

Effects of Xenophobic Attacks on the Economic Development of South Africa

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ABSTRACT There exist doubts whether the policy of South Africa pertinently supports the rights of the sufferers of crime. If the right of the sufferers of offense, for instance, business owners are not protected or supported, this would have adverse effects on the economic development of the country. This prompts the need to assess the possible gaps associated with the effects of xenophobic attacks. The objective of this article, therefore, was to assess the effects of xenophobic attacks on the economic development of South Africa. The paper used a literature review methodology and presented the following vivacious and vibrant findings pertaining to the effects and avoidance of xenophobic attacks and provided measures or government actions that should be taken to protect the rights of sufferers of offense. The South African bill of human rights clearly enumerates the needs of sufferers of offense such as the access to justice and fair treatment, knowledge of the judicial process, compensation and access to mandatory security services and assistance. It was noted that South Africans live under fear of being potential candidates of victimization and discrimination. The paper made the following recommendations, that is, South African citizens should be educated on the effects of xenophobic attacks on the economics development of the country. The societies require education on how to take precautions to avoid being accused of any kinds of offenses. The government should collaborate with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other private groups to mobilize, sensitize and educate the communities on the effects of xenophobic attacks and need to avoid being accused of misdeed, and the offenders or perpetrators' penalty should be proportionate or commensurate with the gravity/seriousness of the offense committed. For instance, anybody who kills in the country, since nobody is above the law, should be put to death.

INTRODUCTION

Recently, South Africa's economic development was the second rated best economy in the whole of Africa. Presently, most of the African countries have been developing different strategies that could aid the improvement of their socioeconomic growth and development. Precisely, some of these African countries include Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria. For example, Nigeria, the giant of Africa and one of the biggest countries in Africa, was currently rated as the best economy in Africa (Artadi and Sala-i-Martin 2003; Okeahalam and Akinboade 2003). It should be noted at this point that it is not the fact that Nigeria could do better than other African countries but the fact remains that Nigeria has learnt a lot of lessons from repeated mistakes of xenophobic attacks on foreigners (Wankah 2009).

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With these, Nigerians were able to improve on their weaknesses. Several African countries have different internal challenges pertaining to their economic development. Some of these prevailing challenges include poor foreign investment policies, unfriendly government policies and political instability as well as bad leadership. In fact, in Nigeria, one of the predominant challenges that the country is facing at this moment is fluctuated or interrupted power supply (Wankah 2009). The term "xenophobic" is an evil attack. It should be seen as a demonic, satanic, inhuman and devilish impromptu mindset spontaneously developed among Black African people with the push to attack their fellow innocent people who have not done any harm to them in their countries. The issue of xenophobic attacks should not be seen as something new in African countries. Some countries like Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Ghana have in the past experienced the effects of xenophobic attacks (Osuntokun 2008; Gwaradzimba and Shumba 2010; Monkhe 2012). In Zimbabwe, the incumbent president, Robert Mugabe told all the White men who have invested hugely in agricultural sector to leave or go back to their countries. Hence, this adversely affected the economic growth and

development of Zimbabwe and led to the current Zimbabwe's economic backwardness. Undeniably, Ghana and Nigeria used xenophobic, chauvinistic, prejudiced and discriminatory attitudes to attack each other. Their intension then was to send foreigners residing in their countries to go back their countries of origin. Historically, Ghana was one of the first African countries to raise xenophobic attacks against Nigerians residing in Ghana in 1972 (Monkhe 2012; Osiki 2015). The aim then was to send them back to their country of origin. The Ghanaian believed then that Nigerians residing in Ghana were numerous and as a result, their presence in Ghana made a lot of Ghanaian citizens jobless or unemployed. In fact, this impromptu repatriation of many Nigerians back to their country unconsciously made Ghana experience poor economic state of affairs. In retaliation to the Ghanaian government's action, the Federal Government of Nigeria ordered all Ghanaians to leave the country in 1983 and 1984 (Aluko 1985; Bakewell 2008; Heaton 2014; Aremu and Ajayi 2014). This gave birth to the slogan '*Ghana must go.*' Up till today in Nigeria, the brand of bags used by Ghanaians to pack their goods is called '*Ghana must go.*' This indicates the past experiences of xenophobic attacks in both countries. It must be mentioned at this juncture that the states of economic affairs of both countries were adversely affected. It must also be remembered to undoubtedly mention that as the period that Nigeria and Ghana were experiencing these evil or negative attacks, South African economic development was at peak level because the market value or exchange rate for the Rand was appreciating or stronger than Naira or Cedes (Perouse de Montclos 2005). In 1972, the expulsion of Indian and Pakistani citizens by the then Ugandan military despot, Gen Idi Amin, brought about severe economic hardships and international disrepute (Kasozi 1994). From the aforementioned effects of xenophobic attacks on the innocent foreign nationals, this study will attempt to expose all South African citizens including the government and policymakers to the dangers that xenophobic attacks will cause on the economic development of South Africa.

