



BLACK CONCIIOUSNESS: THE ONLY HOPE FOR BLACK PEOPLE

The domination and control of Black people by the white tribe has a long history. During the era of slavery, a few European slave traders would go into an area in any part of the Afrikan continent. They knew that they were outnumbered and could not successfully carry out their evil mission on their own.



Their plans would have failed dismally had they attempted to hunt down Afrikans and turned them into slaves on their own, without the help of some indigenous people. What did they do? They approached some local traditional leaders and convinced some of them to help them get the much-treasured commodity at the time – humans who would later be traded as slaves.

In their pursuit of wealth, some Afrikan merchants sold their fellow Afrikans to European slave traders.

During the era of colonialism, it was some of the sections of the colonised community who collaborated with the colonisers to make colonialism a success. Yes, the colonisers mainly used the Bible and the gun as potent tools to colonise indigenous people and their land, but colonialism would not have succeeded without the cooperation of some members of the section of the colonised.

The coloniser waged a psychological warfare on the indigenous people. The first step was to make the indigenous people hate everything about themselves. The Afrikans were made to hate their traditional belief systems. They were considered to be uncivilised and in order to embrace civilisation, the first step was to be converted into Christianity. After religious conversion, the so-called converted Afrikans would be able to access the education that was offered by the European settlers.

Little wonder that when the South African Native National Congress, which later became the African National Congress (ANC), was formed on January 8 in 1912 in Bloemfontein, the educated Afrikans and some chiefs believed that because of their new status acquired through educational qualifications, they were entitled to vote, a right only reserved for whites at the time.

The infiltration by the white tribe in Black society and the cooption of Afrikan leaders is well documented. For instance, when the white liberals realised that the ANC had been radicalised by

Afrikanists such as Mangaliso Sobukwe, Muzi-wakhe Lembede, Muneri Madzunya and many other Afrikanists within the organisation and that the popular and dominant call was for the return of the land from European settlers to the Afrikan people, they infiltrated the engine of the ANC and smuggled the Freedom Charter which had a clause that the land shall belong to all who live in it. This was a further dilution of our collective struggle against colonialism and the return of the land. The ANC was side-tracked in the struggle for the return of the land and began to focus on democracy and equal rights for all. It is no surprise that after almost three decades in power, the land is still in the hands of the white minority who stole it through colonial conquest.



The architects of apartheid also used this tactic of dividing the Afrikans by selectively coopting some of the traditional leaders to make them part of the apartheid machinery. In the Transkei they found Kaizer Matanzima to be a useful puppet to build the Bantustan system that denied Black South Africans citizenship in the country of their birth. In Bophuthatswana they coopted Lucas Mangope while in Venda they found Patrick Mphahlele to be a useful stooge to suppress the aspirations of the people to be free.

Throughout history, when the white man wanted to do something evil to Afrikans, he would find a useful Afrikan idiot to carry out the evil mission on his behalf.

When the boers realised that apartheid was becoming too expensive to maintain, and that they wanted to play rugby internationally, they decided that they would give some semblance of political power to a Black majority government. For the record, the white tribe retained economic power. And because real power is economic, the new democratic government was to become a glorified matshingilane over white power and white wealth.

Today, the white man is not at the helm of the democratic State, but his pungent smell is all over the State and its institutions. Like the Afrikan merchants who sold their brothers to European slave traders, the political elite is working with the white tribe to weaken the State in order to sustain the neocolonial agenda. The elite has been coopted and has become part of the ruling class to the detriment of the poor and the working class. Members of the Black political aristocracy run parastatals to the ground and feast on their carcasses through privatisation.

Only last week, doctors, the majority of whom are Black, were calling on the government to stop the implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI). NHI is a program to ensure universal health coverage. It seeks to enable all South Africans to be able access medical health care without regard to economic status.

The doctors are blaming the government for the poor state of health. They argue that conditions are not ripe for the implementation of NHI. Twisted! They, the doctors and other health professionals, are responsible for the state of health in the country. If they are not happy with what is happening in the public health care system, they should change it. But no. They sit back and complain that the government should leave the private healthcare system alone because public healthcare has all but collapsed.

