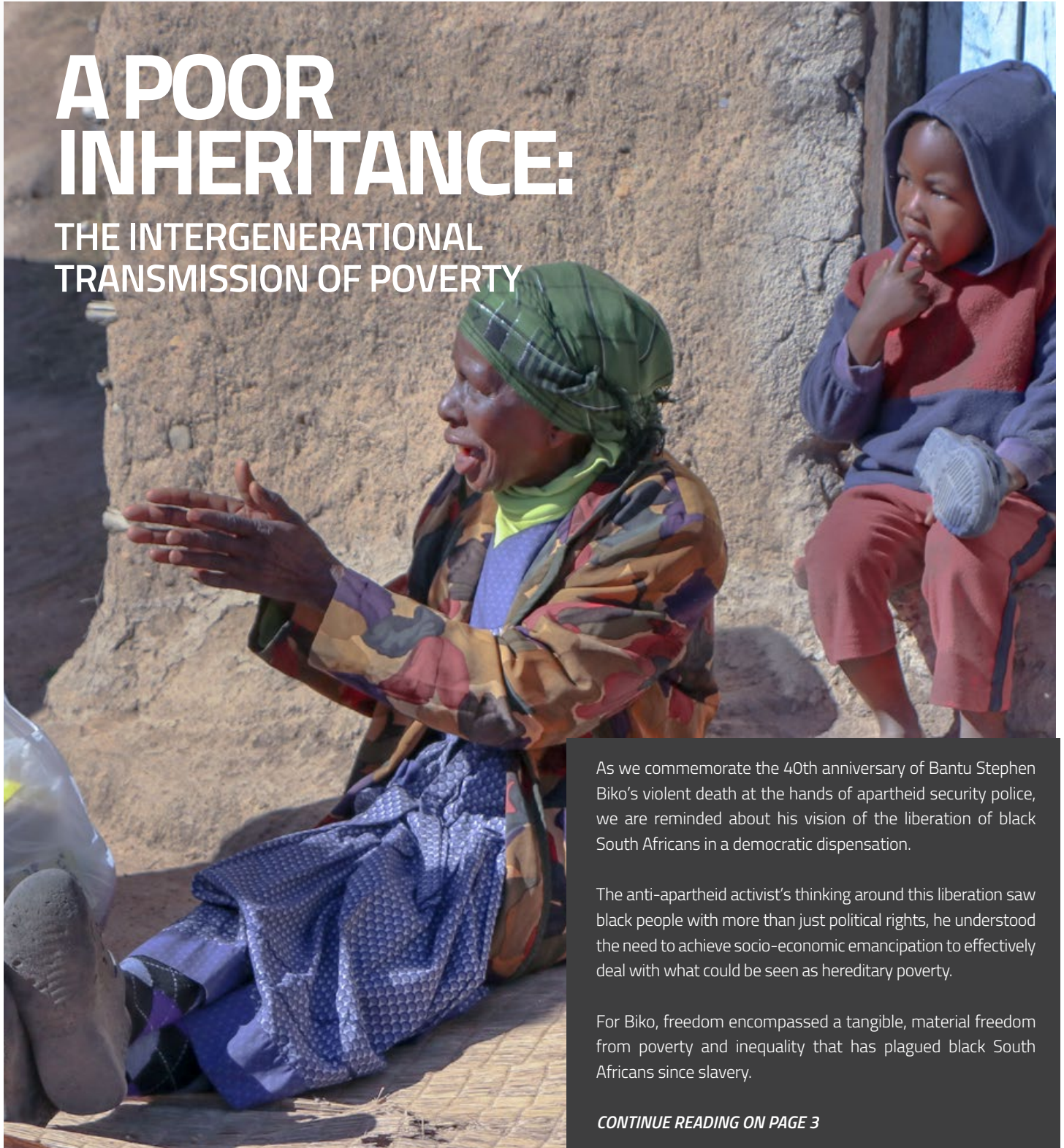


A POOR INHERITANCE:

THE INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF POVERTY



As we commemorate the 40th anniversary of Bantu Stephen Biko's violent death at the hands of apartheid security police, we are reminded about his vision of the liberation of black South Africans in a democratic dispensation.

The anti-apartheid activist's thinking around this liberation saw black people with more than just political rights, he understood the need to achieve socio-economic emancipation to effectively deal with what could be seen as hereditary poverty.

For Biko, freedom encompassed a tangible, material freedom from poverty and inequality that has plagued black South Africans since slavery.

CONTINUE READING ON PAGE 3



BEHIND THE STATISTICS By Isobel Frye

On 22 August 2017, the Statistician General, Pali Lehola, launched a sobering report of Statistics South Africa examining poverty trends in South Africa between 2006 and 2015. The statistics indicate a sharp increase in poverty using all three of the poverty lines used in South Africa.