Problem Statement

Incontrovertibly and indubitably, South Africa as one of the African countries is beset by a

group of xenophobic attacks making the country one of the most dangerous countries in the world to live in. Hence, many people and foreign business owners are usually attacked during xenophobic periods. At these hazardous and perilous moments in South Africa, the xenophobic attacks have inevitably caused a lot of fears and worries, negative feelings in the minds of people living within and outside the country. In fact, pathetically and emotionally, it has drastically discouraged many foreign investors to come to South Africa. This has put the economic development and the country itself in a state of perplexity, bewilderment and puzzlement. Despite the fact that the country has vibrant, brilliant and strong policies and a framework to handle criminal offences or perpetrators of various attacks so that they may change the negative mindset of these people, this has not been effectively interpreted or transformed to reduce xenophobic attacks in South Africa. It is therefore pertinent to assess the pitfalls or effects of xenophobic attacks on South Africa's economic state of affairs. This will possibly enable the government and policymakers in laying bare the possible operational gaps that will assist in policy reorientation and policy adjustments in the country. In fact, this study will also inform the government to give proper understanding and enlightenment to its citizens and finally expose the dangers or adverse effects of xenophobic attacks on the economic development of South Africa to its citizens.

Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to assess the effects of xenophobic attacks on the economic development of South Africa.

Research Question

The research question being addressed is:
What are the effects of xenophobic attacks on the economic development of South Africa?

METHODOLOGY

This paper used a systematic review of literature from journals, books, conference reports, dissertations and Internet sources. Also, the researcher's intuitive experience and knowledge in Business Management and Public Adminis-

tration discourses on issues pertaining to the effects of xenophobic attacks on the economic development of South Africa were used.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Pertinent Needs for Preventing Xenophobic Attacks in South Africa

Needs to Protects the South Africans and South Africa's Integrity

The prevention of xenophobic attacks in African countries particularly in South Africa, would give the country a remarkable and astonishing good reputation and respect to the South African citizens (Kline 2004; Baker and Lyman 2008; Hoag 2009).

Needs to Protect the Lives and Properties of Everyone Residing in South Africa

It is very important to note that if everyone were to join hands, work under a unified umbrella, avoid racism or discrimination, live with each other in love peace and harmony and always embark on dialogues or debates on any issues that could lead to xenophobic attacks, there would be no demonic or satanic spirit of xenophobic attacks in South Africa and as a result, this would boost the economic growth and development of this country (MacDonald 2007; Laidlaw 2011). Hence, lives and properties of both the South African citizens and all foreign nationals will be protected.

Needs for International Recognition

Interestingly and importantly, it is observed and believed throughout the world that no country would associate with any country or countries where there are xenophobic attacks. This is basically against the international laws (Ratner 2003; Wiegandt 1996; Ilesanmi 2008 2011). This is one of the reasons why the researcher of this paper is contemplating that if the South African government is able to educate her citizens effectively and efficiently, the country would continue to be internationally friendly and recognized.

Needs for International Cooperation

Just as the aforesaid that for a country to be internationally recognized, there should not be any form of violence such as xenophobic at-

tacks. All countries across the globe would like to operate businesses and invest in peaceful country or countries where their investments would be saved and secured for a long time. It should be noted also that if a country is internationally recognized as peaceful, friendliness would be generated, investment opportunities would be discussed and finally, international cooperation would emerged (Mathee et al. 2015).

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Fear in Local Citizens

Indisputably, the South African state of xenophobic attacks is disturbing and worrying the minds and feelings of many people not only those residing in South Africa or outside the country but also the citizens themselves (Mistry 2004). As it is often seen and regularly observed that the South Africans themselves were largely living in perpetual fear as they feel they could be the next victims of attacks by the foreign nationals or fear that the foreign nationals could retaliate terribly, and have massive support from the other powerful nations. If care is not taken, it might lead to war among nations.

