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Deliberate, ignorant or expedient? explaining ‘local’ newspaper reporting on foreign nationals in the context of violence

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UNIVERSITY OF WITSWATERSRAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES



Deliberate, ignorant or expedient?

Explaining 'local' newspaper reporting on foreign nationals in the context of violence.

A research report submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of the University of Witwatersrand's Master of Arts by Coursework and Research Report in Journalism and Media Studies

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Supervisor: Loren Landau

DECLARATION

I declare that this research report is my own unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Arts by Coursework and Research Report in the Department of Journalism, at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination at any other university.

Aurélie Kalenga,1962802

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I started this work to fill a void after the painful passing of my sister.

While this was not the remedy, it has given me a great sense of fulfillment.

I couldn’t have reached the height or explored the depths of this subject without the guidance of academics and encouragement of family and friends.

I had the pleasure of being under the supervision of Professor Loren Landau, who patiently steered me in the right direction.

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To my many faithful friends, thank you for your support during this academic journey which intertwined with grief, a peripheral neuropathy and a pandemic.

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A word of appreciation to the editorial teams at the Caxton Northern Johannesburg branch and Soweto Urban, for allowing me into your newsrooms to ravage through archives. Thank you for your time and truthful insight.

Biggest thanks to my family, who believe in me even when I don’t. My biggest honor in life is to make you proud.

To God be the glory!

DEDICATION

To: Stephane, Maroushka, Carla, Arya-Nur, Samuel, Arielle and Alexandre.

Consider this work a love letter from me. May it encourage you to go on and achieve only great things, even under difficult circumstances.

ABSTRACT

The South African constitution (1996) states that “South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity”. To realise this vision, all actors in society must work to promote tolerance and inclusion. At the heart of this thesis is the premise that the media plays a vital role in shaping views and policies on various subjects including immigration.

Xenowatch, which monitors violence across South Africa recorded incidents of xenophobic violence between 1994 and 2018 resulting in “309 deaths, 901 physical assaults, 2193 shops looted and over 100 000 people displaced” (Misago and Mlilo 2019:3).

Despite constitutional commitments to promoting inclusion in South Africa, such as the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (2000) which excludes hate speech along with “incitement to violence and propaganda for war from protection of free speech”, a growing body of literature on the South African media and xenophobia, shows how large media houses continue to represent black African foreigners using language and imagery that can reinforce negative stereotypes. Fine and Bird (2002) note that “media coverage tends to blur the distinctions between the different categories of migrants and represents them as illegal immigrants, aliens or criminals”. Chiumbu and Moyo (2018) agree with this and argue that these representations contribute to forms of xenophobic violence that have claimed hundreds of lives and resulted in billions of rand in lost property.

In a context of real violence against immigrants in the country, including the stabbing to death of Mozambican national Emmanuel Sithole in Alexandra during the 2015 xenophobic attacks, such inflammatory language could potentially incite violence. In a country where hate speech and other forms of discriminatory reporting are formally prohibited, the question remains why South African media continues to report on immigration in ways that are factually questionable and at least potentially inflammatory.

There are studies that have helped to establish how the mainstream media covers issues of race, migration and xenophobia in South Africa. Wasserman et al (2017) noted the media’s failure to contribute to an emerging democracy during conflicts such as xenophobic attacks and its orientation towards elite audiences. Chiumbu and Moyo (2018) noted that the media have, wittingly or unwittingly, used narrative frames that justify the exclusion of foreigners, thereby entrenching a perception of insiders and outsiders. While Duncan (2016) blamed the media for xenophobic panic in South Africa.

While there are pockets of media that are xenophobic and racist, little information is available about the coverage of local media (Bird 2009, 54). Using media theories including agenda setting, framing and representation, I examined the themes in *Alex News* and *Soweto Urban’s Dobsonville Urban* commercial community newspapers when reporting on black African foreign nationals during and after the 2015 xenophobic attacks.

The findings were surprising and upset generalised accusations that the media is xenophobic, racist and discriminatory. The interview process revealed that severe institutional constraints such as a lack of money, staff and time, limit the kind of coverage available and that the reporting is not based on the bias of journalists and editors.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background…… 1

1.2 Recent violence……. 5

1.3 Aim & Rationale……. 7

1.4 Research questions…….. 9

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 The role of the media…… 10

2.1.1 Commercial community media…… 14

2.2 Stereotypes & scapegoating……... 15

2.3 Race & racism in the media……. 17

2.4 Xenophobia and migration in the media…… 18

Chapter 3: Theoretical Framework

3.1 Agenda setting & Framing…….. 19

3.1.1 Existing research on news framing of foreign nationals…. 22

3.2 Representation…….. 24

Chapter 4: Methodology

4.1 Content analysis…… 26

4.1.1 Thematic & Qualitative content analysis…… 27

4.1.2 Interviews……. 28

4.2 Media selection…… 30

4.3 Research limitations…… 32

4.4 Ethical challenges…… 32

Chapter 5: Research Findings – Part A

5.1 Amount & Type of coverage…… 35

5.1.1 Number of articles……. 35

5.1.2 Content type…… 36

5.1.3 Themes…… 38

5.1.4 Frames……. 40

5.2 Language……. 41
5.3 The voice of authority……. 43
5.4 Prominence…….. 45
Chapter 6: Research Findings – Part B
6.1 Interviews……. 48
Chapter 7: Research Analysis & Discussion
7.1 Type of content…… 50
7.2 Language……. 51
7.3 The voice of authority……. 52
7.4 Prominence…….. 52
7.5 Interviews……. 53
Chapter 8: Research Implications…… 54
Chapter 9: Conclusion……. 56
Reference List…… 57

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Background

The United Nations released a report in 2016 titled, A Global Call for Concrete Action for the Total Elimination of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. It recommended that urgent measures be taken to overcome xenophobic attitudes across the world. This came after the general assembly expressed deep concern as Africans continued to be victims of rights violations relating to racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in their communities. The report also urged the media to take note of the dangers of negative stereotyping, especially in the context of violence. While presenting this report at the UN General Assembly, Secretary General Antonio Gutteres said, “in times of insecurity, communities that look different become convenient scapegoats. We must resist cynical efforts to divide communities and portray neighbours as ‘the other’. As societies become more plural, the media have the potential to encourage cohesion and counter negative attitudes towards human mobility” (Gutteres 2016).

Questions of social cohesion and xenophobia are particularly acute in South Africa – in May 2008, the country became the focus of international media attention and global condemnation, when migrants (mostly from Africa) were violently attacked in various parts of the country. On its website, Xenowatch states that at least 62 people were killed in these attacks. In April 2015, xenophobic attacks started in Durban and spread to parts of Johannesburg. Several killings were captured on camera including that of Mozambican national Emmanuel Sithole, who was stabbed to death in Alexandra prompting foreign governments to begin repatriating their citizens. The violent expressions of xenophobia directed at black immigrants continues to be seen in South Africa with recent attacks on foreigners taking place. On the 1st of September 2019, foreign owned shops in the Johannesburg CBD were looted, damaged and destroyed. This violence coincided with a nationwide truck driver strike against the hiring of non-South Africans in the sector. By the 10th of September, Police Minister Bheki Cele announced that 12 people had died in these demonstrations and over 600 people were

arrested (Ministry of Police 2019). This saw the South African government amend legislation to address the problem of undocumented migrants and unregistered businesses in the country. Foreign governments condemned South Africa for these attacks, with Nigeria repatriating its citizens affected by the violence (ENCA 2019). These incidents showed that despite the transition to democracy, post-apartheid South Africa still embodies discriminatory attitudes.

While Gauteng, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal are the most affected by the xenophobic violence, Xenowatch finds that violence against foreign nationals is spreading fast across the country's nine provinces. Attacks now regularly occur in major cities, towns, townships, informal settlements and rural areas across the country. The mapping of incidents of xenophobic violence also found that precincts including Alexandra and Soweto report the most threats of violence (Misago and Mlilo 2019:7). While these attacks can be attributed to sentiments of afrophobia, Fine and Bird (2002) say they are "fuelled by a sense of hatred, dislike and fear of foreigners", including nationals from Pakistan and Bangladesh, making it xenophobia, which the South African Human Rights Commission (1998) defined as "the deep dislike of non-nationals by nationals of a recipient state". As such, "xenophobia is an exclusionary logic, whose focus is primarily cultural, being directed towards cultural expressions considered somehow 'different'. As with all discriminatory ideologies, xenophobia constructs a hierarchy of people and cultures" (iResearchNet).

The media can play a pivotal role in preventing and challenging racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination. Alternatively, journalists can also support various forms of discrimination by either actively supporting it or failing to challenge it (Lerner, Roberts and Matlala 2009). Some among the mass media have played a role in addressing crises facing the country, including the struggle against apartheid and the fight against AIDS denialism. Some South African media organisations exposed the racist apartheid regime by reporting on the fight for justice and worked with the Treatment Action Campaign and activists to expose profiteering pharmaceutical companies that were sitting on life saving drugs, and exposed corruption and irregularities within government and the private sector.

The role of the media in the worsening image of migrants in Europe was debated at a conference titled, 'Promoting Migrant Integration through Media and Intellectual Dialogue', organised by the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) and held in Budapest. The purpose was to assist media workers provide fair and balanced reporting of migration issues. The IOM found the media mostly presented migrants as "destabilising Europe's labour markets and welfare states" (Dujisin, 2011). The Romanian media monitoring agency, Active Watch, noted that with far-right, anti-immigration parties gaining strength throughout Europe and the United States of America, journalists did not look at events closely and blamed "the increasing commercialisation of the mainstream media and the profit imperatives it imposes as the reason for the lowering quality in the coverage of migration related issues" (Dujisin, 2011). Research on media and xenophobia shows that while South African media houses do not necessarily incite anti-immigrant sentiment, the way in which certain stories are framed could suggest an intrusion or invasion of "others" which may deprive locals of certain opportunities (Lerner, Roberts and Matlala 2009).

While the media has played a significant role in creating awareness about the issues of xenophobia and the dangers of exclusion and violence based on nationality or origin, migration scholars say South African journalists maintain narrative frames that reinforce fears of a national takeover (Bird 2009, 27). This is illustrated by newspapers covering African migrant workers in South Africa. While it is newsworthy, these stories have been seen to create a belief among locals that the influx of foreign nationals diminish their opportunities to earn a decent living. Similarly, when a news brief states that a group was arrested for a crime i.e. possession of illegal firearms or drugs and lists the nationalities of the suspects, while the story is not unfair, the pattern of lumping foreign nationals together with criminals perpetuates stereotypes about people's legality and their actions as being criminals (Bird 2009, 27).

In August 2019, the media reported on the police raids on migrants eking out a living on the streets of central Johannesburg. The police operation led to clashes between the officers and foreign shopkeepers. South African politicians jumped at the opportunity to express their anger and disgust towards the traders, joining in the global rise of

xenophobic and racist discourse. While it is important for the media to cover the tensions in the inner city, journalists failed to interrogate the governments seriousness about counterfeit goods and its method of harassing working-class people at gunpoint instead of addressing the corruption at the ports where illicit goods arrive. Research shows that the failure of media houses to contextualise matters involving foreign nationals can lead to the spreading of misinformation and contributes to tensions between locals and foreign nationals (Lerner, Roberts and Matlala 2009).

There are a range of ways in which foreigners are represented; Aidan White of the Global Ethical Journalism Network noted that in South Africa, the coverage of migrants falls into “victim journalism”. This means the stories of foreigners are usually of miseries and indignities, or the group is linked to violence and conflict, all while competing with locals for scarce resources. Migration scholars have also noted that little focus is given to how foreigners leave their home countries for economic opportunities, to build new lives and create new relationships (Landau 2015). It appears that the media’s interest in issues relating to immigration peaks when violence is committed against foreign nationals, with a focus on stories about xenophobic violence, overburdening of the healthcare system and criminality. This too feeds into xenophobia, while the overt negative coverage is obvious, the victim narrative also suggests that people are coming to South Africa in need, and in ways that will take away from South Africans. This is problematic as foreigners continue to settle in the country for various reasons while attacks on them are ongoing.

Recent violence

While the recent 2019 xenophobic attacks are not the subject of my project, as my research plan was developed prior to the violence, it is important to note where things currently stand.

When President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the funeral of Zimbabwe's former head of state, Robert Mugabe, he was booed by mourners during his speech and subsequently apologised for the xenophobic attacks that had taken place in Johannesburg and claimed twelve lives "I stand before you as a fellow African to express my regrets and apologise" (September 2019). Several other countries responded to the spate of attacks on migrants; Zambia's Football Association cancelled an international soccer match against South Africa because of what it termed "prevailing security concerns". A Pick 'n Pay supermarket in Lusaka, Zambia was also stormed in a revenge attack. Botswana's government issued a travel advisory and warned its citizens against traveling to South Africa in the wake of the deadly xenophobic attacks. All MTN stores and service centres in Nigeria were temporarily shut. Other south African companies also halted trading such as Multichoice and Shoprite. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari summoned the South African High Commissioner to express his concerns about the violence to President Cyril Ramaphosa. The Nigerian government also cancelled its participation at the African Economic Forum in Cape Town and closed its embassy in South Africa citing security concerns. South African diplomatic missions in Abuja and Lagos were also closed due to threats of retaliatory violence. Meanwhile, protestors smashed the windows of the South African consulate in Lubumbashi and attacked South African-owned stores such as Mr. Price in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in reprisal against the assaults on migrants in Johannesburg.

Shortly after President Cyril Ramaphosa's apology Operation Fiela II was implemented, which saw the search, detention and deportation of any foreign national without the proper documentation. During one of the raids, Moosah Diah jumped from the 7th floor of his Hilbrow apartment. The 26-year-old Malawian national had a valid passport on him but fled because he was afraid of the police. Many others were detained during this

operation and are appearing in court. Human Rights Watch (2019) has noted that since March 2018, 200 people (mostly foreign employees) have been killed in South Africa.

At the time of this research running battles were continuing between refugees and the police with those who sought protection and made their way to the offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Pretoria and Cape Town. They camped outside the buildings saying they no longer felt safe in South Africa and called on the UNHCR to evacuate them to another country. They also highlighted the inhumane treatment they receive at Home Affairs offices including Marabastad in Pretoria. In October police forcefully removed them as per a court order, and over 200 people were arrested while displaced migrants are being housed in churches (EWN 2019).

While foreign nationals continue to be attacked, displaced and have their businesses targeted and looted in South Africa, this common and surprising practice is in fact quite exceptional and doesn't happen everywhere. It happens mostly in township communities like Alexandra and Soweto, which my research is focused on.

Aim & Rationale

There have been several critiques the world over about the way mainstream media covers immigration and foreign nationals. However, little work has been done to show whether local news organisations which work on a different logic and with different finances operate in the same way. By using two examples of local papers, this thesis focuses on the types of stories commercial community news media tell about black African migrants and their association with criminality, all while overlooking their real and potential contributions to society.