SPII has always protested against the level of the three poverty lines since adoption in 2012, compared to other studies that consider the cost of a decent standard of living, such as that published monthly by PACSA. The three poverty lines in 2015 were the food poverty line (the absolute basic survivalist sum needed for a person to afford the minimalist food to keep them alive per month) of R441 per person per month), the Lower bound poverty line of R647 per person per month, and the Upper bound poverty level of R992 per person per month). According to the report, in 2015, 55,5% of people lived in poverty below R992 per month. One in four people lived below the survivalist Food poverty line of R441 – in other words, living with chronic hunger.

The implications of these statistics are shocking. What it suggests is that in this upper middle income country that boasts one of the most progressive constitutions in the world, it takes a statistical report to show us that all is not well in South Africa. Poverty appears to have become a cancer that we ignore, and turn away from. Driving through Johannesburg city is a daily illustration of many, many people desperately striving or hustling to make sufficient to survive. Living conditions for people who cannot afford to commute are vile and inhumane, as exposures of inner city slums show. Red ant evictions aggravate the conditions of people, and there appears to be no clear leadership to arrest and address these conditions in a progressive medium to long term rationale plan and immediate steps that can be taken to ameliorate conditions. For other people living in eviscerated informal settlements and rural areas, often conditions are even worse.

Inequality, especially along racial and gender lines is always reported on in the poverty trends report. The 2015 average annual household income for a household headed by a white person was R350 937, which was FIVE times more than that of a household headed by a black person of R67 828. Again, average expenditure by households headed by a man in 2015 was R121 363, while that of a household headed by a woman was R77 671. In addition, the average size of poor households was 4,6 people, while of a non- poor person, the average size was 2,4 persons, hence the household expenditure set out above is diluted much further amongst poor households. Households in poorest 20% of households in 2015 had an average ANNUAL expenditure of R23 211, which had dropped in real terms since 2011 from R25 092. Annual household expenditure for the richest 20% of households increased in real terms from R242 493 in 2011 to R312 322. Redistribution, it appears, is going the wrong way.

In closing however, I think we need to need to ask: WHY is poverty growing in South Africa? We have a National Development Plan that aims to eradicate all people living below the Food poverty line by 2030. Since 2011, we have reversed previous gains. If we continue to ignore the implications we are in serious trouble. If we continue to ignore the anger and frustration on the faces of people protesting against their living conditions, we have lost our humanity.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and its alliance partners, political freedom was a necessary condition for wider socio-economic transformation. But 23 years on, inherited poverty rooted in the systematic oppression of the black majority remains unshaken.

Stats SA's latest Poverty Trends in South Africa report not only reflects that over 50% of the population lives in poverty, but that this faction of society is largely made up of black South African youth.

Thus, a cycle continues where black South Africans remain burdened by restrictions to their access to education, occupational rank and income. All of which are determinants of the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

With South Africa having submitted its Initial Report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the progress it has made to overcome the apartheid legacies of unequal access to education, healthcare, work, and other socioeconomic rights, it is clear that even government "successes" have had little impact on the status quo.

The report follows the country's ratification in 2015 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 23 years after it was signed by Mandela with the intention to redress the atrocities of the past.

The National Minimum Wage Research at the University of Witwatersrand found in a 2015 working paper that in poor households, income earners were financially responsible for at least 2.65 other people, where the ratio in wealthy households was one is to one.

Along with the Constitution, the covenant obligated the state to take concrete steps, using the maximum of its available resources, to ensure that access to these rights is progressively expanded so that all citizens can live a life of dignity.

The report notes spatial segregation in cities; government's housing programme has been criticised for building low-cost housing only at the periphery of economic hubs. People of colour remain disadvantaged by long distances between their neighbourhoods and economic activity.

This racial divide is present in our health system, which is split between an expensive and inaccessible private sector which

serves less than 20% of people in South Africa, mostly white, and a chronically under-resourced public sector serving the remaining 80% of the population.

Let's not forget the lack of transformation in the education sector, where township schools remain extremely underfunded in comparison to former white schools, continuing on apartheid Bantu education trajectories.

This is but one of the factors leading to higher school dropout rates among poor South Africans than other sections of society. This is made more concerning by the fact that, as SPII research demonstrates, there is a direct correlation between education levels and employment opportunities, further entrenching the relationship between education and poverty.

The National Minimum Wage Research at the University of Witwatersrand found in a 2015 working paper that in poor households, income earners were financially responsible for at least 2.65 other people, where the ratio in wealthy households was one is to one.

A higher financial burden on poor South Africans leaves no room to accumulate any sort of wealth and break free from poverty; in fact, it only stands to perpetuate existing poverty cycles and social inequality.

A defining characteristic of chronically poor people is that they remain in poverty over a long period. For black South Africans, this means that poverty is transmitted from one generation to another, with the children of poor parents likely to become poor adults themselves.

As demonstrated, the intergenerational transmission of poverty, still the reality for black South Africans in today's 'post-apartheid' era, is the long-term effect of, amongst others, poor nutrition, inadequate education and health care, and a subsequent lack of opportunities.