Fear amongst the Foreign Investors Residing in South Africa

Evidently, according to Oyelana (2015), most of the literature revealed that the majority of foreign investors had lost confidence in the police and the judiciary that fail to protect them. In this regard, the majority of foreign investors lack community security. Consequently, this increases foreign investors' exposure to abuse, crime and extortion by individuals and community leaders as revealed by Charman et al. (2012). Foreign investors were therefore, forced to rely almost completely on the authorized institutes of justice and they are hindered by lack of trust and faith in the police and courts aggravated by language barriers. Charman et al. (2012) revealed that the police and prosecutor statements usually focus specifically on the foreign investors. Regarding the lengthy justice process and foreign investors' victims of crime, it is often seen that the prosecutors and police also faced difficulties in communicating and keeping them engaged during court processes. Hence, according to Charman and Piper (2012), the study re-

vealed that various forms of violence feared by the foreign investors during xenophobic attacks, following the categories used by the South African Police Service (SAPS) include,

- ♦ Murder
- ♦ Attempted murder
- ♦ Robbery
- ♦ Theft
- ♦ Assault

Investments

In reality, every country is aware of how powerful investments are to their economies. Candidly speaking, any country that does not consider foreign investments as one or part of her economic growth and development priority, is definitely digging for her economic collapse. Observably, some African countries such as Nigeria, Ghana and Zimbabwe have previously implemented xenophobic attacks and this definitely reflected on their economies after sending foreign investors back to their countries. In fact, they regretted their actions and undiplomatic decisions taken against the foreign nationals residing in their countries. In addition, the execution of impromptu xenophobic attacks by Nigerians, Ghanians and Zimbabweans against foreign investors residing in their countries have, however, largely dissuaded many people who may wish to invest in their economies (Atsenuwa and Adepoju 2010; Posen and Ross 2012). This incontrovertibly implies that xenophobic attacks negatively affect the countries' direct foreign investments. Since xenophobic attacks victimize those who fall casualties of the observable fact, this devastatingly, tremendously and overwhelmingly prompts the need to question the government in the areas of its country's policy and its legislative environment for possible gaps, and also assess how the victims of xenophobic attacks are compensated or treated (Crisp 2010; Laubeova 2012). This is because every citizen, whether South African citizens or foreign nationals, in fact, irrespective of any countries one comes from has inalienable rights to be protected and live successively in such a country, provided that one has legal rights to stay either temporarily or permanently. More importantly and constitutionally, no one should take laws in his/her hands to send anybody back to his/her country unless such person/s has/have been tried and found guilty by a compe-

tent law court of such country for committing an offense that warrants the verdict of the court. South Africa being one the developing countries in Africa, the rights of all citizens are gallantly and courteously well established in the country's bill of rights and supreme constitution (Republic of South Africa 1996). However, recent evidence suggests that the South Africa economic situation or state of affairs is uneven or fluctuating due to inhospitable government policy to safeguard foreign investments and as a result, this has hindered huge investment opportunities. There is a need to encourage other investors from different countries such as Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Somalia, Pakistan, Nigeria and Ghana among others to invest in her economy.

Economic Development of South Africa

The observably fact remains that those perpetrators who actually participate in all these forms of xenophobic attacks have undoubtedly contributed to the downfall of economic development of South Africa. Devastatingly in South Africa, as soon as these perpetrators are arrested and sentenced to jail, they are often not allowed to spend many years in jail and after a short while, they are often released and walk freely in the country. This is a pointer to the fact that South African laws are very lenient on these perpetrators and in fact there is a need for the South African government to review her judicial system and amend some laws as this could be one of the best ways or strategies to improve and strengthen her economic development. Seemingly, either the system is too compassionate, sympathetic, empathetic and merciful to the offenders, uncaring and unsympathetic to follow all the professionally, lawfully and legitimately due process to ensure fairness to the crime victims, and do justice to the culprits of the crime, or is disregarding the rights of the offenders (De Villiers 2006; Jaishankar 2014).

Prominently, recent evidence suggests that the South African citizens alone cannot do all by themselves to enhance their current economic state of affairs. Apparently, the fact remained that for any country to improve or maintain success or progress economically in this current world economic dispensation, there is substantial or considerable need to be in good accord with other nationals residing in the country, invest in one another's economy and welcome one

another into their environment with passion, peace, tranquility and learn how to live with different people in harmony.

Poverty

In fact, it is very important to emphasize at this juncture that any country executing xenophobic attacks would definitely have a propensity to experience poverty. It is very sad to state clearly that many African countries do not have deep knowledge or clear understanding of what poverty means. In fact, some African leaders believe that embarking on xenophobic attacks would solve their identified economic problems, make them self-reliant and have full control of all their economic resources (Kasochi 2013). The researcher of this paper is therefore, emphasizing that 'a tree cannot make forest' hence, for a forest to be called a forest, then, there should be many different trees, not just many different trees but many different trees growing and developing within the forest. This is to say that a country cannot grow or develop just on her own or local citizens alone but must be able and willing to accommodate other foreign opportunities such as foreign investments, new technologies from abroad, new business idea generations, good vision and mission et cetera. It should also be noted that different foreign investments would bring about new and brilliant business ideas, which would invariably bring about empowerment to South African natives and as a result, there would be many employment opportunities to accommodate huge numbers of local citizens who are unemployed.