This paper investigates how commercial community newspapers *Alex News* and *Soweto Urban's Dobsonville Urban* represent black African foreigners and whether the journalists and editors reinforce the following stereotypes in their reporting;

- "Foreigners want to live in South Africa illegally" – this myth is inaccurate and dangerously misleading. It places the blame for governments inefficiencies at the feet of those desperate for its protection and powerless to access it.
- "Foreigners are stealing our jobs" – the perception among some South Africans is that there has been a massive influx of African migrants into South Africa who are "stealing jobs". This has become the most common refrain used to justify attacks against African foreigners. However, there is no evidence to suggest that foreigners dominate either the formal or informal employment sector.
- "They only come here to use our healthcare" – chronic shortages, understaffing and a lack of resources plague South Africa's public healthcare system, however this cannot be attributed to a massive influx of migrants who have swamped South Africa to the detriment of citizens. It also ignores the high number of South Africans who migrate from rural areas into the city and access the national healthcare system. This perception misses the complexity of reasons that lead to migration in Africa, such as members of the LGBTI community who face persecution because their home country criminalises their sexual orientation, as well as violence from terror groups such as Al Shabaab, Boko Haram and more.

Through interviews with journalists and editors of *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban*, this project then explains why commercial community media houses report on foreign nationals in the way that they do, knowing what is at stake. This will help to determine whether the narrative used is deliberate, out of ignorance or because it convenient although possibly improper?

Research Questions

In this paper I explore how Alex News and Dobsonville Urban represent black African foreigners in the context of violence. I make use of qualitative methods of data collection and thematic content analysis to investigate whether this coverage is substantially different from the type of reporting on foreign nationals in the context of xenophobic violence, that others have noted in the mainstream media. The findings are remarkable in that they go against shared views that journalists reinforce certain tropes that are problematic and could potentially lead to violence.

Through interviews with journalists and editors of the two commercial community newspapers, I found that these media houses are severely understaffed and lack capacity to cover stories of migration in depth. They recognise that some of their coverage may promote an agenda and produce images which potentially have negative consequences, however this is not due to their bias but rather because of existing factors beyond their control such as simmering tensions in their communities and popular sentiment.

The above chapters have looked at the context and background of this project. The research questions have been clearly specified and defined according to how the *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban* newspapers characterise or represent black foreigners in the context of violence. These include:

a) Does this differ substantially from the type of reporting on foreigners in the context of xenophobic violence that others have noted in the mainstream media?

b) Is a particular agenda suggested by the local media coverage?

c) How do journalists explain or understand the nature of their reporting?

The purpose of the study has been highlighted and its significance discussed. The following chapter looks at the literature review concerning the research.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

This section reviews literature on the media's responsibility in a democracy to dispel myths, stereotypes and dangerous terminology. The review will focus on the themes of race and xenophobia in the media. Although these are presented in several contexts, they are important for this research to give understanding on the narratives within reporting on foreign nationals.

2.1 The role of the media in shaping views and policies

The media have the capacity to shape public opinion on issues including immigration, race and violence. Dahlgren (1997) believes that "the media must be understood as a social agent with ideological and social power because media texts help shape and inform societal norms and practices". There are other influences, along with media, which help societies understand themselves in relation to others such as parents, families, schools, churches and other social institutions. However, many media scholars have argued that "the media today have more of an influence on identity formation than the traditional sources of this process" (Grossberg et al 2006).

The media performs several functions that are important to the democratic process as it "serves as an intermediary between the government and the people and helps to determine which issues should be discussed". Curran (1995) argues that 'media in society is generally upheld as being inextricably linked to democratisation'. Burke (1972) referred to it as the fourth estate, analysing the power of the press in regard to other powers in Britain such as the Lords, Church and Commons. The media later assumed the role of watchdog over governments in efforts to check the power it wielded. Lord Acton (1834-1902) noted that 'all power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely', therefore some external power is needed to look over state power. This external power was found in the media.

The beginning stage in trying to comprehend the activities of the media is understanding the capacity that they have in the public arena. In recent years a lot of research has been done in this field of study and much of it has concluded that the presence of a

free, autonomous and objective media is essential to the dynamic advancement of a democratic society.

The representation and framing of black African migrants in the media is important because it could potentially affect how South Africans perceive and relate with them. The job of the media in advancing comprehension between different people and addressing human rights violations such as bigotry and racism is addressed in a few articles and presentations. Explicit reference is made now and again to abstaining from generalisations and stereotypes and rather giving a voice to the oppressed.

“Media has a role to play in combatting racism and xenophobia” according to various declarations and covenants such as;

- Article 5 of the UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice of 1978. It “urges mass media to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among individuals and groups, and to contribute to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination and racial prejudice, by refraining from presenting a stereotyped, partial, unilateral or tendentious picture of individuals of various human groups”.
- The UNESCO Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racialism, Apartheid and Incitement to War of 1978 “emphasises the special responsibility and contribution of mass media in addressing racism and other human rights violations, through dissemination of information and giving a voice to oppressed people”.
- The 2001 World Conference against Racism “recognises the important role media can play in prevention, education and protection in relation to racism and xenophobia”.
- The Durban Review Conference in 2009 “emphasises the role of media (amongst other sectors) in eliminating all forms of racial discrimination and called for campaigns and countries to combat xenophobic attitudes and stereotyping of ‘non-citizens’ that have led to xenophobic violence, killings, and targeting of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers”.

Curran (2000), sets out some of the normative functions of media in society, including its role in providing the means and the space for a variety of residents to communicate their perspectives and soundly banter issues influencing society and the state. He also notes that “the media are expected to provide a source of objective information on the activities of powerful institutions and individuals”. This notion of rational debate resonates with Habermas’ view of the ‘public sphere’, which is defined as “the space or arena within which public discourse and association can be conducted” (Habermas, 1991). Habermas’ view is that “the public sphere is a space to which all citizens or members of a society are guaranteed access and in which they ‘rationally’ deliberate and discuss their common affairs, exchanging ideas and opinions and interacting with each other resulting in the formation of general public opinion that must culminate in some action and transformation for society” (Habermas 1991). Habermas believes that journalism and the media have a significant role to play in expanding the public sphere and making public debate accessible to all who need to be part of it.

The media can also play the role of mediator between society and ‘reality’, helping people interpret the experiences of the world around them, and acting as an agent of social change. The role of the media in giving society direction has been extensively discussed by (Bennett 1982; McQuail 1994; Curran 2002) with some scholars arguing that “without the media performing this role, society would have no means of keeping a check on itself or the state thus hindering its development”. The information presented to society to make informed and intelligent decisions must be as reliable as possible, and those who disseminate this information must do so as objectively and professionally as possible.

Local media has an additional role of giving people a voice, and in South Africa, it is not only an important source of information for communities about critical issues such as racism and xenophobia, but also about groups of people that they may not ordinarily interact with and encounter. The media should be inclusive, participatory, with the aim of representing groups that are usually marginalised and under-represented by traditional media. The media was established with a noble and transformative purpose, however in practice and in response to the hostile social and economic environment in

which they operate, financial survival has become a primary strategic objective (Right2Know 2011).

This paper further explores whether there is a dilemma for journalists in local communities such as the *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban* to report what readers want them to say versus not stereotyping foreigners and migrants and if this affects the way stories are covered. “Local media are in a unique position to affect attitudes in communities that remain largely divided along racial and often national lines, should they wish to do so” (Hadland 2004).

2.1.1 Commercial community media

While I will not be looking at community media as formally construed in this paper, it is important to note how it has gained prominence in South Africa as a medium of communication that caters for the needs of forgotten or neglected people. Berger (1996) observed that the country's "community media sector emerged during the apartheid era and was used as a tool to counter state propaganda, inform, mobilise and educate the masses about their rights and to facilitate the building of strong community organisations". "Since the end of apartheid, community media, and the community press, have continued to grow despite the obvious challenges of operating amid rising costs of production" (Hadland 2004; The Media 2006; Milne et al, 2006). To address this challenge, 'local' community newspaper publishers like the Caxton media group have taken up the commercial model and combine it with the community media model to meet the needs and interests of the residents they serve, while at the same time ensuring that they sustain profit through their advertisers.

In my research I focused solely on commercial community media. Hirsch and Thompson (1994) noted that "a key difficulty with this model is how effectively it ties in with the perceived developmental and non-profit role and the function of the community media format, while it is obliged to focus mostly on the interest of advertisers. It thus becomes necessary for the 'commercial community media' model to strike some form of a balance between the needs and interests of advertisers and those of the community it serves".

The purpose of this review was to understand the crucial role the media plays in a context of violence. While commercial community newspapers such as *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban* are not complicit in the xenophobic attacks we regularly see in South Africa, the use of certain stereotypes and language could damage the reputation of black migrants.

2.2 Stereotypes & scapegoating

Hall (1996:259) citing Dyer, says that when stereotyping is used by ruling groups it can be used as a means to "fashion the whole of society according to their own world view, value system, sensibility and ideology and in the process also make it appear 'natural and inevitable'". Ruling groups own or have considerable influence over the means of distribution and reach which ordinary people do not possess. This then works to the detriment of minorities because the way in which they are represented depends on the way they are perceived by those who are more powerful. Gross (1995:62) argues that "those who are at the bottom of the various power hierarchies will be kept in their places in part through their relative invisibility in the mass media". He goes on to say that when the so-called underdogs are represented, "it reflects the biases and interests of the elites who define the public agenda". These elites are usually white, middle-aged and upper-class men.

Some media experts who have studied migration coverage in South Africa have argued that "stereotypes and myths have largely informed locals' views on issues of migration and foreign nationals" (Fine and Bird 2002). These myths have been seen to perpetuate xenophobic sentiment and are used seemingly as a basis for policy decisions around migration. Stereotyping is used to identify that which is not 'like us' or the other. Lacey (1998,135) argues that "stereotypes are an invaluable aid to understanding the world, and all stereotypes must have 'a kernel of truth'; or they would not have such an influence on our lives". While the stereotypes presented in the media exist in the world, President of Active Watch Media Monitoring Agency, Mircea Toma, criticised journalists for naturalising them without challenging them questioning their value (Dujisin 2011). "This can be done with gender, race, nationality, class, age, and other systems of social categorisation".

According to Hall (1997:258), stereotypes perform three main functions.

1. Stereotypes reduce, essentialise, naturalise and fix difference “thus reducing an idea into its simplest form. These ideas tend not to change, and so they are fixed, and become naturalised”.
2. Stereotypes create “a split between what is normal and acceptable and what is unacceptable. All that falls under the category of unacceptable is rejected and excluded”.
3. Stereotypes “tend to occur where there are gross inequalities of power, because where inequalities exist, stereotyping tends to assume that one thing is superior to another, for instance, black is superior to white, male superior to female”.

Changing misrepresentations about black African migrants would not be an easy process as such notions have been entrenched in the South African narrative over a long period of time. However, Hall (1997) stresses that “it is possible to reverse stereotypical representations because meaning can never be permanently fixed and can change over time”.

2.3 Race & racisms in the media

"Studying racism in the media is complex, given the difficulty in South Africa of assessing what race signifies, when it is relevant and when it entails racism in the media" (Berger 2004: 6). The Media Monitoring Project (1999) noted that "the media have used racial identifiers to distinguish black and white people in their reporting. Black people's skin colour was used to explain criminal behaviour and thus supported apartheid propaganda of 'swart gevaar', which was the idea that black people were dangerous and a threat to the social order".

In 1998 the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) held a probe into racism in the media to investigate allegations that two Johannesburg newspapers were racist. *Inter alia,* the SAHRC found that "the media could be characterised as a racist institution and noted the cumulative effect of persistent racial stereotypes, insensitive and at time reckless disregard for the effect of racist expressions on others" (SAHRC 2000: 89). One of the observations of the study was that stereotypes of black criminality still exist in the media and often went unchallenged (Media Monitoring Project 1999:43). This theme was also found in other research on the greater media's coverage of foreign nationals, sharing certain patterns that are characterised by stereotypical representations of 'the other'. "Studies have found that xenophobia, like racism continues to be reported on in a simplistic, non-analytical fashion, without due recognition of complexities" (Fine & Bird 2006).

Institutionalised inequality is still rife in the country and the remnants of apartheid can be further seen through the way that South Africans define themselves and others (including foreign nationals) on the basis of race. "Not all non-citizens are perceived or treated equally. The great divide, as in many aspects of South African social life, is racial. White immigrants and migrants are not immune from the subtler forms of South African resentment, but their presence does not prompt the kind of panic and hostility that seems to attach to African migrants, immigrants and refugees" (Crush 2001:28). Harris agrees, saying "in South Africa, 'black foreigners, particularly those from Africa, comprise the majority of victims" (Harris 2002:2).

2.4 Xenophobia & migration in the media

This section provides an outline of the literature on migrants and xenophobia in the South African media. Racism and xenophobia, although independent notions, invariably support each other and share discriminatory discourses.

Due to the sporadic xenophobic attacks in South African, the country has become known for its xenophobic attitudes. In 1998, Human Rights Watch found that “the culture of locals was becoming increasingly xenophobic, pointing to discourse used by politicians linking migrants to crime, unemployment and diseases”. A 1997 survey by the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP) found that “48 percent of South Africans saw migrants from neighbouring countries as a ‘criminal threat’, 37 percent said they were a threat to jobs and the economy and 29 percent said they brought disease. It was reported that all South Africans appeared to have the same stereotypical image of people from the South African Development Community (SADC)” (Mattes et al.1999:2).

While the connection between societal perceptions and media representations of foreigners is not a direction one, the media is seen to add to an already existing atmosphere of xenophobia when they excuse as opposed to challenge these negative observations. Reports on these issues in local media are unexplored, yet local communities often bear the brunt of continuing racial tensions and the impact of migration.

CHAPTER 3: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The following paragraphs review theories and conceptual frameworks in media studies, define and discuss them, while also identifying the role that they will play in this research. These include agenda setting and framing and representation. This thesis will draw on greater media reporting on black African migrants to determine in what ways local media repeats the same discourse.

3.1 Agenda setting & Framing

“Agenda-setting theory refers to the capacity of the mass media to affect the salience of issues in the public sphere and studies how the media set the agenda by directing the attention of the public on certain events and issues” (McCombs and Shaw, 2011**)**. The amount of coverage, the size of the headline, or the placement of articles in a newspaper act as signals that when repeated over time tells audiences of the importance of certain news stories (McCombs & Shaw 2011). This theory suggests that people form opinions and attitudes based on the information that is available to them, which is why when the media make certain issues more accessible, they can shape the audience’s thoughts and decision making. Journalists and editors determine the agenda through the decisions that they make about the news of the day, which is why you can identify what issues and events they deem as important by studying how different newspapers cover issues over time (McCombs and Shaw 2011).