In South Africa, poverty is inherited. Until structural and systematic changes are made, the cycle of poverty will continue and black South Africans will remain its face.

In South Africa, poverty is inherited. It is an imposition, and by no means a choice. Until structural and systematic changes are made, the cycle of poverty will continue and black South Africans will remain its face.

As Biko noted in 1978: "The blacks are tired of standing at the touchlines to witness a game that they should be playing. They want to do things for themselves and all by themselves."

BASIC INCOME COULD ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY IN 66 COUNTRIES

John McArthur, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said making unconditional cash transfers to poor citizens could help hundreds of millions of people.

“Dozens of countries could eliminate extreme poverty in short order...without a penny of extra foreign aid required”, he said.

Mr McArthur highlighted the work of GiveDirectly, a non-profit organisation that gives money, without conditions attached, to people in some of the world’s poorest countries.

Last year, the organisation launched a guaranteed basic income scheme in Kenya in which people are given transfers of around \$200 per year – roughly the amount needed to lift them out of extreme poverty.

Writing on the Brookings Institution website, Mr McArthur said a similar scheme applied to more of the 650 million people in the world who are living in extreme poverty could have a huge impact.

Even if the cash transfers were only introduced by governments in countries where the total cost to the state would be less than 1 per cent of GDP, this would still allow up to 66 countries to afford such a policy.



This would help lift 185 million people out of extreme poverty, including around 100 million in India, 17 million in Indonesia and 9 million in Brazil. [Continue reading Independent.co.uk article.](#)

END POVERTY THROUGH A BASIC INCOME GRANT



Africa is not poor, yet Africa has become synonymous with poverty, her children remain destitute. We need urgent intervention to lift the country and region out of this crippling poverty.

Tell the Minister of Social Development, Bathabile Dlamini to implement a Basic Income Grant to close the poverty gap in Mzansi.

For more information visit:
spii.org.za/sadcbigcampaign

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN THE PETITION](#)

On 22 August 2017, StatsSA released the Latest Poverty Trends in South Africa Report -- an examination of abject poverty and inequality trends. These trends are based on the Income and Expenditure Survey [IES] and Living Conditions Survey [LCS] conducted by StatsSA derived from 'household expenditure data'.

The idea of households as used in this instance is often exclusionary of those living in squatter camps and alternative shelters due to the inability to afford housing. The reality of poverty is likely higher than this particular report indicates. There is also an under-reporting crisis that should be taken into cognizance in dealing with these statistics.

The revelations of these trends come as no surprise considering the socioeconomic situation in South Africa. South Africa has for decades after apartheid continued to be a model of socioeconomic exclusion. Historically, socio-economic exclusion in South Africa was racially biased, now the depth and extent of poverty is becoming increasingly intersectional. This myriad of intersections connects race, gender, class and age to produce an intensified state of poverty.

So to us, that over 55 percent of the South African population living in poverty, unfortunately, confirms what we have long seen play out in our society and policies due to a linear understanding of development which is often very economic based and exclusionary of social and cultural factors.

A majority of black South Africans who are currently active in the job market are wage economic slaves i.e. though employed, they are still living beyond the poverty line.

In the South African context, it's fitting to argue that poverty bears the face of

SOUTH AFRICA'S RISING POVERTY RATES ARE INDICATORS OF A DETERIORATING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

By **Mawethu Nkosana & Vuyokazi Futshane**

a black person and that this particular black person is a womxn, and her children inherit her destitution thus being trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty with no end in sight. This is partly due to the unremunerated time that womxn invest in the functioning of society [unpaid domestic work] and also the institutional and systematic barriers that continue to make it difficult for womxn to enter the job market.

with people between the ages 18-59 receiving no form of social protection to hedge against the various forms of unemployment or income insecurity.

The influx of new labour force entrants has incapacitated the labour market from absorbing a majority of new entrants, thus each other quarter Stats SA reports have shown an increase in unemployment. The second Quarterly Labour Force Survey in 2017 revealed that nearly 40 percent of the South African youth are unemployed -- a huge and worrisome number for a country with a majority youth population.

40%

OF SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH ARE UNEMPLOYED.

It is also important to note that a majority of black South Africans who are currently active in the job market are wage economic slaves i.e. though employed, they are still living beyond the poverty line. For example, research shows that a majority of black people are paid below the minimum wage -- thus further trickling the plight of poverty in the black community as a majority of the working class are the working poor.

While there is no single panacea for curing poverty, a multidimensional approach is required to drastically reduce the critical levels that currently exist. This approach needs to recognise the multi-layered and intersectional nature of poverty.

It has also become apparent that the current government's neo-liberal, short sighted poverty alleviation interventions are simply inadequate in addressing the issue of transformation and socio-economic emancipation. There is a persistent discord in policy formulation and the lived experiences of the poor and as progressive as the South African grants system has been, it is simply not comprehensive enough. In South Africa there is a huge gap in social security

These include policies and strategies responsive to the feminisation of poverty, such as investment in girl children's education, the adoption of a national minimum wage towards the realisation of living wages, comprehensive social protection which includes the roll out of a universal basic income grant that will ensure a decent standard of living for all.