What the Black middle class and the Black professionals may not realise is that they are pawns

in the racist ideology that Black people cannot govern. White people do not have to say anything against progressive laws of the government. They are well represented by the coopted sections of the middle class.

It is the same situation in different sectors. In education for instance, Black professionals complain about the poor state of education and take their children to private schools, which are run by whites. The question is: why can't Black teachers just teach their children?



By surrendering their children to white private schools, Black teachers are making a horrible admission. Black teachers are incapable of teaching. But this is simply untrue. Black teachers may not teach during school hours, but they offer quality teaching after school and during weekends as private tutors to learners who are willing to pay per hour for each lesson.

There are police officers who have private security companies. During office hours, they go around seeking contracts to estates and private households that require security. When the crime rate is high, the need for private security also increases. There is no incentive on the part of many police officers to stop crime.

There is an obvious and deliberate plan to weaken the State. There are people whose business models are based on the failure of the State to dis-

charge its responsibilities. If politicians award themselves and their friends contracts to supply water using water tanks, it goes without saying that residents would no longer be getting water from the taps.

Equally, if the ruling elite is benefiting from selling diesel to power stations, then the burning of coal to generate electricity will be demonised completely.

Sections of the Black middle class have smuggled themselves into the white community. They use their schools. They use their hospitals. They use their security companies for protection. They conspire to the weakening of the State. It is time that they realise that this is not in their long-term interest. The stability of a country is a function of addressing the aspirations of the majority, not just a select few.

A politically conscious Black middle class can and should strengthen the State and use it as a tool to advance the interests of the majority. The Black middle class should not be satisfied with the phenomenon of "I am the only nigger around".

Black Consciousness is the only philosophy that can empower Black people to develop self-love and pride in being Black. BC empowers Black people to explode the myth of Black inferiority. Many of the problems that bedevil our country are caused by the absence of BC in those in power. That is why it is so easy for some Black leaders to promote anti-Black agendas.

HOW WOULD AN AZAPO GOVERNMENT EXPLOIT BRICS MEMBERSHIP?

There is a lot of talk about BRICS which is expected to hold its summit in the country this month. Much of the focus on BRICS has been on the possible arrest of Russian President Vladimir Putin if he were to set his foot on South African soil. The announcement that Putin would no longer attend the summit was well received by those who were concerned that the country had been

placed in a difficult position. It was clear that the South African government did not want to arrest Putin. But failing to arrest him would have meant that the country was undermining the rule of law.

But the BRICS is much more than about the controversy around Putin. How would an AZAPO government use the membership of BRICS to advance the interests of the country and its people?

At a philosophical level, the creation of BRICS presents the world with a new order, ending the domination of international affairs by the United States of America. Members of BRICS may be classified as developing economies, but they have huge populations. If they were to agree on using a common currency to trade between themselves, the US dollar would almost collapse.



BRICS has a huge potential to create economic opportunities for its members including South Africa. As AZAPO, we would use the membership of BRICS to create markets for locally produced goods.

In the short term, an AZAPO government would mobilise all farmers, especially small farmers operating in communal lands to produce agricultural products that are in high demand in the bigger markets of BRICS especially China and India. Between these two countries, they have a population of almost three billion people. It goes without saying that if South African farmers can be assist-

ed to export their produce to these markets, there would be a huge growth in the agricultural sector.

Instead of giving people money in the form of grants of R350 a month, an AZAPO government would use the money to support Black farmers to become commercially viable. But in addition, assist them to access the BRICS markets.

In the long term, an AZAPO government will embark on a massive industrialisation program to help different industries to benefit from the raw minerals that the country is currently shipping to the other countries. Instead of just improving the shipping models of commodities to the ports, an AZAPO government would create a conducive environment for the companies to process the raw commodities into final products. The country would then export these into the BRICS countries. Currently, our country is facing arguably the highest unemployment rate in the world because the government has failed to disrupt and destroy the colonial architecture of the economy.

BRICS offer our country a huge opportunity to give meaning to the concept of freedom. However, we lack visionary leadership at the top.