Jasperson et al (1998) argue that “while the traditional agenda-setting concept attempts to explain only why one issue becomes more important than another in the public’s mind, it does not explicitly focus on the nuances of coverage within an issue”. Newspaper columnist Walter Lippmann (1922) is said to have developed the agenda setting theory. He came to the realisation that “what the media set as its agenda influenced the public agenda”. McCombs and Shaw (1977) tried this hypothesis in their coverage of the American elections in 1968, 1972, and 1976. “They compared the issues that concerned undecided voters against the media agenda and concluded that mass media exerted a significant influence on what voters considered to be the major

issues of the campaign" (McCombs & Shaw 1977). While McCombs and Shaw's intended outcome was to assess the influence of agenda-setting on the public's perceptions, their work also focused on the framing of messages.

This research will incorporate Entman as well as Gamson and Modigliani's definitions of framing which focus on the transferring of importance or salience and creating points of reference which audiences use to understand the world around them. Gamson and Modigliani, as cited by Scheufele (1999, 43), describe framing as – "a central organising idea or storyline that provides meaning to an unfolding strip of events". Entman as cited by Scheufele (1993, 52) states that "to frame is to select some aspects of perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation". This means that journalists can promote an understanding of an event or issue through the process of selecting what information is important.

In this study, I used content analysis and interviews with journalists to better understand the news frames. The news media are fundamental in providing information to news consumers and helping them understand events that are unfolding around them. This information is framed in specific ways depending on the audience. Leading framing theorists such as Goffman and Gitlin agree that media framing shapes the manner in which information is relayed to audiences. Goffman (1974) describes framing as "a schemata of interpretation that allows audiences to locate, perceive and identify occurrences and life experiences". Gitlin (1980) notes that "framing strategies used by mainstream media greatly influences how the public perceive events like xenophobic attacks".

Migration scholars have noted that the media tends to focus on certain events, i.e. xenophobic attacks, tensions and crime, placing them at the centre of the narrative.

- How are attacks on foreign nationals framed?
- Which issues are made more salient?

A project like this which uses thematic analysis to understand how a group of people is represented, in this case black African migrants in South Africa, must consider the language used and what it means. “In order to analyse media images and representations, both content and discourse need to be analysed”. According to Hall (1997) “language is one of the ways through which thoughts, ideas and feelings are represented in a culture. For him, the classification of the ‘other’ enables people to share meaning”.

It can be argued that agenda setting, and framing are similar, as both focus on the construction of media messages instead of media effects. However, what distinguishes these two approaches is that framing deals with how topics are presented in the media while agenda-setting suggests that the selection of content influences the public’s perceptions of important issues and events (McCombs 2011).

In the case of xenophobic tensions in South Africa, journalists can therefore empower readers to make informed decisions to support or reject statements about black migrants made by certain public figures.

3.1.1 Existing research on the news framing of foreign nationals

Media may be the only contact point that some South Africans have with foreign nationals. Therefore, journalists have the duty to not only inform but also challenge societal perceptions of migrants. However, the media have been criticised for failing to do this and accused of coverage that is often shallow and lacks analysis.

In 2009 Media Monitoring Africa released a comprehensive report on race and migration in community media: local stories common stereotypes. This research investigated how community newspapers covered race, ethnicity, migrants and xenophobia after the May 2008 xenophobic violence. The study was restricted to 46 community newspapers from Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo. These provinces were identified because they have been affected by migration due to their proximity to other countries in the SADC region.

Some of the key findings of that report were (Media Monitoring Africa 2009):

- “Stories about crime made up the largest percentage (13%), followed by arts and entertainment (11%), Religion and Traditional Practice (10%) Racism and Xenophobia (8%)”
- “Crime appeared prominently in coverage, with police being the second most prominent source”
- “The proposition ‘group is criminal’ appeared overwhelmingly in relation to Zimbabweans”
- “The language used to describe migrants was mainly neutral, however the potentially stigmatising term ‘illegal immigrant’ was used”

Such representations of Africans have the potential to perpetuate xenophobic discourse where foreigners and migrants are treated negatively.

In studying violent events in South African print media, Fine & Bird (2006:65) found “a prevalence of negative discourse on African migrants which reinforced the notion of their ‘inherent criminality’. They noted that – “media coverage tended to blur the distinctions between different categories of migrants to the country, representing them all as ‘illegal immigrants’ or ‘aliens’, when often their only ‘crime’ is not being in

possession of the required documents" - and blamed the media for failing to challenge this narrative (Fine & Bird 2006:4).

They also accused the press of failing to make the distinctions clear between who have lost the protection of their own state and have a well-founded fear of persecution like refugees, those trying to get official South African government recognition of their status like asylum seekers, people in South Africa for temporary employment or study purposes, and tourists or short-term visitors. This confusion of the different categories strips them of their different experiences and lives (Fine and Bird 2006, 23).

3.2 Representation

Some researchers have argued that identity formation is linked to media representations. According to Hall (1997, 5), “that which we call culture is built up and sustained through representations which give us an idea of what it means to belong to certain nationalities, social groups or subcultures”. Through representations, we see which groups, according to the media, belong and which ones do not. Representations, with their ideological underpinnings, can be accurate snapshots of a society’s socio-political workings.

Hall (1997) describes two systems of representation; “mental representation, and language. Mental representations help interpret the world in a meaningful way and provide an idea that stands for something in a tangible and intangible way”. These are ideas in people’s heads about certain concepts. Hall’s second system of representation is language. “Language, in this context, can be spoken, visual, written, mechanical, electronic, body language, and clothing. With this system, meaning is constructed by the system of representation through the construction and fixing of a code”. Codes, as Hall (1997) explains, “are the middle point between concepts and signs and they tell us which language to use to convey ideas and conversely which concepts are being referred to when we hear or read signs”.

Representation in the media is important because of the cultural power that the media holds. “Although media does not necessarily create culture, it absorbs and reproduces images of society, thus maintaining, perpetuating and sometimes changing audiences’ ideas about themselves and those around them” (Croteau and Hoynes 1997,133).

Language and the way it is used reflects power dynamics which is important to understand for the purpose of this research. “This symbolic power comes from the idea that language can be, and often is, a signifier of social relationships and social power, economic status and power, and political status and power”. Gross (1995, 62), agrees, adding that “non-representation maintains the powerless status of groups that do not possess significant material or political power bases… [and] the holders of real power do not require or seek mediated visibility [but] those who are at the bottom of the various power hierarchies will be kept in their place in part through their relative

invisibility". Therefore "language, and the use of language, reflects power dynamics" (Bourdieu 1999). Language can be understood to being integral in conveying meaning because through it we understand the concepts and ideas to attach to codes and systems. Language helps us use our mental representations so that we can construct meaning out of them. Said (1979, 272) argues that "representations are embedded in language, culture, institutions and political ambience". He also argues that "representations are implicated, intertwined, embedded, interwoven with many other things besides the 'truth', which is itself a representation" (Said 1979, 272). Media representations are "useful because they provide the basis on which groups and classes construct images of the lives, meanings, practices and values of other groups and classes" (Hebdige 1977, 85).

Hall (1997, 251) talks of a 'grammar of representation' that will always reveal itself in works of representation. One mode of representation is the portrayal of certain groups of people as the opposite of another preferable group. Some researchers have argued that "identity formation is linked to media representations". According to Hall (1997, 5), "that which we call culture is built up and sustained through representations which give us an idea of what it means to belong to certain nationalities, social groups or subcultures". Through representations, we see which groups, according to the media, belong and which ones do not. Representations, with their ideological underpinnings, can be accurate snapshots of a society's socio-political workings.

This is relevant to my study because it shows how the media has the potential to shape public opinion through its portrayal of certain groups. Characterising black African foreign nationals as criminals by using stereotypes creates misconceptions that have the potential to feed into a more extensive xenophobic discourse (Danso and McDonald 2000, 1). While conducting my research I found that reports on foreign nationals are events based, thus mostly linked to xenophobic attacks which portrays the group as victims, weak and always on the run.

The next chapter describes the research process and the methods used to gather, record, and code my data.

CHAPTER 4: METHODOLOGY

The previous chapters provided an overview of literature in this study, as well as the theoretical approaches used to carry out the research. This chapter deals with the research processes followed to gather data with reference to the study in question. The research method, sample selected, and techniques used to gather and analyse the media content and interview process are described in this next section.

4.1 Content analysis

Content analysis is a way of identifying specific components of a text and images to make a valid conclusion (Webber 1990:9). Content analysis can also be used as a research tool to determine the presence of specific words or ideas within texts. “At the level of the sentences, this is done by examining the word choice, grammar, passive or active voice, presumptions, rhetorical devices, insinuations, metaphors, sentence structure, etc.”. (Mogashoa 2014). According to Berger (1991) “the purpose of content analysis is to learn something new about the content and those who produce the messages”. White and Marsh (2006) believe content analysis is “a highly flexible research method with varying research goals and objectives which can be applied in qualitative, quantitative, and sometimes mixed modes of research frameworks”. Content analysis will help me make sense of the way in which *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban* represent black African foreign nationals.

4.1.1 Thematic / Qualitative content analysis

In this paper I use qualitative methods of data collection and thematic content analysis to explain how *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban* commercial community newspapers characterise black African foreigners and violence by observing the themes of the selected articles, and considering what information is emphasised or given prominence and how stories are framed.

To begin with, I collected 18 articles from *Alex News* and 5 from *Dobsonville Urban* for analysis. This set contained all the issues published in 2015 pertaining to issues of migration and foreign nationals. I obtained the papers physically from the Caxton office in Craighall, Northern Johannesburg and the Soweto Urban office in Industria West, Southern Johannesburg after spending a few days going through the archives.

After collecting the material, I analysed the content according to themes. This exercise gave insight into how black African migrants in South Africa are portrayed by commercial community media. To understand who sets the news agenda when reporting on migrants, I assessed the voices or sources quoted in the articles under review and the prepositions contained.

I chose this research method for my project because it can be carried out on existing content, provides valuable insights over time through the analysis of texts at minimal cost and maximum convenience (Neuendorf, 2002, Krippendorff, 2004: 5). Bassey (2006) preferred this method for “explaining and interpreting behaviours, processes and motivations”, which within the context of commercial community media is an important part of the study. It also helped to provide insight into the institutional and economical issues that seem to inform how journalists and editors do their work.

4.1.2 Interviews

Creswell (2014) recommends “mixing content analysis of text with data from interviews”. I followed this recommendation and also conducted in-depth interviews with journalists and editors who cover issues of migration and xenophobic attacks at *Alex News* and *Soweto Urban*, to understand why they report on black migrants in the way that they do.

“Interviews are used in research to gain access to credible information”. As McNamara (1999) argues, “interviews are particularly useful for getting the story behind a participant’s experiences. In this case the interviewer can pursue in-depth information around the topic, combined with follow up questions to further investigate their responses”. “Interviews can be formal face-to-face conversations” (Burns, 2000).

I conducted two face-to-face interviews, with the editor and journalist at *Dobsonville Urban*, and sent semi-structured interview questions via e-mail to the editor and journalist at *Alex News.* Both styles of interviews were of great benefit as I could easily ask follow-up questions about their coverage of the 2015 xenophobic attacks as well as other stories about black foreign nationals. They also provided insight into the institutional constraints facing commercial community media and that the limited coverage available on migration is due to factors beyond their control.

While there were differences in the opinions of the journalists at both newspapers, some of the themes that emerged were similar.

The journalists and editors were asked the following questions:

- What is your gender, nationality and cultural background?
- How might this affect your reporting?
- Who writes the headlines to the stories?
- Are there substantial changes to your stories by sub-editors or editors?

- Language: does it differ when reporting on a positive story e.g. foreign national starting a successful business to when covering looting of foreign owned shops?
- What journalistic guidelines inform your reporting?
- To what extent is there a dilemma for journalists in reporting what readers want them to say and not stereotyping African foreigners.
- Why do you reproduce or maintain certain tropes when reporting on black African foreigners when violence is at stake?

By combining content analysis with interviews, I did what White and Marsh (2006) describe as “a systematic, rigorous approach to analyse data from stories and interviews”. On one hand, I had to do an in-depth analysis of the news articles in order to fully understand the representation of foreign nationals. And, on the other hand, the interviews with journalists and editors aided in understanding the nature of their reporting.

Media selection

For this research I needed to identify local media outlets that were comparable and located in communities that have had high levels of xenophobic violence. To do this, I picked *Alex News* and *Soweto Urban's Dobsonville Urban* newspapers.

For eight years *Alex News* has been the voice of the Alexandra community, delivering up to 20 000 free copies per week; across malls, spaza shops, schools, taxi ranks, the local police station, community centre and libraries. The readership is estimated to be one copy per 10 people. *Soweto Urban* considers itself to be the leading source of community news in Soweto since launching its first publication, *Protea Urban News*, in 2005. After an enormous response from advertisers and residents, today *Soweto Urban* publishes eleven titles in the township, namely, *Diepkloof Urban*, *Pimville Urban*, *Eldorado Park Urban*, *Dobsonville Urban*, *Jabavu Urban*, *Zola Urban*, Westside Urban, *Meadowlands Urban*, *Orlando Urban* and *Chiawelo Urban*.

For the purpose of this research I focused on *Dobsonville Urban* which is published weekly, with 32 500 copies distributed across the Dobsonville area, and other suburbs including Bram Fischerville and Snake Park where scenes of violence first unfolded during the 2015 xenophobic attacks in Soweto.

These two publications belong to the Caxton group which is "a multi-media company that publishes content through various means, including newspapers, magazines, websites, events and custom printing. Caxton publishes more than 140 local newspapers, with an audited distribution exceeding 3,7 million copies per week. Each of these papers has its own offices and a dedicated management team and local staff within the footprint where they publish, to ensure the content is relevant to local communities".

I selected all the articles published between January and December 2015 and chose articles according to (but not limited to) the following keywords:

- refugees
- immigrants/migrants
- foreigners

- aliens
- outsiders
- non-nationals / foreign nationals
- Africans
- xenophobia / xenophobic
- kwerekwere / makwerekwere

I also monitored whether propositions are included in the headlines or body of articles and if journalists support or challenge them. “A proposition is something that is referred to or explicitly stated in an article” (Lerner, Roberts & Matlala 2009). In this case they may be generalisations (either positive or negative) about race, migrants and Africa. ‘The advantage of propositional monitoring is that it helps to assess whether stereotypes are upheld, challenged or merely raised’ (Lerner, Roberts & Matlala 2009). When it comes to representation, ‘it is not only what is said that has a significance, but also the way it is said and what is not said but could be said’ (Heck 1980,124).

After I selected my articles, I analysed them and noted the following

- Page number – where the item appeared
- Type –news story, editorial, opinion or photograph
- Topic – theme that is most central to the article
- Summary – of the content and headline
- Language – characterisation of black African foreigners
- Sources – the people who are directly or indirectly quoted in the reports, including their race and nationality.

This provided insight on the way black African migrants are characterised in commercial community media.

4.3 Research limitations

There are some limitations to my research methodology because the media I selected are limited in diversity of ownership, language and target audience. The study is restricted to examining African migrants and xenophobia only in the items that were selected.