Poverty is a violation of an individual's basic human rights. Human Rights being inextricable, inalienable and inter-dependent -- rising poverty rates are also indicators of a deteriorating human rights situation.



VUYOKAZI FUTSHANE
SADC BIG Campaign Coordinator



MAWETHU NKOSANA
Research and Communications
Officer at the Human Rights
Institute Of South Africa (HURISA)

MORE THAN HALF OF SOUTH AFRICANS LIVE IN POVERTY: HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE FACTS THIS TIME ROUND?

By Isobel Frye

“No political democracy can survive and flourish if the mass of our people remain in poverty, without land, without tangible prospects for a better life. Attacking poverty and deprivation must therefore be the first priority.”

This well-known warning was first contained in the 1994 Reconstruction and Development Plan, at the outset of our brave new world, when the anticipation of transformation was so strong that few questioned our ability or willingness to address the centuries of dispossession and privilege that had preceded that moment in our history.

The warning rang out again on 22 August 2017, in the latest publication out of StasSA. The Statistician General, Pali Lehola, had the unpleasant task of presenting national poverty trends that demonstrated a significant increase in the levels and numbers of people living in absolute poverty in South Africa between 2011 and 2015. This increase existed across all three of the poverty lines – which are, it must be said, exceedingly low measures of poverty in an upper middle income country. The picture presented was so stark that there was no ‘spin’ that could find any relief in the data contained in the *Poverty Trends of South Africa: An examination of absolute poverty between 2006 and 2015*.

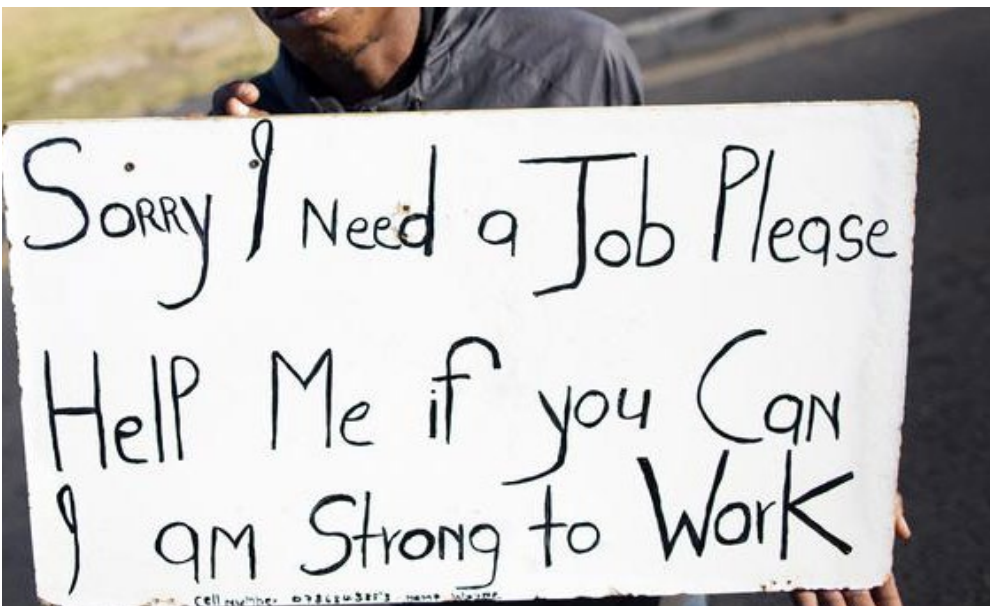
The three poverty lines used are the 2015 bare survivalist food poverty line of R441 per person per month (what you need to be able to procure the barest amount that keeps you alive), the ‘lower bound’ poverty line of R647 and the ‘upper bound’ poverty line of R992 per

person per month. The report found that a quarter of all South Africans – one in every four people – live below the food poverty line facing daily poverty-induced hunger and an astounding 55,5% of people live in poverty in South Africa.

Also of grave concern is that trends in household expenditure demonstrate starkly how little transformation has taken place in South Africa. Annual spend in a household headed by a white person in 2015 was R350 937, almost five times more than that of a black-headed household of R67 828. Female headed households on average spent over a third less than male headed households. To compound inequalities, poorer households tend to be double the size (4,6 people) on average than non-poor households (2,4 people). The target contained in the National development Plan (NDP) was to reduce the Gini coefficient (inequality measure) from 0,7 in 2010 to 0,6 in 2030. While we have previously questioned the very limited ambition of this target given that such levels of inequality will continue to see South Africa way out of line with global trends, progress in meeting this by 2015 was slight: it had reduced to 0,68.

