



African Diaspora Forum

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ADF STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 AND BEYOND

The ADF continues to witness and take note of disturbing events and statements that are contrary to the Spirit of Ubuntu, the spirit of brotherhood and social cohesion and integration. The ADF continues to campaign for the recognition of migration as a fundamental human right where people must not be victimised for migrating as a result of any factor other than fleeing prosecution for crimes committed in society that are not political.

Our view is that politicians account to the electorate and must answer for their term in office and not shift blame for their failures to perform, but in many cases these politicians lead citizens to xenophobic tendencies as they bring about migration issues as a cause to poor service delivery, this in our view is untenable. The net figure of migration calculated as the balance between inward and outward migration in any country will give interesting statistics any figures.

Net migration effect study

In our bid to balance these states the ADF seeks undertake a research of the total number of South Africans who are living in other countries versus those that are none South Africans who have moved into South Africa, this will then be contrasted with the number of migrants in South Africa who create employment for one or two and more South Africans in contrast to migrants who are formally employed by South African companies in place of South Africans, occupying positions that South Africans would take, not taking critical skills that



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South Africa struggles to fill and those jobs South Africans are will to take, that would remain unfilled if migrants would not take them.

The net effect of this study is not just to consider the volumes of migrants in South Africa but the net contribution to the GDP which would otherwise would not have happened had it not been for the migrant. The assertion is that migration mainly ends up bringing a positive net effect to any receiving country than the assumed position of negativity which is always claimed without supporting figures or a proper study but as a means of vote buying by politicians. The net effect must therefore consider the overall effect of a migrant in a country in terms of product consumption, stimulating the market due to household spending, country output, public services strain, consumption of private and public services by a migrant, social services, contribution by the migrants to social services versus consumption if it indeed leads to any strain or if it cancels out or does not make much of a difference whether the migrants are in the country or not.

The ADF seeks to engage in programmes to help reverse migration so that it is evenly distributed amongst African countries as well through positive and accountable governance and economic development in the parent or country of origin of each migrant. Without being thrown into the political fray ADF seeks to facilitate business development in countries of origin of migrants.

ADF Projects to ameliorate the suffering of migrants 2019 and Beyond

- 1. Migrants Schooling programme**
- 2. Migrants police and crime prevention initiative**
- 3. Migrants Women's Shelter and Skills programme**
- 4. Schools transfer social cohesion and integration programme**
- 5. Migrant repatriation, skilling and business start-up programme**



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6. Africa week Social cohesion programme
 7. Diaspora Business and Projects Initiative for parent countries
 8. The ADF Law Clinic and legal services
 9. The ADF Banking, Pensions and Insurance Initiative
 10. The Business Support, Mentoring and growth initiative
 11. Research and Development Initiative
 12. Social Cohesion and Integration Initiative
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Migrants Schooling Programme

With the failure of many migrant children to write matric due to lack of birth certificates and Identity Documents and the stance taken by the South African government not to issue birth certificates to children born to migrants, it is clear education will become evasive to migrant children. The 3 to 6 programme run by Sacred Hearts where migrant children are being helped with bare minimum education between 3pm and 6pm is a classic case of how migrant children are suffering without an education.

The 3 to 6 project runs only for primary children and does not and cannot cater for secondary children who must ultimately write their matric or get their school leaving certificate. This cannot be easily helped because of the need of Identity Documents of birth certificates to register to write matric.

To deal with this programme the ADF has set a board which will be run by Academics and leaders in the education industry to formulate policy, helped with the funding drives as many of these children have parents who do not even have enough to send them to school. This Board which is called the **South African Migrants Board of Education (SAMBE)** will ensure that issues of policy on examinations, (Examining Boards), subjects' policy which will include major languages offered in many African countries like Swahili, French, English are taught at these schools. The idea is to have at least within South Africa a school for migrants in major



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cities or areas with dense populations of migrants and to ultimately come up with boarding facilities for these children to help deal with transport and accommodation issues.

In the meantime, the schools will operate wherever it is feasible starting from January 2019 having identified 80 Albert Street where the Methodist run a Cambridge School, Churches in Tembisa that have made their premises available for schooling programmes.