Content analysis, which is the method I used to analyse the articles, has been criticised for its disregard of context and lack of explanations. Qualitative content analysis, which I also apply to this research has also been dismissed for its unreliability because of its unscientific nature. The method relies heavily on the researcher's translation of media texts which can be subjective. This process is also labour-intensive and time-consuming.

My project only focused on the 2015 xenophobic tensions and given the relatively small sample of items, the findings offer only a snapshot of coverage in commercial community newspapers. An extended period and more in-depth analysis of the more nuanced and critical coverage beyond 2015 would have also been interesting as xenophobic tensions are sporadic and ongoing in South Africa.

4.4 Ethical challenges

It is important to mention the ethical aspects of this study primarily because interviews were conducted. This required me to present consent forms to the interviewees in which it was explained that their participation was voluntary, and they had a right to withdraw from the study at any given point. As a researcher, I am aware of the need to protect the welfare of the research participants and to ensure that no harm comes to them. As Terre Blanche et al (2006, 77) said "ethical sensitivity can enhance the value of research practice".

This chapter discussed the research method, data selection process as well as the time period and sample size of the collected articles. It also outlined the research methodology, which comprised of thematic and qualitative content analysis and

interviews. It also highlighted the ethical considerations which were crucial for the interview process.

CHAPTER 5: RESEARCH FINDINGS – CONTENT

This chapter presents the major findings of the research in relation to the methodologies used to gather data. Interesting results emerged about the way in which commercial community media represents black African foreign nationals.

I have found four main unexpected and interesting variations in the coverage of foreign nationals in *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban*. These differed substantially from the type of reporting on the group that others have noted about the press being xenophobic or guilty of intentionally reinforcing stereotypes that have been seen to lead to attacks on migrants. My findings generally indicate that 'local' media organisations have a great deal of interest in stories about migration, however they are guided by the sentiments of the community, are under resourced and understaffed. Because of this, their coverage is mainly event based and related to violent and criminal incidents such as xenophobic tensions or violence.

During the content analysis of the two commercial community newspapers, I explored the amount and type of coverage about foreigners, the language used to describe them, the sources trusted to give comment and the prominence which these articles get in the publications.

5.1 Amount and type of coverage

It is important to note the number of articles about black African foreign nationals that appear in the newspapers under review and the type of stories told about them because it shows the editorial commitment of commercial community media houses to reporting on issues that affect them.

5.1.1 Number of articles

I analysed 18 articles from *Alex News* and 5 from *Dobsonville Urban* during the period 2015 to establish how the publications cover stories about migrants.

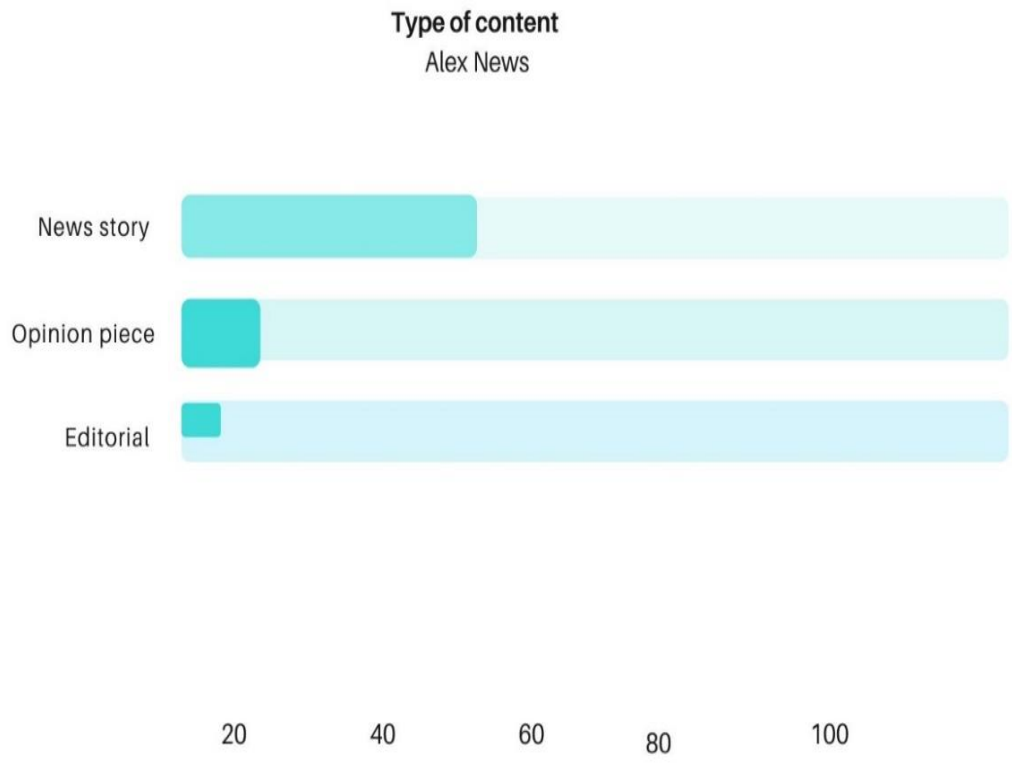
When examining the type of coverage, I also looked at the different content, themes and frames in each article. Allowing more space for news stories, opinion pieces and editorials show just how much newsrooms are committed to representing the lived experiences of migrants. It is important not to blur the line between news reporting, opinion pieces and editorials. A news story is factual and informs the public about current affairs, concerns or ideas. The opinion section in a newspaper provides an open marketplace of ideas and is important because it stimulates public discourse which is crucial in an open and free society. An editorial piece is similar, but usually written by a member of the editorial staff or publisher of the publication (Eaman 2009). Opinion pieces and editorials must be clearly marked as such.

5.1.2 Content Type

This graph below shows the distribution of coverage in *Alex News* based on the 18 articles about foreigners that I collected in all the 2015 editions.

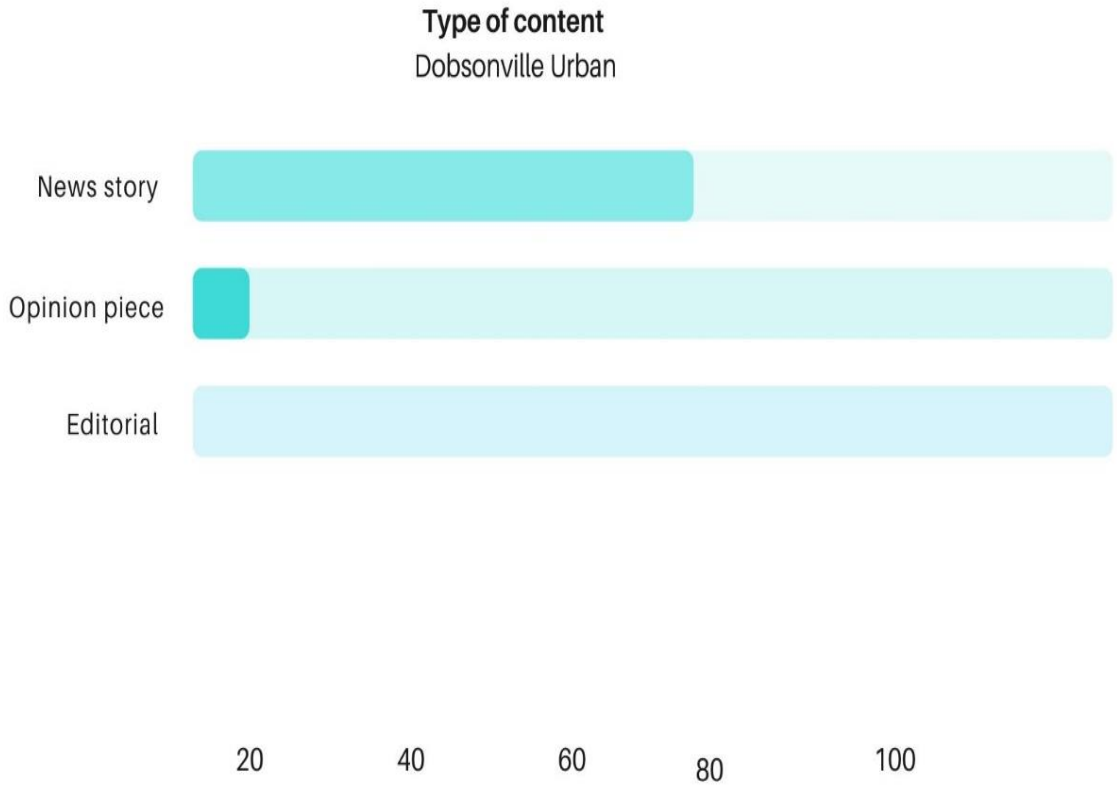
It shows a smaller amount of opinion pieces about foreigners in 2015 (25 percent) compared to the 55 percent news stories. The number of editorials, which sits at 15 percent shows that little importance is attached to the subject in the form of analytical discussions.

The newspaper offers factual stories and leaves little room for social dialogue and analysis.



The following graph shows the distribution of news in *Dobsonville Urban*.

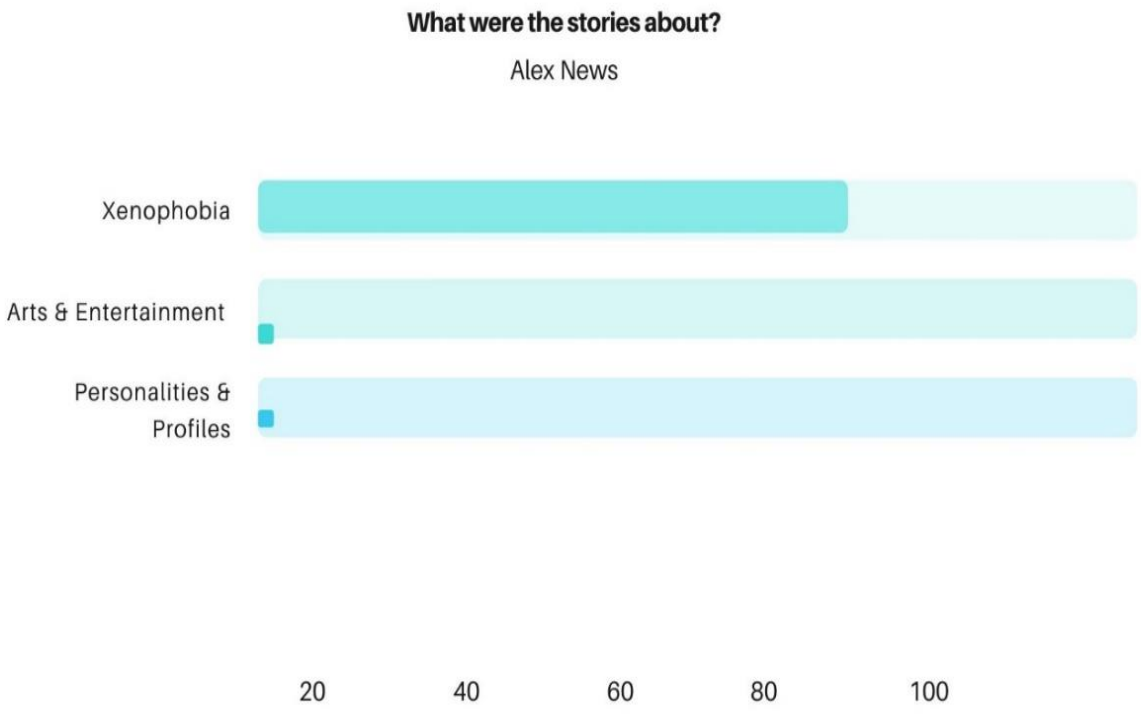
80 percent of the coverage on foreign nationals is news stories compared to only 20 percent opinion and commentary. What is also surprising here is that there is no editorial writing on the group, be it during or after the xenophobic attacks. This makes the reader unsure about the editorial team's position on the spate of violence towards migrants that swept through the community.

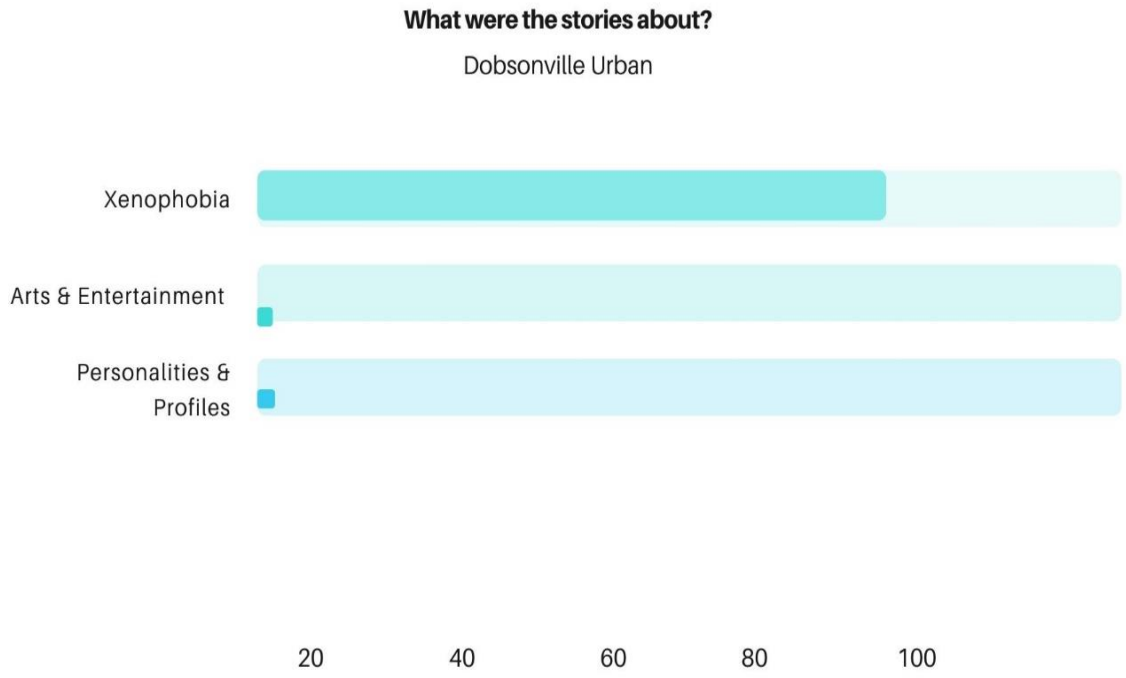


5.1.3 Themes

I separated the articles I monitored according to the following themes: xenophobia, arts and entertainment, and personalities and profiles.

The two graphs below show that all the stories in the two commercial community newspapers in 2015 were centered around the xenophobic attacks.





Stories in *Alex News* range from the brutal murder of Emmanuel Sithole, the court proceedings that followed as well as other xenophobic tensions in the community. *Dobsonville Urban* focused on the attacks on foreign nationals after a Somali shop owner shot a boy dead who he thought wanted to rob his business.