In an ongoing survey undertaken by Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) on a monthly basis with community advice office workers of ACAOSA across South Africa, the lived reality brings the real impact of these statistics to life. A 62 year old grandmother of four living in Snake Park in the Free State has steady access only to social grant income, which she tries to augment by making ‘vetkoek’. Their staple diet consists of bones, maize meal and potatoes. She said that she has a constant worry that there will not be enough food for the month, which always occurs for ‘several’ days. She herself eats less to try to ensure that her grandchildren can ‘carry on eating till month end’. Her proposed solution to

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reduce her poverty is that government grants be increased as there is no way that she will be able to find a decent job. In addition, free school transport for her grandchildren would enable their meagre monies to go further.

A 44 year old participant from Nkonxeni added that school holidays always put a huge strain on the food expenditure for the household, as there is no access for the kids to the school feeding schemes during these weeks. Yet another participant listed 'bread' as her main food purchase every month.

The first time the quote at the opening of this article was used was a caution in the 1994 RDP. The second time it was used was as a text box in the National Development Plan (2030), following the flowery and dreamy vision, and set out alongside the following assessment; "South Africa has made remarkable progress in the transition from apartheid to democracy. This transition has been peaceful despite the country's history of violent conflict and dispossession".

The goal of employment creation in the NDP was 11 million jobs by 2030. The goal of job creation in the New Growth Path was 5 million jobs between 2010 and 2020. During the first quarter of

2017, however, 20,8 million people of the working age population- those between 15 and 65- were not working. This includes a combination of those who are unemployed, discouraged work seekers or those that are 'not economically active'. While the formal sector had created 144 000 jobs since the previous quarter, the number of people unemployed grew by 433 000.

Very few people still believe that we will meet the NDP targets, and yet government departments continue to be led by the suggested policies contained therein. Millions of people living in poverty are not going to find decent jobs tomorrow to meet their basic needs, let alone realise their constitutionally derived rights to life, dignity and equality. The one socio-economic policy that everybody knows is the state social security system, and yet the values, however slight, are begrudged and recipients stigmatised. Over the years, activists, academics and trade unions have been calling for the expansion of the cover of social security to those between the ages of 18 and 59 for whom no social security exists, and the value of the social security income needs to be pegged to a concrete standard of a decent standard of living.

These calls, backed up by empirical developmental theories and costings, are routinely dismissed as being utopian: and yet this is the only clear policy that will change the bleak picture revealed by the poverty statistics. NEDLAC is currently negotiating the introduction of a comprehensive inclusive social security system. The poverty trends just released emphasize how critical it is that we use this opportunity for bold but crucial reforms.

South Africa is a country where the richest ten percent of people continue to grow their wealth through their accumulated assets, where the potential for economic growth is locked in a capital strike, while the poor resort to charismatic churches and worse – either as an opiate to dull their loss of hope, or as the most rationale economic choice that they can make. It is clear that we need to step back from our slavish following of orthodox theories and consider ways of ensuring that more income is enjoyed by a lot more of the increasing millions living in poverty.

In using the quote for the third time in the introduction to the recent report on poverty trends, reiterating that "no political democracy can survive and flourish if the mass of our people remain in poverty", we believe that the Statistician General was issuing a serious warning. Is anybody listening?

SPII and the Association of Community based Advice Offices (ACAOSA) partner in a monthly Basic Needs Basket qualitative and quantitative study, which is supported by the Church of Sweden.



ISOBEL FRYE //
DIRECTOR SPII

Isobel Frye is the Director of the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute, a not for profit research and advocacy institute based in Newtown, Johannesburg.

Meet the SER Monitoring Tool Team

Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute is happy to announce the arrival of, and welcome, two new researchers to the Socio-Economic Rights Monitoring Tool team; both with an impressive track record in advocacy and research relating to socio-economic rights. Our new researchers joined us during the course of this quarter and have already immersed themselves in upcoming research reports focusing on the Right to Health Care and the Right to Housing – which will be circulated upon completion.

We are thrilled to have them onboard and look forward to maximising on their experience and passion for social justice. Meet our new Socio-Economic Rights Monitoring Tool Project researchers.





HOPOLANG SELEBALO

Position:

Selebalo is the Senior Researcher and Project Manager of the Socio-Economic Rights Project at SPII.

Education:

She has a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Studies and an undergraduate degree in Political and International Studies at Rhodes University.

Experience:

Hopolang is an activist who has worked with social movements such as Equal Education, where she was the Deputy Head of Policy, Communications and Research. In this role she engaged with various parliamentary committees on basic education budgets and monitored the Department of Basic Education's performance in the execution of its

mandate to provide quality education.

She specifically focused on the provision of scholar transport and school infrastructure.

Selebalo then went on to work with Ndifuna Ukwazi as the Head of Research. She contributed towards a campaign called Reclaim the City, which focused on land and housing struggles in the City of Cape Town. The campaign sought to desegregate the City and ensure the provision of affordable housing on well-located public land for poor and working-class households.

Interests:

Her interest lies in government budgets, and how resource allocation (coupled with the implementation of projects) can contribute towards social justice and the realisation of socio-economic rights.