Children need to be in schools not roaming the streets, and this means that they need to go to school during normal school times so that they are able to play with their friends in their communities who are native South Africans without feeling like they are treated differently.

Teachers will be recruited from the many migrant teachers within South Africa and who are unemployed including native South Africans who can teach because there is no policy of segregation. SAMBRE will consider a proper sustainable funding model of this initiative including ensuring that those parents who can pay school fees, but the most important principle is to ensure every migrant child is allowed an opportunity to go to school. SAMBRE will engage the South African government along the way to pave way for an understanding on this basis and ensure that the South African government supports the programme.

Migrants Police and Crime Prevention Initiative

This is a daring programme which will work closely with the SAPS and the NPA. This programme seeks to ensure that migrants are not stigmatised with crime but ensuring responsible citizenship even when they are not formally recognised citizens. The Crime prevention programme will seek to work with the SAPS in crime detention, prevention, tracing, investigations and including in the home countries. The idea will also see the ADF engaging with the Minister of Police to ensure that people of foreign origin are recruited into SAPS particularly in areas where there is a dense population of a particular nationality like Hillbrow with many Nigerians and Zimbabweans, Mayfair with the Somali and Ethiopian



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communities. The purpose for this kind of targeted policing will be to ensure that investigations are simple, and the foreign nationals can easily report crime to these people who will ordinarily identify with them and who will commit to eradicate crime in their communities by ensuring that criminals are removed from these areas through coordinated efforts of the police and the community.

This programme will benefit from the trust by the community members and the investigation operations will be more successful considering that many criminals are known in the communities where they live but people are often afraid to talk because they fear these criminals especially in cases where the criminals are not successfully prosecuted. The Initiative will work closely with prosecutors (NPA) to ensure successful prosecutions of criminals whether they be natives or foreign nationals. This will be coordinated to take investigations into parent countries should the need arise.

Migrants Women's Shelter and Skills programme

Women and Children are the most affected by migration in that in many cases they lose marriages or cannot trace their husbands when they arrive in the host country. Women that are abused and end up leaving their marriages or are left by their husbands find themselves with no earning capacity and yet having to fend for the children as men vanish into the thin air and start new lives somewhere. These women cannot trace these men to successfully claim maintenance and, in some cases, because the children have no birth certificates and they also do not have valid passports or Identity documents they cannot even think of approaching the courts for maintenance which would also need bank details where the maintenance money should be paid in.

The whole process is so complicated and not worth the effort for them because it just appears defeated before inception. The many Shelters in the country provide for only native



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women which could have to do with the support or donor base which based on the DSD which might need to see the South African Identity numbers of victims to qualify for assistance and government grants. This women's shelter that will be directly under the ADF will provide shelter and training, skilling the women in knitting, cookery, boiler making courses or artisan skills which allow the women to be self-sustainable within South Africa or back in their countries of origin.

Armed with these skills and the training which will include business management skills, the women can start their own business projects within South Africa or back in their home countries. Working with the host of banking facilities that are identified in the Banking and financing initiative, they will be able to be loaned money, mentored into the business initiative of their choice and expertise. The loaning and financing will be based on capacity and full training skills in the chosen business area and no one will get financing without the appropriate expertise and business skills and support mechanisms set up to ensure that they have the support they require.

The support will be managed by experts from the Business Support, mentoring and growth unit which will be able to set up structures and functionality across Africa wherever the repatriated migrants will be. This unit will ensure or work closely with the financing unit to ensure that finances loaned out are fully recovered and function as a revolving fund to help finance similar business start-up projects across Africa and this will also spell out the amount of return that can be contributed by these businesses once they have fully stabilised working under the guidance of the business experts in the business support unit.

The purpose off the shelter will be to ensure the security, welfare and development of women and the children, the most vulnerable in a foreign land where they have very little form of security but instead where they have been heavily exploited due to their vulnerability. Many young women are thrown into marriages of convenience to run away from the harsh realities of exploitation, starvation, lack of shelter so they can at least be



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housed and fed even if it is not the ideal situation and this also increases chances of HIV/AIDS because they are left with little to no choices but jump for anything because they are trying to escape starvation and exploitation by every other men out there. In many cases they fall prey to those parading as helpers who only use and dump them or imprison them.

