TODAY’S PRESENTATION

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

Project Co-ordinator: Dr Adrian Hadland, Director, Democracy and Governance Research Programme, HSRC
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

- 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
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
Findings 1

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

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

- Urban formal
- Urban informal
- Rural informal
- Rural formal

2003 2004 2006 2007

28 33 39 41

34 39 39 47
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
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
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 gov't 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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