The results on these graphs are significant because they show that foreign nationals are only reported on in the context of crime, violence suffering or panic. The lack of arts or profile interviews suggest that the commercial community newspapers do not find importance in the lived experiences of migrants or their contribution to society. These findings resemble what Fine and Bird (2002) noted as one of the shortcomings of the media as it leads to a one-dimensional representation of migrants. The reporting is also events based and does nothing to create a new narrative on the group. This is problematic because the media can shape the publics views and help alter their perception and has a responsibility to educate.

5.1.4 Frames

I identified the following prevalent frames during this research.

- Violence Frame - Foreign nationals described as ‘criminal and illegal’ by locals
- Disruption Frame – Foreign nationals are “stealing jobs” and thus stopping South Africans from working
- Battle Frame - Confrontations between foreign nationals and South Africans
- Social Justice and Rights Frame – Foreign nationals presented as victims
- Chaos Frame – Scenes of chaos during the 2015 xenophobic attacks, prompting army intervention
- Solidarity Frame – NGOs and civil society pledging support for foreign nationals

This is significant because “framing plays a vital role in helping news consumers understand events” (Earl, McCarthy and Soule 2004).

5.2 Language

It is important to examine how issues of migration and black migrants are discussed within the media to understand how it might frame public opinion, debate and action, because as Gross (1995) noted, “the news media plays a substantial role in shaping society’s perceptions of social issues, including xenophobic violence”.

My findings from analysing the language used in *Alex News* and *Soweto Urban* were different to what media experts such as William Bird found. They condemned the South African media for fanning the flames of xenophobia through their reporting of foreigners. In my content analysis, I didn’t encounter any stigmatising terms such as “illegal immigrant” derogatory words like “makwerekwere” or unnecessary indications of a person’s nationality or migration status in crime reports.

While analysing the language used in the two publications, I also paid attention to the kind of propositions or messaging communicated when African migrants were under the spotlight. “What is left unchallenged is as important as what is said because it leaves room for falsities and an untrue narrative to gain traction” (Hall 1997).

Several propositions that appeared in *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban* went unchallenged by the reporters and editors. Some that stood out to me were:

- “Not xenophobia, but rather acts of criminality”
  These remarks by government delegitimise the crisis and do not push government to search for more fruitful answers.
- “Foreigners are criminal”
  When South Africans were being interviewed, this appeared overwhelmingly and was not challenged. This proposition also appeared predominantly in relation to foreign nationals from countries on the continent with predominantly black populations, and perhaps an analysis on whether violence should be defined as afrophobia could have been useful. I did however note side articles such as opinion pieces or letters that held the opposite view. According to the journalistic principle of balance this is good as it shows balance and a commitment to fair reporting.

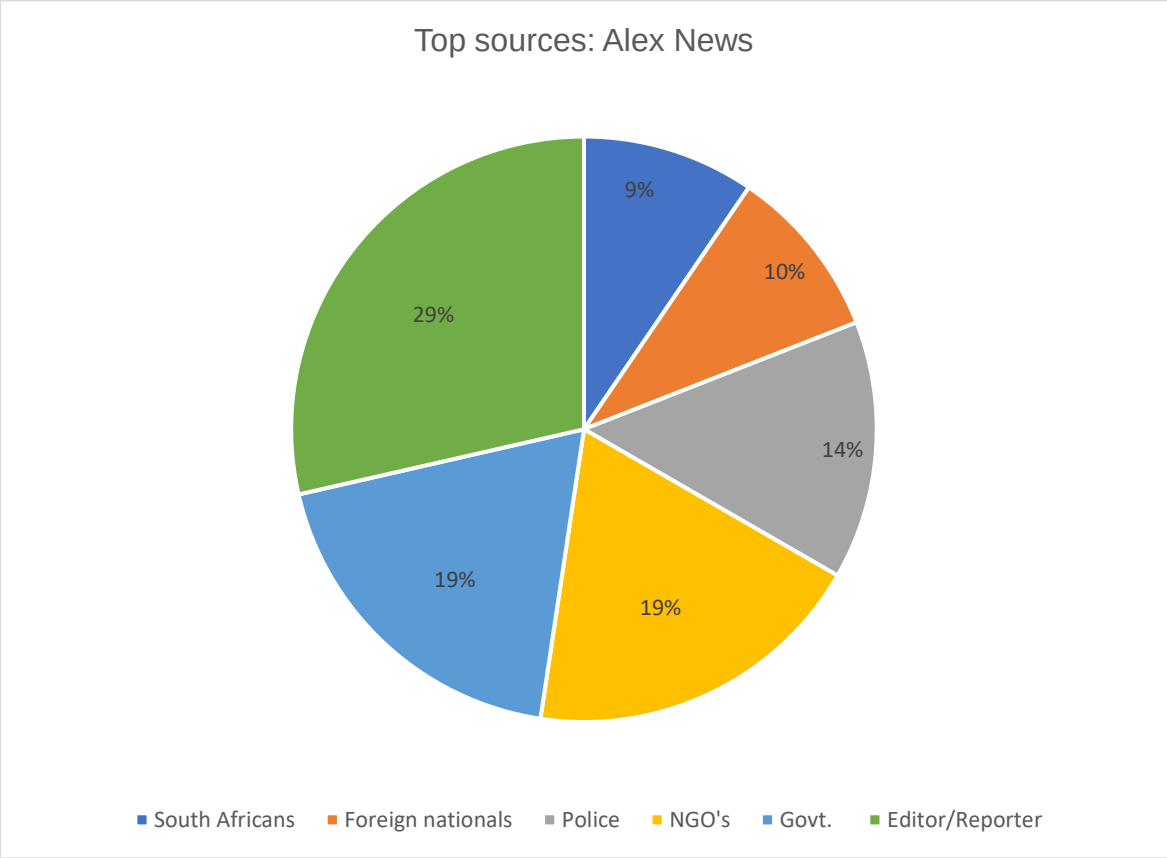
- “Foreigners should have equal rights”
  This was expressed mostly by government and while this carries positive messaging there is room to challenge the state about the ill treatment of migrants at the hands of foreign nationals and their plan to bring an end to attacks on foreign nationals.
- “Foreigners contribute to the economy & society”
  This statement was made by civil society and goes a long way in changing the narrative.
- “Foreigners are victims and should be taken care of”
  This appeared predominantly in relation to those displaced following the xenophobic violence or who had their businesses torched but did not challenge the government on allegations of ill treatment at places where migrants should be protected such as Home Affairs offices.

This above does not only reflect myths about foreign nationals which are not dispelled, but it also confirms Gordon Alport’s scapegoating theory. Alport (1954) explains how foreigners are framed by the media as the main cause of people’s frustrations.

5.3 The voice of authority

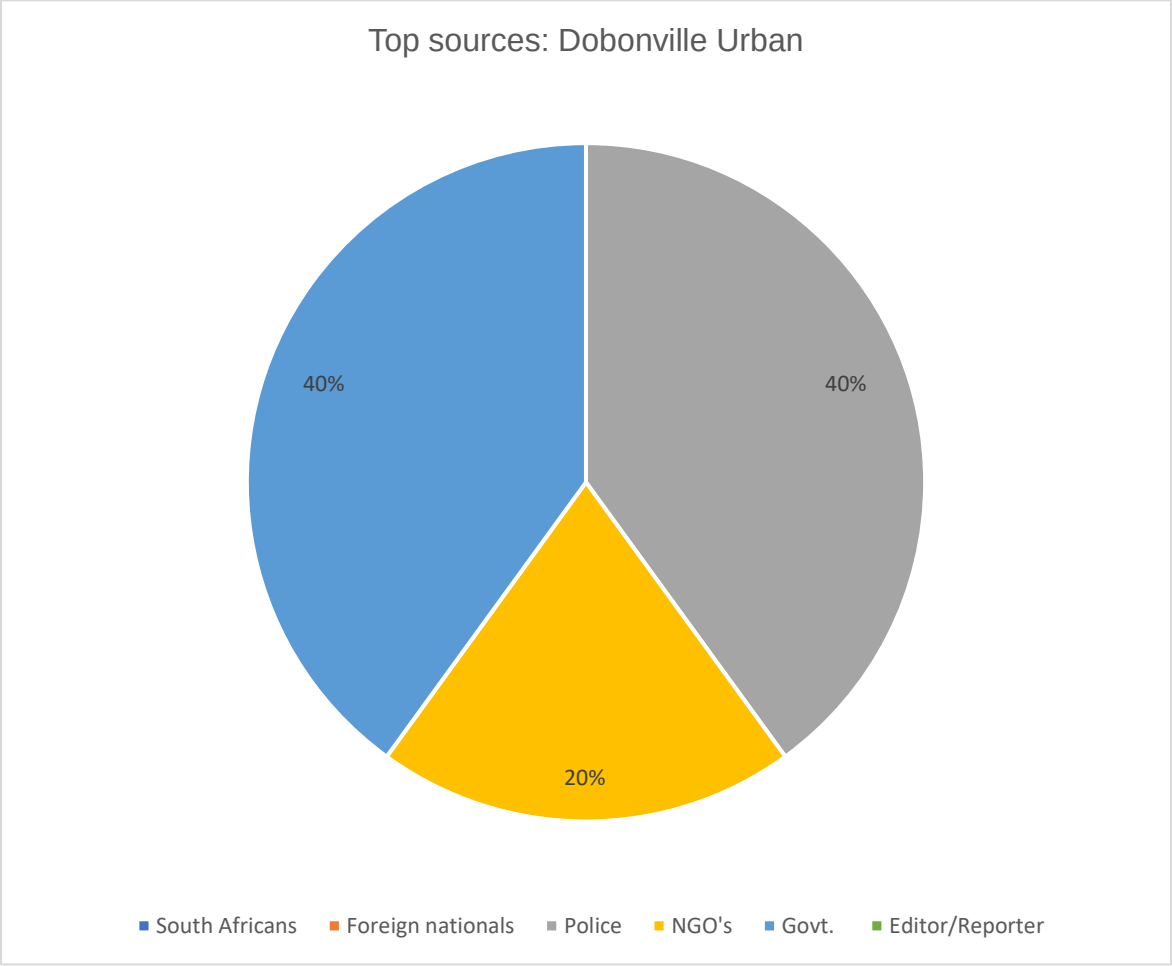
It is important to note who is quoted in an article because it lets the reader in on who journalists give the opportunity to speak on issues affecting African migrants and how balanced commercial community organisations are.

The following graphs show the different sources that were approached to weigh in on issues affecting migrants in *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban in 2015*.



South African residents and foreign nationals who live in Alexandra were quoted less 10 percent and less in *Alex News*. Journalists and the editor here prefer to tell the stories themselves with outside input shared equally between the government, police and civil society organisations (19 percent).

The below graph shows the findings of the top sources quoted in *Dobsonville Urban.* What stood out is the absence of commentary from both locals and foreigners in the community. This is surprising because all the stories were centered around the tensions between them.



5.4 Prominence

The placement of stories in newspapers is significant because articles are typically considered important on the first few pages, as well as the features and analysis pages.

The tables below show that in *Alex News* most of the articles about foreign nationals appeared in the first half of the newspaper and 16 percent on the front page, while in *Dobsonville Urban* most of the stories appeared in the second half of the publication with only two front page stories.

Pages on which stories appeared – *Alex News*

FRONT PAGE	PAGE 1	PAGE 2	PAGE 3	PAGE 4	PAGE 5
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	✓	✓	✓		

It is not surprising that most articles about foreign nationals are placed prominently in the front pages of *Alex News*. Given the fact that all the articles about the group are on xenophobic violence. This placement is in line with where stories on the same theme are placed in the mainstream media.

Pages on which stories appeared – *Dobsonville Urban*

FRONT PAGE	PAGE 1	PAGE 2	PAGE 3	PAGE 4	PAGE 5	PAGE 6	PAGE 7	PAGE 8	PAGE 9	PAGE 10
✓						✓	✓			✓
✓										

Dobsonville Urban also covers the main incidents said to spark the xenophobic violence on its front pages and then places the follow-up articles which trickle in, such as court cases and reaction from government and civil society, towards the back of the newspaper. This finding shows how the commercial community newspaper avoids stories about foreign nationals and slowly phases them out of the publication.

CHAPTER 6: INTERVIEWS

In this section I interpret the data captured during the interview process, bearing in mind the results of the content analysis. This helped me understand what shapes the nature of reporting in the two commercial community newspapers under review.

6.1 **Thembeka Vuyeka – Editor, Dobsonville Urban** (July 2019, Soweto Urban newsroom)

Vuyeka has been with *Soweto Urban* since 2012 and covers all the stories in the Dobsonville area, including the 2015 xenophobic attacks that started in Snake Park.

During our face-to-face interview he recalled the sentiment and mood in the community not only during the violence but in general. Vuyeka noted that in Soweto, residents believe that foreigners are taking their jobs, housing and other opportunities. They believe that foreigners are living a better life while they are suffering. Locals also believe that the government has turned a blind eye on them and supports foreigners, who they claim, are in South Africa illegally.

6.2 **Mark Scheepers Dobsonville Urban – Senior Editor, Dobsonville Urban** (July 2019, Soweto Urban newsroom)

Scheepers has been with *Soweto Urban* for 13 years and says that after the 2008 xenophobic attacks, tensions continued to simmer in the community, forcing the media to introspect about its coverage on foreign nationals. He said once the editorial team realised that “we have the power to incite violence”, they took the decision to implement a type of “rebranding”. They trained journalists on how to report on stories involving migrants, all while refraining from sensational headlines and the unnecessary mention of nationalities in general crime stories.

Scheepers said “we *(the media)* created a sort of foreign porn and painted bulls-eye on an entire group. Our hands are all bloody”. He noted that stories on xenophobia would

typically get more attention and journalists and media houses went with what was popular and lost perspective of the bigger story.

Scheepers said when the newspapers decided to introduce profile interviews on successful migrants in Soweto, community members accused them of painting foreigners like angels and making them look like jealous and unqualified villains. He added that the 2015 xenophobic attacks were a wakeup call that “things needed to change in newsrooms as the country was looking for a bad guy for governments shortcomings and foreigners were the easy target”.

6.3 **Sipho Siso – journalist, Alex News** (August 2019, Caxton offices in Randburg)

Siso has been with Caxton Local Media’s Joburg North branch for 14 years. He is the only journalist who produces content for *Alex News*.

Siso covered the 2008 and 2015 xenophobic violence that gripped parts of the country. During our interview he noted that it is general misconceptions about foreign nationals that lead to xenophobic violence, and that the lack of housing in the township will continue to create tensions between foreigners and locals. “There will always be forced and illegal evictions until the issue of housing is resolved in the community”.

Siso believes that the media has the power to spread awareness and educate South Africans about the contributions of migrants in their communities as well as the country. However, he says at the staff shortages at *Alex News* make it impossible to cover anything other than hard news stories.

6.4 **Daniella Potter – Group Editor, Caxton Joburg North** (September 2019 via e-mail)

Potter started working at Caxton Local Media’s Joburg North branch in 2011 as assistant Group Editor and has been in the position of Group Editor since 2017.