DENNIS WEBSTER

Position:

Webster is a researcher working on the Socio-economic Rights Monitoring Tool Project at SPII.

Education:

He has a Masters of Social Sciences degree in Anthropology, as well as a Bachelor of Social Science Honours degree in Anthropology.

Experience:

Prior to SPII, Webster was a Researcher at the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI). He conducted numerous research, primarily on informal livelihoods in informal

settlements and in the context of street trade in cities. Webster worked with various social movements and community based organisations during the course of this research, engaged with the state at all levels, and published various research reports, resource guides, and popular and peer-reviewed articles.

Interests:

Webster's interests are chiefly with the welfare state, and how developing a concrete conceptualisation of rights can contribute to the delivery of social and economic justice.

TOP COURT FAILED TO CONSIDER FARM EVICTEES' RIGHT TO DIGNIFIED HOUSING

BHAVNA RAMJI AND DENNIS WEBSTER

In theory, the progressive right to housing contained in the Constitution also safeguards the dignity of people being evicted from their homes. In the Claytile judgment handed down on July 13 however, the Constitutional Court endorsed Wolwerivier, a "human dumping ground" on the outskirts of Cape Town, as acceptable housing for evictees.

The court sanctioned the eviction of 21 residents, 11 of them minor children, from a Western Cape farm, on the basis that it met the constitutional requirements of "meaningful engagement" with the residents, and because the City of Cape Town offered "suitable alternative accommodation" at the Wolwerivier relocation camp to those who would be rendered homeless by the eviction. The residents, many of whom were born on the farm, began living there from 1978. The relocation camp, 30km from the city bowl, is

home to hundreds of families who have been evicted from their homes and cleared off land in the name of Cape Town's "development" and "regeneration" agenda.

The rows of tin shacks — lined up on an expanse of gravel without the respite of shade and isolated from jobs, schools and hospitals — embody the resilience of SA's apartheid spatial form: black labour forced to live at arm's length from economically viable urban centres.

So, how is it that a court, justifiably considered the most progressive of its kind, decided that an apartheid-style relocation camp constitutes suitable accommodation for people evicted from their homes?

One explanation is a lack of imagination. The residents told the court that the accommodation in Wolwerivier was structurally inadequate

*...the Constitutional Court
endorsed Wolwerivier,
a "human dumping ground"
on the outskirts of Cape
Town, as acceptable
housing for evictees.*



FIRST
APPEARED IN
BUSINESS
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because it had been constructed with corrugated cladding, and that it was far from the city and remote.

But the court took issue with the fact that "[t]hey did not deal with any hardship they would suffer should they move to Wolweriv[i]er". Because the court did not believe the residents had any legitimate concerns in the first place, the ball-and-chain issue of the City of Cape Town's budget or "available resources", and therefore what alternative accommodation it could in reality afford, was not considered.

The court's reasoning in Claytile is distressingly familiar to that of Western Cape High Court judge Leslie Weinkove, whose father once owned a farm near Wolwerivier and who, when considering the possible relocation of inner-city evictees to the poorly located relocation camp, asked: "What's the point of being near a school? What's the point of them being near transport? Where are they going to go?"

That not one of the judges in the Constitutional Court was able to imagine the hardship, particularly in the light of the bare facts provided and the extensive recent media coverage of the inhumane conditions at Wolwerivier, is an abandonment of a method of legal reasoning that includes the use of legal fictions and hypotheticals and the practice of drawing inferences, that is well accepted and has been employed by the same court in previous cases.

In finding in favour of the company that produced "Black Labour White Guilt" T-shirts, parodying the Black Label beer logo, the Constitutional Court endeavoured a number of years ago to imagine how this would affect "black working-class drinkers", imagining they would not "raise an eyebrow". In the early 2000s, the Court drew on the concept of "legal imagination" (working with what is before the court to draw conclusions) to decide how to classify subordinate legislation.

The Constitutional Court abandoned its decision-making function and precedent

when it declined to use its imagination in Claytile. The consequences are dire. The City of Cape Town has already referred to the acceptability of its tin town in Wolwerivier when addressing Reclaim the City activists and residents. It will not be long before other municipalities can house people with impunity in similar conditions, knowing residents will struggle finding support for protests from official channels.

While the Constitutional Court has consistently insisted on meaningful engagement, the involvement of municipalities and "suitable" alternative accommodation, it has also shunned potentially innovative remedies besides alternative accommodation. In *Blue Moonlight*, the Constitutional Court confirmed a decision in which the Supreme Court of Appeal rejected a high court order requiring the City of Johannesburg to pay a landowner an amount equivalent to fair and reasonable monthly rental until the eviction of the unlawful occupiers, and then to provide the occupiers with temporary accommodation, or to pay R850 per month to each occupier or household head.

It has also, in the past, sanctioned accommodation to which residents have objected. In the case of the residents of the Joe Slovo informal settlement in Cape Town, following its previous and consistent emphasis on engagement that is meaningful between the government and unlawful occupiers in eviction matters, the Constitutional Court found that "[t]he state owns the land and it is the state that pays for construction of housing. The state must be afforded some leeway in the design and structure of the housing provided that it acts reasonably."