When they report their matters to police stations in a bid to get some form of assistance they further get sexually and morally exploited and abused. When they run to Church, they also find the trap waiting for them hence the need to equip and skill them to give them back the power not to be solely reliant on anyone, so they can make decisions without the pressure of necessity and desperation.



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Schools Exchange social cohesion and integration programme

This programme is centred on the spirit of Africanacity and building a purely African person. A person who understands the full plight of Africa as a continent and is alert to realities of other people. This will help shape our view and particularly the view of the younger generation so as to eradicate selfishness but increase the concept of accountability and good governance across Africa. Africa will become better developed if every African stops condoning the evil practices of governments in Africa in the name of sovereignty or that it is their country, and they must fix their problems on their own.

To better deal with this, this programme will see High school children and Tertiary students going on exchange programmes into various countries in Africa, developing, underdeveloped and developed if we have any in that class. This will help them appreciate other people's realities, ensure that they are not xenophobic but positively responsive to the plight of any other person and contribute positively to their welfare and development than just to blame. This will ensure that the concept of them and us is removed but infuse the concept of solidarity from a young age.

This programme will be closely linked to government departments of education and not only private schools, and the endeavour will be to involve every African country and at least by the time a student finishes their tertiary education they must at least have been to an African country apart from their country to appreciate its history, culture, economy, political environment, governance issues, education, level of development, people, infrastructural development and so forth. This will facilitate taking the good and desiring the better and discarding the bad practices. There is a lot to learn from countries whether they be less developed, more developed or at par with their own country, in terms of development, culture, relations, politics, and all other areas already identified above.



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Migrant repatriation, skilling and business start-up programme

The all-inclusive training and repatriation programme is an interesting concept which will see those in the diaspora taking back the skills they have acquired or developed back to their countries. It is not easy to go back to a country one left some ten or twenty years back. It is difficult to start a life because of the business environment and normally the lack of support by government and even the jealous or scepticism shown by others who might be envious of the returnee. Others who remained will have done very well and might be ridiculing them for ever leaving in the first place.

This space will create a support system to ensure that when the returnee gets back home, they will have the support system through government relations established by this unit. This unit will identify those migrants who are willing or would easily want to go back to their countries and help them with the relevant skills through a skilling project for setting up and running such ventures. Once the skilling is done then financing will be sourced through the Financing unit which will work closely with the business support unit to ensure that for a period of five to ten years that investment is nurtured and grown.

The success means the money lent will be recouped and a tax of some sort will be levied as a means of growing this purse for future generations and other beneficiaries. The project will skill at its initiative and expense considering that they may not even have the capacity to afford the training, the overall net effect will be much greater, and the capital initiative might be huge at the beginning, but the gains will be ridiculously greater if the support system or mentoring and monitoring is diligently done.

This unit will be established under a training unit that will research and ensure tailor made training for various countries depending on the specific needs required by the country of origin including the potential to expand. The training can never be regarded as a one size fits



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all but must be properly and careful thought and packaged to ensure that once back in the country the former migrant will immediately start being productive. This unit must work very closely with the business support unit which will have physical presence in these various African countries and the program will be able to foster development in the African continent and ensure that migration is not just outward from these countries but rather that there is inward migration attracted to these countries and ensuring a balance in migration trends within Africa. This will facilitate equal dependence and a mutual understanding amongst the African States.

Africa week Social cohesion programme

ADF has always done the Africa day and week celebrations in Johannesburg. The African culture, plight, opportunities and relations are fostered through such programs which will help grow social cohesion and integration programs. The Africa week is important in sharing experiences, showcasing business opportunities, it must ultimately be an African exhibition where businesses and exhibitors must flock to, to showcase their work and businesses and products and cultural practices.