In our interview she indicated that when editing the stories, they try maintaining each journalist's voice in their work, all while ensuring that the articles are objective, balanced, ethical and in line with the Press Code. She says reporters also comply with the Caxton style guide which prohibits them from using any discriminatory language or perpetuating stereotypes. She said *Alex News* journalists are encouraged to inject the style of speak of the township into their writing because it makes the stories more relatable to readers, but she insisted that these little phrases and clichés are in no way problematic nor do they use stereotypes.

Potter said that the Caxton Local Media's Joburg North branch took a decision after the 2008 xenophobic attacks to only report on a person's nationality if it is necessary for the story and for the community to know. "These guidelines were established with an aim to not perpetuate stereotypes – particularly when it comes to crime stories in our communities". She highlighted that in the newspapers "Alex Hustlers" section, they do stories on entrepreneurs in the township and not all of them are South African, but it is unnecessary to name their nationality.

CHAPTER 7: RESEARCH ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

In this section I will analyse and interpret the finding gathered from the content analysis and interview process.

Type of content

The editorial team at *Dobsonville Urban* took the decision to limit reporting on foreign nationals due to the simmering xenophobic tensions in the community. While there are migrants who live and operate businesses in the townships, the editors believe that putting a spotlight on them could fuel jealousy, which has been seen to lead to attacks. Thus, the decision was taken to refrain from profiles and features and only report on foreign nationals in hard news stories, such as the xenophobic violence and other crimes.

According to section 5.1 of the Press Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media, it is good that the commercial community newspaper is committed to reporting responsibly. “The media shall avoid discriminatory or denigratory references to people’s race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth or other status, and not refer to such status in a prejudicial or pejorative context – and shall refer to the above only where it is strictly relevant to the matter reported, and if it is in the public interest”.

It must however be noted that the publication does little to represent foreigners as nothing more than just victims of xenophobia and in relation to crime. It also misses out on other types of content such as opinion and analysis pieces, features, and editorials which go beyond events-based reporting and look at issues in more depth compared to news stories.

At *Soweto Urban*, they do not report on a person’s nationality unless it is necessary for the story and for the community to know. They say they do profile interviews of successful businesspeople in the township, however since the 2008 xenophobic attacks

they have stopped mentioning nationality because of the sporadic violence that is often targeted at foreign shop owners.

The newspaper is also understaffed; there is only one journalist responsible for producing all the news content for Alex News and he does not have the capacity to follow migration issues as a beat therefore many issues affect foreign nationals in the community are not reported. The commercial community newspaper therefore does not limit its coverage of African migrants out of intention but rather because it is under resourced. While this is understandable, it does little to address the one-dimensional representation of black African migrants in the paper.

Language

While both commercial community newspapers I studied report in a factual way, they do very little to challenge the narrative about black African foreigners in the country. No news items in Alex News or Dobsonville Urban reported on the ill-treatment of foreign nationals by government officials or the corrupt tendencies they face at home affairs. (Scheufele 1999) finds that in this regard the media is guilty of framing foreigners into a symbolic and mythical figure of unemployment, poverty and deprivation leading to an "us" vs "them" narrative. Gomo (2010) agrees with this view, noting that the media in South Africa have not put an effort to taking a balanced position on challenging these stereotypes.

An example of where a proposition is challenged is in the publishing of a letter titled "Affirmative action / sports quotas / BEE - promotes undeserving people" published on page 2 of Table Talk on the 8th of October 2008. "Here in addition to publishing the readers letter that questioned the rationale and fairness of the University of Cape Town's admission requirements, the newspaper published UCT's response that explained that their policy was to redress past inequalities and offer opportunities to a range of students meeting the basic requirements".

This is a way in which commercial community media can provide balanced and fair information that could contribute to informed debate.

Voice of authority

Commercial community news organisations based in areas that have seen xenophobic violence are particularly careful when looking for sources to comment on the tensions between foreign nationals and locals because they fear being accused of bias and 'stirring the pot'. While this is ethical, it is problematic to simply remove the voices of community members from reports and not capture the views of society.

Harris (2001) notes that "it is not only important to look at who is quoted when it comes to migrant issues, but that the way in which their comments are framed and presented that is also significant". Out of fear, *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban* err on the side of caution and refrain from quoting those on the frontlines of the hatred rather than framing their comment strategically.

It is also surprising that quotes from civil society servants are not often used in the publications, given their critical role in monitoring xenophobia, mediating between different factions, and responding exhaustively to the aftermath of attacks.

Prominence

My findings suggest that when stories about foreign nationals appear in Alex News and Dobsonville Urban they are considered critical and editors devote much of their energy to the production of the story. However, the publications do not present a full picture because they are afraid of fanning the flames of already simmering violence. This is consistent with Fine and Bird's finding (2002, 58-59) that "the media's coverage is simplistic, with minimal in-depth discussion of the issues and that little differentiation can be found in the media with regards to different categories of migrant". However, this cannot be said to be the media's fault because they are dealing with factors beyond their control.

Interviews

During my content analysis I noted little anti-immigrant coverage but also few reports that could be considered sympathetic to immigrants. The interview process put into perspective the severe institutional constraints that commercial community media must contend with. Issues such as a lack of money, staff and time are but some of the factors that limit the kind of coverage available for black African migrants.

Fear is also a big factor; both publications are aware of the continuously simmering xenophobic tensions in their communities, and as a result report in a straightforward manner without much analysis. While this is factual storytelling, it does little to challenge the narrative, address underlying negative sentiments or report on the group positively. However due to external difficulties the media cannot be charged with racism or xenophobia in this case.

CHAPTER 8: RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

Xenophobic tensions are bubbling over in South Africa and the possibility of another outbreak, like the one seen in 2015 is high. It is clear from the findings of my study that most journalists and editors are aware of the ongoing simmering tensions between foreign nationals and South Africans in the areas they report in and have made an editorial decision to allow community sentiment to set the agenda when reporting on issues of migration to not fan the flames.

Commercial community media organisations understand their power and are aware of the consequences that come with reinforcing certain tropes or producing certain images. They cannot be charged with xenophobia as they do not intend do show bias but rather understand what is at stake. Editors are afraid that if they print the views of citizens containing inflammatory language, this could feed into the tensions. They are also careful not to report on the successes of foreign nationals to avoid making them targets in communities that have long complained about structural inequality and being ignored by government.

While editors of both *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban* are adamant that journalistic standards such as ethics, accuracy, fairness, balance and verification must be upheld, their primary responsibility is to not report on anything that could lead to more violence.

Some migration experts have recognised the tense environment under which the media operate but appealed for a reframing of the way stories are told. Landau noted that "what's required is to recalibrate how xenophobia is covered, particularly how stories are told about migrants – their rights, suffering and their relationship to the citizens around them. The way it's currently done is doing more harm than good" (Quartz Africa 2017).

Journalists are aware of the of the pitfalls of the framing of certain stories and are open to giving other stories on migration more salience but are understaffed and under resourced and don't have time to create alternative content.

The way black African foreign nationals are represented through stories published in the commercial community newspapers gives the impression that they all share the same lived experiences and are one dimensional. This is what popular Nigerian writer Chimamanda Adichie speaks about in her TED Talk titled “Danger of a Single Story” (2009). In the twenty-minute video, Adichie argues that “inherent in the power of stories, is the danger of only knowing one story about a group because this creates stereotypes: some untrue and many incomplete”. She goes on to note that this may prevent people from authentically connecting with others as individuals. “On a macro-level, the issue is really about power: almost by definition, there are many stories about the dominant culture so the single-story threatens to create stereotypes that stick to groups that are already disempowered” (Adichie 2013). Adichie’s video raises questions that fit directly with this research question of representation in the media because it exposes what labels journalists consciously and subconsciously place on “the other” and how it distinguishes “us” from “them.”

There are stories that are seldom told about immigrants who live in townships and never experience violence. There are also poor, black South Africans who know that foreigners are not the source of their misery. Many are perfectly aware that foreigners are not the reason that they are jobless, homeless, and frightened to walk the streets. Many South Africans know that it is the false promises and unwillingness of officials to counter corruption, violence, incompetence and institutional incapacity that are to blame. However, these stories are never told. While commercial community newspapers try report responsibly by not feeding into violence, and out of fear of further attacks, they are silencing the voices of many in communities who could challenge the narrative. While this is not intentional, it presents an ethical dilemma.

CHAPTER 9: CONCLUSION

This body of work challenges the findings of other scholars who have written about the medias complicity in creating xenophobic sentiment or fueling violence on African migrants that's has been seen in South Africa. From my research of commercial community media, it is apparent that journalists and editors recognise the shortcomings of their work and the danger of presenting the single story of black African foreigners but are limited in their ability to report differently.

In townships like Alexandra and Soweto which are still reeling from deadly xenophobic attacks, the media is careful not to reignite the tensions and therefore steers clear of any kind of subject, theme, content or sources that could perpetuate negative stereotypes. Journalists and editors who have reported in areas that have seen sporadic scenes of xenophobic violence - which has before necessitated military intervention - understand what is at stake and are therefore guided by this when setting the agenda and framing their stories.

While *Alex News* and *Dobsonville Urban* are upholding certain journalistic principles and ethics by reporting responsibly, they are not fulfilling their duties of representing all sides of the story and giving the whole picture. However, this is not intentional, many media houses are severely understaffed and therefore lack capacity to cover issues of migration on a continuous basis or to do profile interviews and even write opinion pieces. This explains the lack of variety in stories about migrants and the focus on events-based incidents of xenophobia and other crimes.

When analysing the South African media it is important to consider the challenges facing newsrooms and the conditions within the communities they operate in. While editorial staff have not done much to rebut certain propositions or stereotypes, they are not malicious and out to represent a poor image of African migrants.

Instead of charging the media with xenophobia, it would be better to identify more fruitful reforms that could be implemented to challenge the narrative on black African foreign nationals.

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APPENDICES



ALEX NEWS

Choza orders minute of silence for xeno slayings

SEE PAGE 2

Alex's 'Messi' heads off to Real Madrid

SEE PAGE 8

Suspects in Sithole's murder case in court

Three of the four men linked to the brutal killing of Mozambican national, Emmanuel Sithole (35), appeared in the Alexandra Magistrates' Court. Police are said to be hot on the heels of the fourth suspect, who together with his accomplices, is said to have stabbed and stoned Sithole on 18 April. Sithole, a street vendor, later died at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

To read this story, visit www.alexnews.co.za

HUNT ON FOR SUSPECT IN XENO MURDER

SOLEMN friends of the late Mozambican national, Emmanuel Sithole (35), and his younger brother Titos Sithole and brother-in-law Jeremiah Sithole (above) said they were distraught after the brutal murder of their brother who was stabbed and stoned at his vending spot in Alex and later died in hospital. By the time of going to press, three suspects were detained, while one suspect remains on the run. SEE PAGE 3

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ALEX community is affected by closure of shops after xeno attacks.

Reward offered for Moz's killer

SIPHO SISO AND LESEHO MANALA
alexnews@caxton.co.za

Police in Alexandra have detained three suspects in connection with the brutal murder of Mozambican national, Emmanuel Sithole (35).

Community members, furious about the savage, fatal stabbing of Sithole in what is suspected to have been a xenophobic attack, tipped off police about the identity and whereabouts of the suspects, who were picked up on 20 April.

A reward of up to R100 000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect involved in the murder had been issued by the police.

One suspect in the gang of four is still at large and police hope to make an arrest soon.

Sithole was savagely stabbed and stoned to death in broad daylight in a street in Alexandra on 18 April.

The suspects are said to have approached Sithole, a street vendor, and took items from him but refused to pay for them.

When Sithole demanded payment, they then attacked him, stabbing him several times and stoning him.

He was rushed to hospital by concerned residents but died soon after admission to the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

The suspects, who are said to have been arrested at the Madala Hostel, were expected to appear in the Alexandra Magistrates' Court on 21 April on charges of murder. Police are still investigating the motive for the attack and whether the incident was related to the spate of xenophobic attacks on foreigners.

The Gauteng Deputy Provincial Commissioner for Detective Services, Major General Vincent Leshabane said the ruthless killers will face the full might of the law.

He called on the Alex community to help them apprehend the fourth suspect by volunteering information on his whereabouts.

Details: Colonel Mirriam Zondi
082 319 9429; Constable Bheki Mhlongo
082 345 1141; Crime Stop 086001 0111; or
Prime Media Crime Line SMS 32211.

Forum condemns murder

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom.@caxton.co.za

The Alex Community Police Forum has called for a more proactive approach to apprehending criminals said to be known in the community.

This after the arrest of three men for the horrific murder of Mozambican national Emmanuel Sithole.

One of the suspects is still at large and police have issued a R100 000 reward for his arrest.

Forum chairperson Bulldog Rathokoko said the quick arrest by the police from a tip off was indicative of the public's collaboration with security agents.

Rathokoko said the co-operation could be enhanced through the public effecting citizen's arrests without inflicting harm to suspected criminals in instances where crimes happened in their midst.

Rathokoko added that the community's proactive action would also be an expression of unity and collaboration with security agencies and the forum in defence against criminal activities camouflaged as xenophobia. He urged residents to work more closely with the forum and the police at all times in a declaration against being ruled by criminals.

Sithole's murder has been widely condemned, with the DA commending the police for the arrest of his killers who the DA say were part of the xenophobia attacks against foreign nationals.

The party urged government to investigate and protect foreign nationals' shops from the few it said created the anarchy between locals and immigrants.

Details: Alex Community Police Forum
082 254 6780.

Aid needed to send body home

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom@caxton.co.za

Relatives of the late Emmanuel Sithole, who was killed in Alex on 18 April in what they presume was a xenophobi attack, appealed for support to repatriate his body to Mozambique for burial.

Sithole, from Chivavaba in Sofala Province, died from knife and hammer wounds and stoning inflicted by four men. Three suspects are already behind bars while one is still at large.

Brother-in-law, Jeremiah Sithole, said Emmanuel came to Joburg in 2006 and survived as a street vendor.

"He struggled to make ends meet selling cigarettes and sweets at the corner of Afred Nzo and 1st Avenue. This was his only income to maintain his stay here and to [send] some to his wife, three children and mother back home."

Jeremiah said despite this, his brother in-law was law abiding and unfortunately died for no reason except for what the relatives believe could have been both xenophobia and crime. This after witnesses heard his attackers say he should go back to Mozambique.

"They stole sweets and cigarettes and then chased him, shouting that he should go back [home] and had to kill him to make it look like other acts of xenophobia where people are chased," he said.

Jeremiah said family and friends trusted that law enforcement will conduct thorough investigations and the courts will rule on the matter fairly when the three suspects come up for trial.

He said in keeping with custom, the deceased's mother had asked that his remains be sent home, but they have no resources to do so. They appealed for financial and other material support from anyone willing to do so.

Details: Jeremiah Sithole 061 006 6247.

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FROM THE
EDITOR
Megan McLean

State of shame

The xenophobic attacks occurring around the country are nothing less than disgusting.

No life is less important than the next, and no one in this country has the right to harm anyone, no matter what the circumstances.