Provision of Adequate Security and Compensation

It is often observed that after several xenophobic attacks against foreign investors by the local citizens, majority of victims of crime are often left alone with a lot of damages done to them, and no compensation is given to them by the government for the losses or damages either on their properties or injuries sustained. This shows that they have to start all over from the beginning. Amazingly, as soon as some of these culprits are tried and sentenced to jail by the law court, the sufferers of crime are often not compensated by government. The question here now is—where should the victims of this crime

goes to or starts from? Should they go back to their countries or remain in the xenophobic prone countries where their lives and properties are not saved and properly secured? It is on this note that the researcher of this paper is advocating for peace among African countries and then, urging governments to provide adequate security, sustainable living conditions for all victims of xenophobic attacks and most importantly, compensate all victims of xenophobic attacks in South Africa.

CONCLUSION

This study made a number of efforts to elucidate and illuminate in detail the literature review and provides necessary information in determining the research problems. Therefore, this study further made an immense effort to contribute to the area of the effects of xenophobic attacks, fear of crime among foreign business owners living within and outside South Africa and gave findings and recommendations. The literature review presented various forms of xenophobic attacks, crimes feared by the foreign business owners, which include murder, attempted murder, robbery, theft and assault among others. The main findings of this study showed that injustice, nepotism, inadequate security, flexible laws, police's nonchalant attitudes towards various destruction of foreign businesses, disrespect for humanity as well as some unfair court decisions against foreign investors in South Africa have been clearly identified and recommendations or suggestions made to minimize effects of xenophobic attacks and fear of crime among foreign investors so that they can contribute positively and immensely to the economic growth of South African.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To eliminate or reduce all forms of xenophobic attacks, the fear of crime and encourage more foreign investors to boost the economics of South Africa, the following recommendations are hereby made.

Cooperation from South African Citizens

All the foreign investors should be highly embraced by all South African citizens in order to remove the feelings and fear of being violent-

ly attacked by the citizens. They should see them as members of the same family born under the same roof, playing similar or different games in an environment with the motive of making profits and to improve the economic standards of the country and always eat together from the same plate. All South African citizens should see foreign investors as business partners who have come to their country to support and improve their socioeconomic growth and development. They should not think of foreign investors as job takers but partners in progress. They should be protected, respected, honored and be willing to gain more knowledge and skills from them.

Education by Government

The government of South Africa should try to educate her citizens on various losses that the country experienced, suffered or encountered at any period of xenophobic attacks. The government should always inform them that they should not take laws into their hands, they should let the government embark on dialogues with the foreign investors, embrace the foreign nationals and live in peace and harmony so that they can get the best from them such as the new positive business ideas brought to South Africa from their countries of origin to assist in developing the nation in order to reduce poverty level and expand the rate of employment opportunities in the economy. The government should also create awareness for her citizens by informing them about the purpose of issuing foreigners visas to come to South Africa to operate, establish businesses and invest hugely into the economy. The government should inform her citizens about the positive effects of improved economic contributions of foreign investors operating and residing in their territory. Citizens should be informed that there should not be any forms of xenophobic attacks against foreign investors in South Africa and that whoever kills shall be put to death. In fact, it should be hammered to them that one of effects of xenophobic attacks against foreign investors is National Economic Crumbling and Collapse (NECC). Adequate security that would facilitate a sustainable living condition and protect the lives and properties of the foreign investors in South Africa should be provided.

Campaign by Community Members or Societies

In addition to the government's immense support and ensuring adequate security in South Africa, all the community members should also contribute by saying 'no' to xenophobic attacks in South Africa. In fact, the government should collaborate with NGOs and other private groups to mobilize, sensitize and educate communities on the effects of xenophobic attacks and the need to avoid being accused of misdeed. Societies should also be ready at any point in time to take charge or responsibility to assist and protect their neighbors. By so doing, the feelings of xenophobic attacks, discrimination against each other, fears and worries would be eradicated and then economic sustainability would be ascertained. The researcher of this paper will like to emphasize that if all the abovementioned facts are strictly adhered to, there is positive hope for South Africa's economic development to pick up again because there will be a lot of positive business ideas, employment opportunities and more income would be generated thereby reducing the poverty level in the country.

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