The spirit of Africanness must be rebirthed here, the beauty and splendour of Africa displayed and the departments and ministries of tourism, sports and culture and business from across Africa must be part of this initiative to attract tourism, exchange African cultural practices and attract the much needed local or African investments which are found within Africa rather than depending mainly on the west when there is multi-millionaires in Africa including the brightest brains but being driven out of their countries and ultimately continent which is often hostile to Africans but more amenable to the West or Asians, but persecuting their own.



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The Africa week will be coordinated to ensure a serious exhibition and with the view of rotating it across African cities within the next five years maximum so that each country can have a full touch and experience of exhibiting its everything and prowess in resources and need. The idea of the African week or Africa day is to celebrate Africa and it is one holiday that Africa has not put much emphasis on and seems to care less for, yet it should be the most important and one that creates a platform for an African identity and ingenuity. To increase popularity, it might first be held simultaneously in cities across South Africa or at least involve all African embassies and invite non-African embassies to come and witness first hand Africa brought together in one place.

In South Africa it must serve as a means to educate the native South Africans that migrants only want to eke a living and do not seek to disadvantage or prejudice locals. They do not seek this life or living even at the expense of locals but rather to develop and help each other living side-by-side as progressive Africans.

Diaspora Business and Projects Initiative for parent countries

This initiative will work very closely with the training and skilling unit, the mentoring and support unit. It is the unit that will identify projects that suit each country in terms of resources, it will investigate challenges in each country, perform a SWOT analysis, write out such template projects from which different projects can be derived from a hypothetical and practical perspective. This unit will also work hand in glove with the research unit. The unit will also look at the propensity to initiate new programmes and use models like the Israel water treatment in view of the water crisis in Cape Town, the full exploitation of natural resources in Africa, the feasibility and implementation or full extraction and processes industries in natural resources in Africa through African partnerships not reliance on non-African countries that always corrupt and end up looting African resources unprocessed and sell them back to Africa a hundred times more expensive.



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This phenomenon of mineral extraction and exporting as raw materials is a double jeopardy kind of phenomenon where the minerals are taken for free and resold for a fortune which means it is taxing Africa for its resources many times more, its resources are its wealth which is taken for free. Africa needs these resources and it will be forced to buy them back and when doing so they are bought back at a fortune stripping off Africa of whatever remains of its wealth.

This unit will be run by business experts and African graduates strewn all over the world that have gathered much experience and expertise in business and those that have started from nothing or are great strategists and planners. The focus will be to invite every diasporan out of their country to ensure that they can invest in their country of origin and get their countries to welcome them and create a special investment package which attracts such investment at no fee knowing that the benefit is not in taxing the investment but in stimulating the economy, productivity and creating employment.

The purpose of the unit will be to facilitate business development using those in the diaspora to ensure that Africans in the Diaspora easily find their way back home and thereby curing the unnecessary killings born out of xenophobia which is often encouraged by politicians that are political bankrupt when it comes to ideas of developing and taking their countries forward or in terms of service delivery issues. This will be the investment engine and re-engineering of African business development and productivity to ensure that every African country is on the path to sustainable development and living for its people.

It is the duty of citizens of any country to develop it and not of political parties in government whose ideals are often myopic and tilted towards political dominance and ruling countries for ever with an inclination to personal aggrandisement and enrichment. The citizens must lead in accounting for their citizenship by holding to account themselves in



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terms of contribution and holding those accountable in office in terms of expenditure and facilitating development.

The ADF Law Clinic and legal services

The law governs all. The proper processing of legislation ensures development and sustainable countries or states. Countries legislate themselves into poverty through legislators who do not know what they are doing and citizens who do not understand their role in their countries or cities. The ADF will start a Law Clinic which will primarily serve to make legal services accessible to migrants who will always need legal help and the capacity of this unit will be to help develop a better Africa through legislation.

Migrants have a right to legal services and representation to ensure their fundamental rights are protected and often they do not have access to these services due to the life they are living where they cannot easily access banking services and Identity documents. The legal services will also recruit legal minds in South Africa that cannot practice for various reasons, further ensure that they can be redeployed in their own countries to help develop sustainable and forward leaning legal systems. The legal services will also be a spring board for an African Legal System that is meant to bring justice and accountability to all and equality before the law.