Yes, we have foreigners in South Africa, and yes, some of these foreigners are in this country illegally. Yes, some of these foreigners are employed and some are entrepreneurs.

Let us not forget that some are also destitute and turned to South Africa as a last hope. They came here for a better life, a life they thought South Africa could provide. Maybe they now regret that decision.

South Africans who think foreigners are stealing their jobs and are the origin of crime in the country are naive and ignorant. South Africans are just as much to blame. This country has many issues, and forcing foreigners to flee in fear is not going to make these issues go away.

As South Africans, we should be ashamed of ourselves right now. As residents of Africa, we need to stand together. The violence and hatred must stop and our president, leaders and respected parties need to help us find a state of peace again.

President Jacob Zuma condemning the violence in a monotone speech is not enough. His words were correct, but his posture said something else completely. There was no emotion or love in the president's words – nothing that would make residents sit up and listen, like they did with the Zulu king's speech a few days before – which evidently had the crowds cheering in agreement.

If King Goodwill Zwelithini did not mean to incite violence then why does he not stand up and condemn the acts taking place? Why is he silent now after being so opinionated last week?

One man's opinion is not enough to throw this country into turmoil, but what he said seems to have resonated with some citizens of South Africa. Looking back to 2008, it seems some South Africans have carried their hatred for some time now.

I am ashamed of what we have done, more so because of where South Africa has been and the bright future that lies ahead. South Africans fought so hard for peace, democracy and a country to be proud of. Well, this is nothing to be proud of. What we are doing right now is shameful and embarrassing.

The editor welcomes your letters. Letters must include the writer's name, street address and telephone number, but a nom de plume may be used for publishing. E-mail alexnews@caxton.co.za



VELISHA THOM

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THE accused, Mthinto Bhengu, Sizwe Mngomezulu, Ayanda Sibiya and Sifundi Mzimela appear in the Alexandra Magistrates' Court.

Might of law

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom@caxton.co.za

The four suspected murderers of Mozambican national, Emmanuel Sithole, who was stoned and stabbed to death in Alexandra, have been charged with his murder.

The accused, Mthinto Bhengu, Sizwe Mngomezulu, Ayanda Sibiya and Sifundi Mzimela appeared in the Alexandra Magistrates' Court where they were also charged with robbery.

They were not asked to plead. Their case has been remanded to 4 May for a bail hearing.

The director of Public Prosecutions Mxolisi Nxasana told the court the State intends to oppose bail for the suspects.

"We have a solid case and irrefutable evidence which heavily weighs against the accused."

Nxasana said this was a high-profile case which has attracted the attention of both local and international media and as a result, his office has attached senior investigators and advocates to ensure the case holds in court for the sake of the image of the country.

He said the Justice Cluster Departments were collaborating to ensure justice prevails in this case.

He appealed to all local organisations and residents to co-operate with the ongoing investigations.

Present in a packed courtroom were the Premier of Gauteng, David Makhura and his MEC for Community Safety, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane. Makhura told media after court proceedings that he supported the statement made by Nxasana.

"Under no circumstances should anyone be allowed to take the property of anybody, or their life for that matter, regardless of whether they are foreign or not," Makhura said, calling for public education on the importance of inter-relations with foreigners.

"We would like to hold public dialogue on the matter at street level, starting in Alexandra, to ensure people get to know each other and also protect each other," Makhura said.

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'Xeno violence shameful'

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom@caxton.co.za

The recent xenophobic attacks that are rattling the country have been described as a shameful indictment of the black African population.

The attacks are reminiscent of those of 2008 which were condemned globally after the death of mostly-black foreign nationals leaving thousands of other non-black foreign nations unscathed. Then, a Mozambican was burnt alive and some locals with dark skin complexion associated with non-locals were also attacked.

Though denied, the current attacks are said to result from a pronouncement by a royal source calling on foreign nationals to return to their homes.

Condemning the attacks, Joel Lekgetho of Bokamoso Centre for Restorative Justice, said they reflected enslavement of the African mentality even after 20 years of supposed political independence. "There is still engrained in this mentality a feeling of self-hatred fuelled by poverty, lack of self-esteem, empowerment and pride in oneself deriving from the divide and rule policies of the past. The colonial mentality still prevails and won't end without bold and unapologetic programmes to emancipate the black African race in all aspects of life locally and continentally."

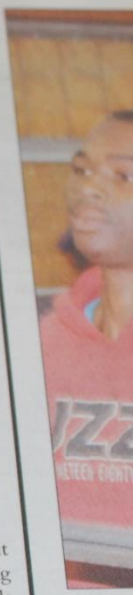
Lekgetho said sustainable emancipation should transcend material conditions to create inner self-pride that acknowledges and celebrates the successes of every African regardless of origin. "In terms of small business, locals should rather spend energies engaging with foreign shop owners to learn their strategies for success like ordering goods in bulk and sharing transport which enables them to sell products at affordable prices thus retaining the local economy in the township. They should also understudy and reinforce each other's different business methods." He said it was also baffling to see the attacks happening as locals also benefit financially from rentals and extensions of their shops which enhanced the values of their premises and from services which were provided in proximity to homes.



JOEL Lekgetho of Bokamoso Centre for Restorative Justice.

Lekgetho deplored unfounded allegations of job snatching by foreigners saying they created employment and an environment for competition which is good for business. He urged high-level leadership to refute this perception in forthright ways with examples of the mutual benefits that derive from the two working together. This he said will lessen anger and tension and develop business partnerships which can also be exported to other countries. He said communities will understand messages from leadership if communicated truthfully and subject to [leadership] also dealing decisively with corruption, unaccountability and crime."

Details: Bokamoso Centre for Restorative Justice 082 415 5241.



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No surprises

SIPHO SISO
siphos@caxton.co.za

There were no surprises in a midnight police raid on the notorious Madala Hostel on the corner of 3rd Avenue and Alfred Nzo Street.

Gauteng police spokesperson Colonel Noxolo Kwenza said recently that she was not at liberty to discuss anything with the media as she was still awaiting a briefing from her seniors in terms of what transpired and what police confiscated during the raid.

"I will address the media and issues once I have been briefed, as I do not have information... at the moment," she told a small contingent of journalists who braved the slight chill of the setting in of winter.

Chairperson of the Madala Hostel *indunas*, Bafowethu Sokhela said as far as he was concerned, there was nothing the police found, no weapons, no looted goods and no arrests were made. All that was confiscated were three cases of beer belonging to a member of the residents' committee, Ephraim Ncamu, who runs a spaza inside the hostel.

Even sources at Alexandra Police Station pointed out the cases of beer to this journalist, saying that was all they found. Sokhela commended the police for the way they conducted the raid and described the whole operation as peaceful and very humane.



GAUTENG MEC for Community Safety, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane addresses the indunas.

"We did not have any incidents of police harassment or beating of residents, except for a door they broke down when sleeping residents in an apartment in one of the blocks delayed opening their door.

"As for me, they found me watching a soccer match on TV and they politely told me they were looking for guns and other weapons and would like to search my house, which they did and then left."

There were dozens of police cars lined up on Alfred Nzo Street with no army presence. There was, however, a police helicopter that circled over the hostel while beaming a spotlight.




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HEALERS
CLEANSE ALEX AFTER XENO WAR
TRADITIONAL healers and African religious leaders perform a cleansing ceremony in Alexandra in response to the xenophobic attacks which claimed the life of Mozambican national, Emmanuel Sithole recently.
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THE four men accused of the murder of Mozambican national, Emmanuel Sithole are Mthinto Bhengu, Sizwe Mngomezulu, Ayanda Sibiya and Sifundo Mzimela.

Sithole trial postponed

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom@caxton.co.za

The case of the four men accused in the murder of Mozambican national Emmanuel Sithole has been postponed to 13 May after their legal representatives requested more time to study the dockets.

Sithole was stabbed and stoned to death in a street in Alexandra.

The Legal Aid Board representing Mthinto Bhengu and Ayanda Sibiya, and Matshidza Attorneys representing Sizwe Mngomezulu and Sifundo Mzimela, made the requested in the Alexandra Magistrates' Court.

A State source indicated they would oppose bail for the accused when the case resumes on 13 May.

The case was heard before a packed courtroom, with the presence of observers from the Mozambican Consulate, the Sithole family and the family members of the accused.

Meanwhile, Sithole's body was finally repatriated for burial on 30 April.

A DELEGATION from the Mozambican Consulate attends the court hearing of the four men accused of the murder of their citizen, Emmanuel Sithole.

Do you think the accused should be given bail? Tweet us @AlexNewsZA with your comments

Gang of 5 in court for bread robberies

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom@caxton.co.za

Five Alex men were remanded into custody by the Alex Magistrates' Court for further investigation in a case of armed robbery.

The court heard that the men, one with a firearm, allegedly robbed a bread delivery truck on the morning of 14 April at a shop on 13th Avenue. It is alleged the armed man pointed a gun at the driver and demanded money. The driver handed over R300 while the armed man's accomplices allegedly approached the driver's workmates who were offloading bread and stole 64 loaves before running away.

The driver then proceeded to a second delivery on 17th Avenue where the gang reappeared and stole more bread and cash, in all amounting to R700, before running away again.

The driver is said to have been robbed before and suspects the same gang.

Men in custody for attempted murder

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom@caxton.co.za

Four Alex men have been remanded into custody by the Alex Magistrates' Court for further investigations for attempted murder and armed robbery.

This after they allegedly shot and seriously injured a man at his friend's house where it is claimed they also robbed the house owner and another visiting friend of money.

The court heard that the four were let into the house by the owner on 14th Avenue one evening after knocking at the door. It is alleged the four, who were known by the visiting friend, announced that it was a robbery and one of them pulled out a gun and shot the victim in the face causing him to fall.

It is claimed they then robbed the owner of R250 and the visiting friend of R400. Before leaving, it is alleged they again shot the injured man in the back saying they wanted to ensure he was dead.

The victims took the injured man to hospital.

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e trial postponed

A DELEGATION from the Mozambican Consulate attends the court hearing of the ... accused of the murder of their citizen, Emmanuel Sithole.

Do you think the accused should be given bail? Tweet us @AlexNewsZA with your comments

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...Mkhwanazi-Xaluva with traditional he... Photo: Mbele-Khama

A time t...

LESEHO MANALA
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...ditional healers and African churches' ...ligious leaders from Gauteng and other ...vinces conducted a healing ceremony in ...ka as part of a nationwide cleansing of the ...egative energy in the country following recent ...enophobia attacks.

The ceremony, facilitated by the ...Commission for the Promotion and Protection ...of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and ...Linguistic Communities (CRL), include... ...early morning cleansing of the site whe... ...Mozambican Emmanuel Sithole was murder... ...on 18 April by four youths now behind bars. ...CRL chairperson Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xalu... ...said the country needs healing from the horr... ...and shameful xenophobia. "The cleansing ... ...say no to the killings and hatred which mu... ...replaced with peace and love for fellow ... ...sisters, mothers, fathers and children o... ...African continent."

Xaluva said the killings impacted the ... severely in the eyes of the world and ...

Statues t...

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom@caxton.co.za

The Commission for the Prom... Protection of the Rights of Cultural ... and Linguistic Communities ... researching the impact of the rece... ...and vandalising of national stat... ...nation's psyche.

The desecrations, which started a... ...and spread to city centres, hav... ...tense with muted concerns, co... ...as well as excitement – with th... ...of polarising the nation. Some ... ...mainly of leaders from the apart... ...been removed for storage else... ...are being guarded while co... ...ongoing as to what to do with t...

CRL chairperson Thoko... ...they were researching the ... ...incidents and will make reco... ...government on what should ... ...ease to the nation.

"The country needs a ded... ...programme to bring peace ...

What do you have to say to the encouraging news that sweet-talking hostel *indunas* have swept MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane off her feet with their pledge to fight xenophobia? Tweet us @AlexNewsZA with your comments



'Indunas are swee

Deaf ears then, battles no

THOKO Mkhwanazi-Xaluva with traditional healers Zanele Mashinini and Sibusiso Mbele-Khama.

A time to heal

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom@caxton.co.za

Traditional healers and African churches' religious leaders from Gauteng and other provinces conducted a healing ceremony in Alex as part of a nationwide cleansing of the negative energy in the country following recent xenophobia attacks.

The ceremony, facilitated by the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL), included an early morning cleansing of the site where Mozambican Emmanuel Sithole was murdered on 18 April by four youths now behind bars.

CRL chairperson Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva said the country needs healing from the horrific and shameful xenophobia. "The cleansing is to say no to the killings and hatred which must be replaced with peace and love for fellow men, sisters, mothers, fathers and children of the African continent."

Xaluva said the killings impacted the nation severely in the eyes of the world and would remain so if the country did not conduct the healing and cleansing of hatred which she attributed to a past history of self-hatred and division sowed among the African people by apartheid and colonisation. "We were taught and made to feel inferior and to hate others and are now applying the same attitude to other nationals mostly of our own colour as they are easy scapegoats instead of embracing them."

She said the healing is part of an African way of uniting and making equal all the different religions, cultures and languages and to embrace foreign nationals here legally as many of them also practice the same traditions.

Xaluva said the ceremonies in the different provinces will also collate communities' input into a report to be submitted to the Department of Arts and Culture with recommendations and strategies on how to end xenophobia, violence and crime besieging the country. She urged citizens to engage in the ceremonies in their respective areas.

Details: Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities 011 358 9113.

Statues to bring peace

LESEHO MANALA
lesehom@caxton.co.za

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL) is researching the impact of the recent defacing and vandalising of national statues on the nation's psyche.

The desecrations, which started at universities and spread to city centres, have left some tense with muted concerns, condemnations as well as excitement – with the likely effect of polarising the nation. Some of the statues, mainly of leaders from the apartheid era, have been removed for storage elsewhere. Others are being guarded while consultations are ongoing as to what to do with them.

CRL chairperson Thoko Xaluva said they were researching the impact of the incidents and will make recommendations to government on what should be done to bring ease to the nation.

"The country needs a dedicated project and programme to bring peace, nation building, social cohesion and certainty," Xaluva said.

She said research would be conducted with and in communities to gather their views on the symbolic, heroic and current value and significance of the statues to bringing unity to the country.

"People will only respect, protect and honour symbols which evidentially relate with their aspirations, hence the consultations."

Xaluva added that the report would focus on the effects of recent xenophobic attacks on both citizens and foreigners, mainly African nationals, who should, she said, be co-existing as neighbours rather than living next to each other with suspicion. She said the present was a testing time for the country.

Details: Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities 011 358 9113.

What should be done about the statues of past and present leaders to bring peace to the country? Share your view with us on Alex News Facebook page

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Case that sparked Soweto looting frenzy remanded

Themba Vukeya @ThembaVukeya

The foreign national arrested in connection with the shooting death of a teen in Snake Park, during the lootings in Soweto last week, appeared at the Protea Magistrate Court on January 26.

He is alleged to have shot and killed a teen.

