of origin, their gender as well as age category between adolescents or adults. The data elicited from the participants will then be scrutinized and compared with each other for any similarities or differences.

Pragmatic considerations

Time frame:

In total approximately one to one and a half hours will be required to interview each participant with 10 minutes being allocated to explain the aim of the research, what is required of them as well as their assurance of confidentiality.
Another 15 minutes will be used to transcribe the data collected, approximately 10 minutes to allow for participant to carefully think and respond to the questions asked and if necessary, approximately another 10 minutes allocated to rephrase the question exposed to them to allow for precise feedback, approximately 15 to 20 minutes will be assigned for the actual response of participant. 20 to 30 participants will be used to conduct this study therefore a period of approximately 4 months will be required for the completion of this research study as interviews will be conducted mainly on Sundays after church hours.

Budgeting:

The cost of conducting this research will be fairly reasonable with major costs including:

- For assistants: R 1400
- For travel: R 500
- Paper: R 60
- Memory device for recording: R 800
- Stationery: R 50
- Printing: R 50
- Contingency: R 200

Total: R 3060

Ethical consideration

It is firstly imperative to obtain consent from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal ethics board prior to starting the research study, it is also important to gain consent from all those involved in the study such as the participants involved in the research. The rights of the participants, the ethics and confidentiality of the research need to be clarified before the participants can give their consent. The
researcher needs to ensure that the participants are protected from all mental and emotional hurt as a result of the research study, if support is required by the victims these views should be taken into consideration for further research to be done on the basis of these upcoming issues.

Limitations

The language barrier is one of the major limitations the researcher may experience as these victims of the xenophobic attack have come from various countries in Africa, therefore the requirement of a translator will be used to assist the validity of this research study. The study will focus on the descriptive-interpretive experiences and perceptions of black foreign nationals with the sample size being between 20 to 30 victims living within the community of Chatsworth therefore the use of a translator is imperative as this study does not rely on generalizability but realistic and personal views of individuals.

Expected outcome of research

This research aims at creating a voice for the victims of xenophobia within the community of Chatsworth. This research will offer them a chance to share their experiences during the outbreak of the xenophobic attack in 2015 and how this has affected their perception of South African citizens, government as well as the community as a whole. This research will be beneficial and useful within the public sector. Organisations and the Government may use this research in order to implement measures to eradicate the issues of xenophobia that impact on the way South Africa is currently perceived internationally and how we could rectify its current status.
Conclusion:

We see a trend from post-apartheid South Africa spreading into our democratic society this trend is the hatred towards others who are perceived as different from the majority. Although the concerns of South African citizens may be logical however their actions are inhumane and unreasonable for the mere fact that we have stepped out of a society where brutality and oppression defined our lives, today we experience the black on black war between South Africans and the rest of Africa. In order to gain a starting point towards the eradication of these issues we face in society today, we firstly need to understand the experiences of immigrants and how it has affected their view on South Africa before and after the xenophobic attack. Individuals from neighbouring countries perceived South Africa as a country of warmth and support however their views have drastically changed over the years (Annexure B).
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ANNEXURE A:

Xenophobia victims complain of sex abuse

*NAME REMOVED*

The issue of xenophobia has become a pressing concern in South Africa, with reports of attacks and violence against foreigners. In this case, a leader of the Democratic Left Front (DLF) called for action to stop the violence.

The leader of the DLF, Dladla Mabuza, called for urgent action to address the issue of xenophobia. Mabuza highlighted the need for the government to take responsibility and address the root causes of xenophobia.

The leader emphasized the need for unity and solidarity among South Africans to overcome the challenges posed by xenophobia.

Mabuza said that the government has a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all its citizens, regardless of their race or background.

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ANNEXURE B:

"chose SA, I thought it was safe"

Refugee from hero to target

ZOHRA MOHAMED TEKE

A few weeks ago, Methode Kubwayo, a refugee, was路口 a heros after returning a lost wallet to a resident. Today, he lives in fear of staving attacks from vigilantes across the province.

"Where are the owners? Where is the sense of kindness? We are not here to harm South Africa, why are they harming us?" he asked desperately.

On the wallet he returned he says, "It was not mine to take."

He says that what he noticed of how he carefully noted all the wallet's contents on a piece of paper - down to the number of coins before handing it over to the payee at the Central Babies Creche and Shopping Centre where it had been forgotten in a shopping trolley.

But now he is terrified of becoming a victim to the senseless violence against foreigners.

METHODE KUBWAYO

In Durban's city centre where he lives, Kubwayo says, "People in Durban in 2012 were ranked the hungriest country in the world."

I was a nursing graduate in my country. But after six months of hard work, stories were killed in the war. I had to leave because of my safety. I chose South Africa because I thought it was a safe country and in 2014 I was granted refugee status.

"I taught myself English and started working as a caregiver. I save my money so that I can pay my rent because we only get R300. I cannot borrow money from anyone and I cannot return to my country because of the war there. I am very scared of what is happening to us here in South Africa. As refugees we expect to be protected and not killed," he said.

Kubwayo expressed his hope of returning to the place where he was born with a friend, saying that R300 was not enough.

"We ask the government to help us. We ask the government to help us. We need to live a normal life like any other South African."

Daily news, (2015). 'I chose SA, I thought it was safe'. Refugee from hero to target, 16 April. p 3
South Africa faces backlash over xenophobic attacks on migrant workers

Protests grow across continent with cars stoned, clashes outside embassies and companies threatened with closure

David Smith in Johannesburg
Sunday 19 April 2015 10.36 BST

South Africa is facing a backlash from the rest of the continent over the targeting of immigrants in a wave of xenophobic violence.