In doing so, it sanctioned the forced removal of residents and their relocation to the notorious Delft, largely comprising government-built shacks.

It is difficult to decide what is most disappointing about the Claytile judgment. Is it that the court dispensed of its obligation to imagine what the

living conditions at Wolwerivier might be? Or is it the fact that it took 10 judges less than four months and 23 pages to decide a complicated substantive question that has concerned policy makers, researchers and activists for several years?

The court has stopped in their tracks anyone who seeks to translate the constitutional recognition of a notional right into the ability to actually share in and benefit from the country's material wealth. When the court gave weight to the fact that the landowner "offered to transport the children ... to the school and back home again until the end of the 2017 school year", and that it had been deprived of its property (the landowner is a company), it endorsed transactional charity and appeared to identify more with the sacrifices of the landowner.

The court's failure concerns more than having a house, or even having a suitable house. Rather, this case is deeply tied up with the issue of having a share — in this instance, a share in an economically viable community — and this often means a well-located house. The remedy of alternative accommodation being forced onto people who demand to remain where they are in this instance has detracted from its original and progressive purpose as a safety net against inevitable evictions.

Alternative accommodation of the kind ordered by the Constitutional Court in Claytile threatens to become a means of facilitating evictions. Wolwerivier and other mass relocation camps of its kind, are here to stay. The City of Cape Town has recently put out to tender the construction of 4,500 new tin homes at Wolwerivier.

The Constitutional Court's judgment sets a chilling precedent, and gives the go-ahead to municipalities to house the thousands of victims of SA's rapacious urban development, rising farm evictions and continued spatial apartheid in economically depressed tin towns on the far peripheries of cities.

▪ *Ramji is an attorney at Section 27.*

INVEST IN EDUCATING OUR GIRLS

BY BUSISIWE SEABE

The role of education in socioeconomic development is an imperative one, and directly impacts social inequalities relating to women and girls, which are embedded in all spheres of social life – a product of the systemic exclusion of black people and women under colonialism and apartheid.

Social, political and economic discrimination and inequalities between men and women profoundly shaped, and continue to shape, the South African education system and its outputs.

Yet, investing in the education of young girls only stands to benefit the country in its quest to curb increasing poverty. In the Bahá'í teachings, there are two extraordinary statements about the education of women. First, that women's education is of greater importance than men's education and, secondly, that not until the equality of opportunity in education for the two sexes is established will any country thrive economically, socially or otherwise.

This because women account for roughly half a country's population, perform two-thirds of the hours worked, receive one-tenth of the country's income, and have less than one hundredth of the country's property registered in their names. Women's education is one of the major variables behind the rates of social and economic development, and has been shown to have a positive correlation with both. According to notable economist Lawrence Summers, "investment in the education of girls may well be the highest-return investment available in the developing world".



BUSISIWE SEABE

Seabe is a black radical feminist writer who was actively involved in #FeesMustFall protests, and is currently enrolled in the ASRI: Future Leaders Programme

The most common way to measure how women's education advances economic development is to look at changes in the growth of gross domestic product (GDP). This is done by first finding the cost of education and the amount of income that would have been earned during years enrolled in school. The difference between the sum of these two quantities and the total increase in income due to education is the net return that is reflected through the economy. According to a report on basic education by the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute, both individuals and countries benefit from women's education.

"The profitability of education, according to estimates of private rate of return, is indisputable, universal."

Individuals who invest in education receive a net monetary gain over the course of their lifetime, and this gain creates the overall economic productivity of a country. World Bank lead education economist Harry Patrinos said: "The profitability of education, according to estimates of private rate of return, is indisputable, universal."

The principle holds particularly true for women, who can expect a higher return than men on the resources they invest in education. Girls are underrepresented in schooling, meaning that investments aimed specifically at educating women should produce bigger regular earnings. However, it is notable that a substantive gap in GDP growth is accounted for solely by differences in the gender gap in education.

The report also indicates that, while the enrolment of boys and girls at school is roughly equal, dropout rates among girls before matric are higher. This is because girls' education is not seen as a priority in traditional households, and sometimes girls find themselves with the burden

of having to head households, or have to miss school simply because they don't have sanitary pads. Girls are not just underrepresented, they are undervalued and face serious underinvestment.

However, women's education doesn't just stand to strengthen the economy, it also increases the equitability of the distribution of wealth in a society. Increased women's education is important for achieving this as it targets impoverished women, a particularly disadvantaged group; with evidence showing that lower gender disparity in educational attainment for a developing country correlates with lower income disparity in society.

Some of the significant social developments women's education leads to, according to Harvard academic Martha Nussbaum, include decreased fertility rates, lower infant mortality rates, lower maternal mortality rates, increased gender equality, improved cognitive abilities and increased quality of life for women. One example of this, as cited by scholar Naila Kabeer, is the fact that educated women are better able to make decisions related to health, both for themselves and their children and are less likely to accept domestic violence regardless of other social status indicators like employment status.