He faces charges of murder, attempted murder and possession of unlicensed firearm.

Soweto police communications officer Kay Makhubela said the man has been remanded and will appear in court again on February 2.

Makhubela said police are investigating the case further.



Residents claim the shooting happened at this shop last Monday.

Sanco condemns attacks on foreign nationals

Themba Vukeya @ThembaVukeya

The South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) in Bramfischer says it condemns the looting activities taking place in Soweto settlements.

Secretary Sam Seale says attacking and looting foreign nationals' shops paints a negative image of our country and the kind of people we are.

He said if residents have a problem with spaza shops crowding the area – they should engage them properly without the use of force.

"The incident in which a 15-year-old was killed in Doornkop shouldn't be used as a camouflage for people to steal," said Seale.

Seale says foreign nationals should consider buying land jointly to build a shopping mall and have their stalls there.

"Sanco urges policing divisions to conduct a thorough investigation into these looting occurrences to source out the primary cause of the turmoil," said Seale.



A shop vandalized by looters.



Criminals rob spaza shop

Themba Vukeya @ThembaVukeya

A spaza shop was broken into in the early hours of Wednesday in Braamfischer Phase One.

Speaking for the family, Musa Shelembe said they found out in the morning when they went to open shop that something was wrong.

Shelembe said they heard noises outside after midnight but assumed that it was the wind.

"My mother looked out the window but saw nothing," he said.

He said a few grocery items have been stolen.

Shelembe said he immediately contacted the police and a case was opened.



This spaza that was broken into last week.

'Last month was the worst month of all Decembers'

By Themba Vukeya

Last month has been the toughest month for the Dobsonville police due to various crimes that occurred from the December 1st to the 28th.

Station commander brigadier Azuen Nengovhela said last month has been the worst of his life since being deployed to work in the station.

Nengovhela said they've had to deal with combating carjacking, house breaking which decreased compared to 2013, business robberies (foreign owned), theft, rape, domestic violence, assaults, murders and others.

Most of these crimes happened in one month.

"Crime is still a big deal and there are a few problematic areas that we want addressed through the help of the community," he said.

Nengovhela said: "We require useful information from the communities to put an end to crime."

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Advice for failed matrics

Teboho Seabelo

The Gauteng Department of Education would like to advise parents of pupils who might not have performed as well as they would have liked, to monitor their children s reaction to negative results and to provide support to them.

Department spokesperson, Phumla Sekhonyane said parents should make sure that their children know that they have their unconditional love and support even if they have not lived up to their expectation.

She said: "It is important for our pupils to know that there are many successful people in the world who started their adult life by failing matric and that giving up is never an option.

"These pupils should go to their school and find out how they can register for supplementary examinations if they qualify.

"For those who would require rewriting matric, they can either re-register at their old school or get advice at an Adult Basic and Education Training centres closest to where they stay."

Principal at Morris Isaacson Secondary School, Steven Khanyile said: "To those pupils who did not do well, do not lose hope as this is only the beginning.

"Register for supplementary exams if you qualify to write again and if you have failed, there are adult education centres that are available for you, so use them."

Adelaide Tambo School for the Physically Challenged, principal Lindela Memani said that failure can be the beginning of success.

"Go back and look at your mistakes, learn from them and move forward," he said.

Principals of failing schools to be held liable

By Tebobo Seabelo

The Gauteng Education MEC Panyaza Lesufi has threatened that action will be taken to deal with poor performing schools in the province.

Speaking on the eve of the release of the matric results, Lesufi said that the principals who had not produced good results would have to account for it.

He said that as soon as schools open, those that had performed below the average would have to give explanation for the cause of this.

It is however, not yet known what the department's plan of action is to deal with such schools to make sure that the same problem does not occur in this new year.



MEC for Education, Panyaza Lesufi.

D12 division says SSIP help matriculants pass

By Themba Vukeya

Director of District 12, Dennis Macuacua said he is content about the overall matric pass rate and especially with the improvement shown by under-performing school.

Macuacua said there are only two schools that performed below 60 percent but did not name them.

He put great emphasis on the Secondary School Improvement Programme (SSIP) saying it contributed equitably to the matric pass rate.

Macuacua said: "All the academic camps ran successfully and this year will be no difference."

"We will be starting with our quarterly meetings with parents to encourage the class of 2015 and to reflect on some of the things the district encountered last year," he said.

The circuit based meetings will take place in particular geographical areas at different times.



District director Dennis Macuacua (File photo).

'Failure can be rewritten to a successful victory'

By Themba Vukeya

DA Constituency Youth Rep, Themba Floyd congratulates all 2014 matriculants on their successful exams.

He said: "Your efforts and self-belief have been rewarded liberally."

To those who failed their matric, Floyd says failure can be turned into success by simply identifying where one went wrong.

"Identifying the causes for your failure could help avoid a reoccurrence of this in future," said Floyd.

He said the DA youth demands action from government to ensure that qualifying matriculants be granted the opportunity to further their education.

"Nobody should be left behind simply because they can't afford to study. We plead to the government to increase the National Student Financial Aid Scheme(NSFAS) budget," he said.

Police update on looting activities

Themba Vukeya @ThembaVukeya

The police have been briefing the media providing an update on the status quo for the crimes happening in Soweto.

Lieutenant General Solomon Makgale said they have strengthened police deployments throughout Soweto and other affected areas.

Police arrested 68 people and confiscated 8 firearms.

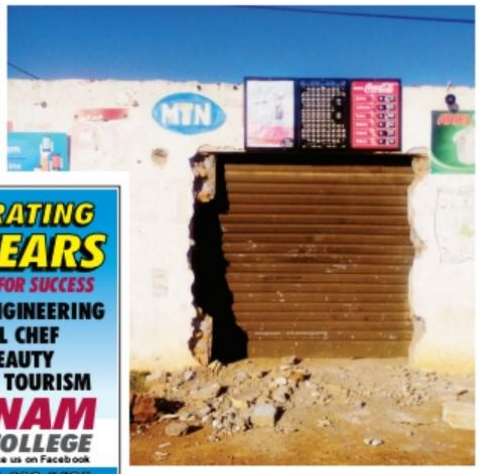
Since then, the total number of arrests has increased to over 170 people who have been arrested for various crimes from murder, attempted murder, possession of unlicensed firearms and stolen property, public violence and fraud.

Makgale said the number of firearms confiscated has now increased to 11 with 10 of these firearms taken from foreign nationals.

Police managed to seize items such as fridges and groceries valued at thousands of rands during the arrests.

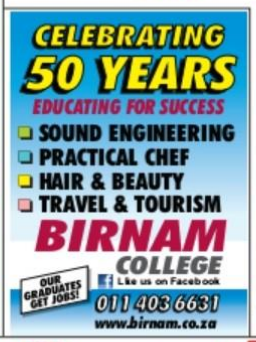
He said 38 people appeared in the Protea Magistrate's Court for public violence and possession of stolen goods but their case was remanded.

"We would like to thank the community for providing the information that led to the arrests. Police will continue to take strong action against those people involved in the looting and we appeal to business people not take the law into their own hands," said Makgale.



Shops left damaged after looting.







DA condemns looting in Soweto

Themba Vukeya @ThembaVukeya

DA PR councillor Nonhlanhla Sifumba working in Wards 46, 47 and 48 which covers parts of Zola, Jabulani, Zondi and Dobsonville condemns what is currently happening in Dobsonville and its surrounding areas.

Sifumba says she acknowledges that a life has been lost allegedly by a Somalian national and would like to express their heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased.

"People in Soweto shouldn't resort to violence. The Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department is supposed to enforce by-laws within the city to curtail such incidents from occurring," she said.

Her observations are that SAPS who are trying their level best to protect everyone have their hands full as they don't know when and where another shop will be looted.

"This boils down to the issue of bylaws and enforcement thereof," said Sifumba..

We would like to urge firstly the national government to;

- Look into the legality of the foreign nationals occupying these shops, do they have legal and necessary papers.
- JMPD and City of Johannesburg revisit the bylaws that are in place regarding trading within the city.
- We urge the community to refrain from looting and damaging property and allow the law to take its course.



Looters taking goods from a shop.





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BA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

MOKGOPE consulting DEA Reference No: **14/12/16/3/3/1/1315**

THE PROPOSED VALKFONTEIN (THULANIV) 132KV SUBSTATION AND 3km SERVITUDE LINE

Project Proposal: The applicant, Eskom Holdings SoC Limited proposes to upgrade the existing infrastructure of the existing line, the applicant
proposes to construct a monopole bypass line parallel to the existing line with the width of 31m and constructing of a 132kV Valkfontein (Thulaniville) Substation 100x100 foot print and a servitude line of approximately 3km into the new Valkfontein (Thulaniville) Substation.

Location: City of Johannesburg municipality

Project Applicant: Eskom Holdings SoC Limited

Application for Environmental Authorisation to undertake the following activities:

Notice R. 544, 18 June 2010 : (Listing 1) Activity 10(i), 11(xi), 20 (i)(ii).

Opportunity to Participate:

The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be available for review from February 2015 at the libraries in the Dobsonville area and Roodepoort town. Digital copies will be available from the Mokgope website (www.mokgope.co.za).

Open days and Public Meetings will be held in March 2014 Further Notices with confirmed dates and venues will be sent to you. Should you wish to attend the meetings, please contact the person indicated below for further information.

Contact: Miss Hlanganani Khosa (Mokgope Consulting cc)
on Tel: 011 440 1817. Cell: 073 430 8981.
Fax: 086 607 9481 or
email Hlanganani@mokgope.co.za.

City condemns xenophobic attacks

Maxine Becket @MaxineBecket

The City of Johannesburg s political leadership and its administration wants to assure residents, especially business and residents of the Inner City that it will not allow Joburg to descend into chaos, in response to possible xenophobic attacks.

Executive mayor, councilor Parks Tau and his Mayoral Committee are call ingupon residents to go about their daily business peacefully and not be influenced by event sin other partsof Gauteng or the country.

"Xenophobic attacks or any form of violence against foreigners is unacceptable and must not be encouraged or tolerated," said Tau.

Tau said that the commotion on Wednesday in the CBD was not in any way related to xenophobia but was a JMPD operationin support of SARS business visits.

This resulted in some shops closing especially those owned by foreigners.

It appears that the situation was largely misunderstood although amidst the operation there may have been criminal elements that took the opportunity to terrorise people in the area.

Member of the mayoral committee for Public Safety, councilor Sello Lemao said that the safety of everyone was of paramount importance and should not be compromised by acts of violence.

The police and JMPD will be deployed in the CBD to deter any possible attacks on foreign nationals.

Trevor Fowler the City Manager, said, "Johannesburg is a City of diverse people and cultures, many of whom make an economic contribution to the growth of the City. "Regeneration of the Inner City and new investments were key to unlocking existing business potential."

Joburg experienced a wave of horrific xenophobic attacks in 2008 but was instrumental in normalizing the situation and bringing about peace among the various groups with other concerned stakeholders.

The City is once again in discussions with Johannesburg Migration Advisory Committee which was established after the 2008 attacks (representatives of foreign nationals), NGOs, Social Development, SACC, Province and the police to tackle and stop xenophobic attacks should they occur.

Soweto drug lords to be punished

Maxine Becket

The City is going on a multimedia blitz campaign to curb the escalating problem of drug abuse in the townships in and around Soweto.

Nonceba Molwele, Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Social Development in the City of Johannesburg said: "This campaign will use multi-media components, including community newspapers and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

"We have already started with some activities such as pamphlets and posters distribution around Soweto."

Following the launch, the Department of Social Development will be posting and updating information under the #COJonsubstanceabuse.

The information will direct people about where to find help, drug action activities taking place, NGOs contracted by the City to fight the scourge of substance abuse, support groups for parents and identifying young people as peer educators.

Nonceba said drugs are devastating communities across the social spectrum.

"Drugs know no race, creed or gender. It affects the rich and poor. So we need to stand together as communities to fight this scourge."

Sci-Bono to host Finance and Maths Week

Nokhaya Magangane

FromApril20 to 24 pupils are invited to the Sci-Bono Finance / Mathematics focus week. This is aprogramme that is designed forGrade 4 ' 12 pupils and focuses on all areas of mathematics and finance.

The theme for the programme is "playing with numbers outside the classroom". The main aims of the programme are to stimulate pupils' interest in mathematics and finance and to also develop pupils' knowledge and skills through experimental learning.

The programme will take place from 9 am – 1 pm, Monday to Friday. Pupils and teachers attending the programme will be involved in different fun workshops activities relating to mathematics and finance. Some of the activities that pupils will be involved in includes, maths in space, probabilities, fractions, measurements, maths in buildings and careers in mathematics and finance.

Venue: Sci –Bono- Discovery Center Newsroom

Time: 9 am

Date: 20- 24 April

For more information residents can contact Dorothy Koka or Zakiyya Wadee on 011 639 8400 or dorothy.koka@sci-bono.co.za or Zakiyya.wadee@sci-bono.co.za.



Johannesburg gets ready for HOLI ONE Colour and Neon Festival 2015

Taking place across multiple cities and countries around the world, theHOLIONE Colour Festival has become synonymous with peace, unity and celebration. This coming May, the city of Johannesburg will be exploding in a worldof colour as the festival kicks offfor yet another year of joy.

On Friday May 1, Johannesburg will see the return of the HOLI ONE Colour Festival, which brings together partygoers of all ages, races, cultures and personalities to experience an unforgettable festival of light, love, and, of course, colour.

Sharing the same message of hope and positivity as the Hindu holiday of Holi, this non-religious festival aims to unite thousands in an event that blends music, dance, visuals and performance art. Festivals are held around the world in every continent, including Africa, Australia, America, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

Partygoers dressed in white soon find themselves united through a rainbow of colours as every hour on the hour, a countdown begins, signalling the throwing of brightly coloured, eco-friendly powder that fills the air. Along with powder in five different colours, food and drinks will also be on sale, while a host of facilities will be provided to ensure that revellers are kept safe and comfortable for theduration of the festival.

"I think this was one of the best parties of my life." – Nick,HOLI ONE Bremen

This year's line-up promises to be even bigger and better than ever before, with a selection of local and international talents in the electronic dance music scene taking to the stage. Setting just theright tone for this year's festival are your Mc's Morgan Benbox and K@Shis King along with the following artists:

- DJ Fresh
- Mark Stent
- Ricardo Da Costa
- Essential Groove
- Vin GrooVin
- Housesholder
- Royal K
- Household Funk
- SnaBomb
- Paul Bingham
- Rocca & Martini
- Jade Hanna
- Eugene Le Grand
- Sammy Dee
- Peter Booth
- JC
- Jason La Roux

Doors open at noon and the celebrations will continue until 10pm. Festivalgoers are advised to wear white clothing that can withstand a bit of colour infusion (getting covered in glorious colour is, of course, what this event is all about).Alcoholic beverages can be purchased at the festival but may not be brought in from outside.

For more information on HOLI ONE Colour Festival in Johannesburg, visit https://www.facebook.com/JoburgWEARHONE.