South African vehicles were pelted with stones in Mozambique on Friday and South African companies are reportedly being threatened with closure in Nigeria. Protests have been held at various South African embassies across the continent, and several South African musicians have been forced to cancel concerts abroad.

The tit-for-tat measures follow a surge of attacks on foreigners in Durban, Johannesburg and other parts of South Africa, in which at least six people have been killed, more than 5,000 displaced, and shops looted and razed. Most of those affected “are refugees and asylum seekers who were forced to leave their countries due to war and persecution”, the UN high commissioner for refugees said.

President Jacob Zuma on Saturday cancelled a state visit to Indonesia to deal with the crisis and visit one of the camps in the Durban suburb of Chatsworth, where more than a thousand foreign nationals are sleeping in tents and relying on volunteers for food. Many were boarding buses to return to Malawi, Zimbabwe, and other home countries.

Zuma told a crowd that those who wanted to go home would be helped but his message to those remaining was: “We are firstly going to stop violence and then allow them to stay here in peace.

“It is not every South African who says go away, not at all. It is a very small number who say so. We don’t want the countries in the region where the citizens are going to look at each other in a hostile manner. We want to live as sisters and brothers.”

The rest of Africa is increasingly questioning this assertion, however. There are some who already regard South Africa, which has a unique history and the continent’s most developed economy, with envy or suspicion.

The xenophobic mayhem has sharpened a sense of “us and them”, causing bitterness among nations that hosted thousands of South African exiles during the struggle against apartheid.

In Mozambique last week, a group of about 200 protesters blockaded the southern

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/18/south-africa-migrant-workers-protests
Leombo border and stoned South African vehicles. Moamba district police commander Alfonso Rocco told the Agence France-Presse news agency: “Demonstrators blocked the road for half an hour, refusing to allow cars with South African registration plates to pass.”

Sasol, an energy and chemical giant, evacuated 340 South Africans from Mozambique over fears for their safety. In Zambia, a privately owned radio station has stopped playing South African music in protest.

Businesses from South Africa could face closure in Nigeria unless it takes swift action to stop the violence, according to the eNews Channel Africa. An official with Nigeria’s newly elected All Progressives Congress party handed a memorandum to the South African embassy threatening to shut down leading companies, it said.

In the Zimbabwean capital Harare, there were clashes with police as more than a hundred people marched outside the South African embassy with a petition that said: “We, the people of Zimbabwe standing in solidarity with our brethren in Africa, strongly condemn and denounce the cruel, senseless and gruesome xenophobic slaughter of foreign nationals and the looting of their properties in South Africa.” Gilbert Mutubuki, president of the Zimbabwe National Students’ Union, was quoted as saying: “Right now we have South African businesses such as Pick n Pay operating freely here, but our brothers are being butchered in South Africa ... It’s high time we should do the same to all South African businesses here until they stop all this nonsense.”

The Economic Community of West African States has also condemned the “barbaric, criminal and xenophobic murder of innocent foreigners”.

The South African government hastily convened a meeting of Africa ambassadors and high commissioners last week in an attempt to provide reassurance that it was taking their concerns seriously. But Jeff Radebe, minister in the presidency in South Africa, conceded that the country’s companies that operate in the rest of Africa could be at risk of reprisals. “The impact of these attacks has far-reaching implications for our economic and social relations with the continent and the world,” he said.

“South African companies who are running successful businesses on the continent who help to contribute to our revenue and sustaining our economy may suffer the same fate.

“Recently, South African artists who were to showcase their craft outside the borders of our country, such as BigNuz in Zimbabwe, Kelly Khumalo and Cassper Nyovest in London, have had their concerts cancelled as a result of these attacks.”

Parts of Johannesburg remained tense on Saturday after police detained more than 30 people following overnight violence in which small groups attacked shops in several areas around the commercial capital. Police also used rubber bullets to disperse the looters in Alexandra township.

The latest outbreak of anti-immigrant violence has been widely blamed on a speech last month by King Goodwill Zwelithini, traditional leader of the Zulu ethnic group, in which he linked foreigners to crime and said they must “take their bags and go”. The king has since claimed his words were misconstrued.

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/18/south-africa-migrant-workers-protests
Estimates of the number of foreign nationals in South Africa vary from two to five million, among a population of more than 51 million.

Scapegoating amid a climate of high unemployment and inequality is nothing new. In 2008, 62 people were killed in xenophobic violence across Johannesburg’s townships. In January this year, six people died as looters rampaged through Soweto township.

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MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2015
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC MCHUNU OUTRAGED BY THE LATEST ATTACKS ON FOREIGN BUSINESS OWNERS IN KWAZULU-NATAL

THE KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, has once again, learnt with shock and disappointment that foreign business owners were allegedly attacked, assaulted and chased out of their shops today in Isipingo, south of Durban.

The full details of the incident are still scant, however, it is alleged that today (30 March 2015), foreign shop owners in Isipingo were allegedly attacked, assaulted and chased out of their shops.

When they fled to their residence, it is alleged that their attackers pursued them and pelted the place with stones.

Today (30 March 2015), Mchunu expressed anger and condemned this latest attack, describing it, as pure criminality that should be treated as such.

He said attacks on foreign nationals were undermining peaceful efforts to resolve this matter.

"We are extremely disappointed and angered by these latest attacks.

"As the Government, we will work flat out to mobilise the people of KZN and their community safety structures to denounce and campaign against the attacks of foreign nationals."
“Teams from my Department are already on the ground, working with the police and all concerned to initiate talks that will produce a lasting solution to these attacks.

“We must continue engaging in talks to resolve whatever differences that might have emerged around the presence of these business people in the areas in question.

“I have also been assured that KwaZulu-Natal police have a security plan to address the escalation of these attacks,” said Mchunu.

He appealed to communities to work with the police to ensure these attacks come to an end.

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