Cognitive abilities also translate to increased political participation among women. Educated women are more likely to engage in civic participation and attend political meetings, and there are several instances in which educated women in the developing world were able to secure benefits for themselves through political movements. The development of women in structures and institutions of power in democratic governments is most likely to occur when young girls and women are well-educated and are able to utilise this education to further liberate themselves and contribute to the socioeconomic development of the country.

Everybody has a role to play in the success of our nation, the disenfranchisement of women only means fewer people to advance the cause. We need to shift the way we see women and girls in South Africa and recognise their potential for change, even outside the month of August.

FIRST APPEARED IN CITY PRESS.

SPII HOSTS *#RIGHT2WORK* ROUNDTABLE

In August, the Socio-Economic Rights Monitoring Tool team brought together representatives of a wide range of organisations who are involved in various aspects with touch on the Right to Work. The roundtable discussion – attended by academia, civil society and government – aimed to pinpoint specific research questions for the forthcoming SPII research paper focusing on the subject.

"[The Right to Work] is a right that the drafters of the Constitution did not include as a positive right," said Daniel McLaren, who currently working on a report focusing on the subject matter. *"However, the government did ratify, in 2015, the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which has a Right to Work in there as a fundamental right."*

"By ratifying the treaty, we have committed ourselves as a country to implementing that right, and taking steps to implement that right," he added.

Coordinator of Labour and Enterprise Policy Research Group, Jan Theron, said: "The introduction of a Right to Work is also quintessentially a political argument. It is also because of political reasons that we don't have a Right to Work." Theron argued that it was possible to include a Right to Work when the Constitution was drafted, but, was not included because of a "perverted" notion that the right to work meant a labour market without the protection of trade unions based on the, then, prevailing conservative American theory.

He said that it was important for to reassess this reasoning. He added that while a Right to Work is a relatively new concept in South Africa, it surely has resonance among ordinary people because it is ordinary South African that are most likely to lack job security and face exploitation.

"It is a right that has resonance, and also I think that it cannot conceive of rights to work as apart from rights at work. These two things should be inseparable," Theron said. He explained that without workers' rights which create job security, the Right to Work cannot be achieved, because workers cannot unionise and challenge unfair labour practices.

Watch Right to Work Roundtable livestream by clicking [here](#), or search *#Right2Work* on Twitter for live tweets from the discussion.



LASTEST SPII PODCASTS

This has been a manic quarter for Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute because of the spotlight place on poverty in South Africa because of the launch of the Stats SA Poverty Trends in South Africa report.

Here are a few radio interviews conducted by the SPII team over the past three months. Simply click on play buttons to listen:



SADC Basic Income Grant Campaign
Coordinator Vuyokazi Futshane on Power FM, talking about how a universal cash transfer can help end poverty.



SPII Director Isobel Frye discusses the fact that half of South Africa lives on less than a R1,000 a month on SAfm's Forum@8.




SADC Basic Income Grant Campaign
Coordinator Vuyokazi Futshane on RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE, unpacking the Poverty Trends in South Africa report.



OUR “RIGHTS” COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SERIES

Between June and August 2017, Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute, in partnership with the Foundation for Human Rights, hosted a series of community dialogues in four Johannesburg communities with the aim of providing communities the opportunity to speak for themselves.

The discussions – which took place in Eldorado Park, Lenasia, Soweto, and Yeoville – focused on individual socioeconomic rights enshrined in our Constitution, and reinforced by our commitment to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The themed events dealt with Health Care, Housing, Social Security and the Right to Work.

 Check out our Facebook Page for live streamed discussions.

SOWETO



ELDORADO PARK



LENASIA



YEOVILLE



SPII *Matters*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Decent Standard of Living Colloquium

Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute, in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, is hosting a two-day colloquium to explore the new dynamics and thinking in this field.

Dates: September 26 – 27 | **Place:** Johannesburg



Check out our Facebook Page for live streamed discussions.

SPII NEWS

SPII Website Now Up

After months of being down due to a persistent cyberattack, we are pleased to announce that we have rebuilt our website and it is officially live. We are, however, in the process of replacing files that may be missing from the site. Please contact advocacy@spii.org.za if you are experiencing any trouble with our website: www.spii.org.za



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TEN YEARS OF SPII
MESSAGES FROM THE
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www.spii.org.za/index.php/video

Please contact Fortunate Mabuza at SPII should you wish to have any information about any of the announcements - **Email:** fortunate@spii.org.za



www.spii.org.za

*Building up knowledge
to break down Poverty*

SPII Services:

SPII provides the following services:

Bringing people together, "honest broker" at roundtables and seminars

Conference host, bringing together a verity of stakeholders to share new information

Basic Needs Basket research – a representative sample of poorest members of society

Research project

Policy support and analysis

Training in research methodologies – on request

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