At the onset the Clinic will then be able to provide a service to all that need it and ensure that justice is dispensed fairly and equally to all. The Clinic will be directly under the ADF and will provide a basis for training African legal minds with a view to provide a functional and effective African Legal system that should be able to help deal with African crimes at the African Court which must be activated to try cross border and political crimes and offenses. The idea is to have a continent that scorns at and on all forms of crime including from public officials and more so from them.



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This unit will also look at the multiplicity of African legal systems and the ability to find a strong footing and coherence between the transplanted legal systems and customary law with a view to ensure that there is greater adherence to customary law not trivialism it to the preference of transplanted systems. The idea is to ensure coherence in laws applied in Africa rather than just sticking to laws of colonial masters even if there is no clear benefit to the people and the continent.

The ADF Banking, Pensions and Insurance Initiative

One of the biggest challenges that migrants have faced has been the ability to access financial services from banking, insurance and pension schemes. The idea is to help develop a service provider that will be borderless a transborder service provider or service providers who will be able to provide banking services and insurance service to a client in one country with benefits being accessed from wherever the person is. This will ensure that even if a person opens the account in their home country, but they deposit money or continue insurance products while in a foreign country including pension schemes. Ideally what this means is that one can contribute their insurance premiums, funeral policies, education policies, investment policies from whichever African country they are based using the currency of that country and the banks processing the products keeping them up to date and allowing debts to be paid without the physical movement of money through means that are not as safe and secure.

Ideally this means that families will not move as a result of difficulty in maintaining a family which is in another country and the benefits might even include children continuing school in home countries because tuition fees and upkeep becomes very simple. Countries have to accept an African product service provider of this nature and create enabling legislation that



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will ensure that such a service provider or services providers are in existence without having to be affected by restrictive laws and the laws should be permissive and remove the international banking fees which are unnecessarily prohibitive and have more of a negative than positive impact even on the banks themselves.

Such products must and will ensure that beneficiary cards are created to allow the access of money wherever the beneficiaries of the account holder happen to be. This will facilitate the ease of borrowing and servicing loans and ensure that building continues in home countries for those migrants that want to develop their homes.

Many migrants become far removed from their home countries because once absent in the body they can no longer be able to continue their projects because of the barriers created by borders and this is what discourages people to go back home because they are forced to take all planning and projects with them or simply abandon them. With this product they can still continue their insurance, pension, investment and banking uninterrupted.

Furthermore, the financing of projects will be made easily possible through these banking services where money can be loaned out to the migrants starting business in home country and ensure that there is local presence and schemes to also facilitate banking by such people with that lending bank to ensure ease of monitoring growth of business projects and repayment plans. The financing houses or banks will therefore be able to avoid running into easy losses because all financed people will be easily linked to their home countries and assessed properly to ensure commitment to the project and this will be handled through the Business support unit.

Cars can be ensured from home countries and even health services that must be paid for inter-country wise can be so paid through medical schemes linked to these banking facilities. This will increase access to financing and money for African people, with the guarantee of working with a reputable and well supervised financial institution. People ordinarily



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borrowing can easily borrow and use collateral or security from whichever country they are or where they have such security because it will be easy to activate those local branches to encumber the property within the jurisdiction.

The idea is to ensure that a person does not have to sell their property in their home country or any other country but can use it as collateral and maintain it rather than that you have a poverty stricken non-credit worthy person in one country and yet very credit worthy in another country.

The Business Support, Mentoring and growth initiative

One of the most important units in the development of Africa through investment and small business creation will be this unit. This unit will work closely with the financing institutions and serve as an extension but not to reap off the people but rather to ensure that money is properly invested and monitored to ensure that the return is realised and the purpose for the business support achieved, people gainful engaged, employment created, families sustained, the economy is being boosted and investment enhanced.

This unit will ensure that it provides business support to all those who will be sent back to their home countries, help them set up the business, and manage it for the first few years until the entrepreneurs are self-sustainable which includes fully understanding business functions like human resourcing, bookkeeping and accounting, business management, outsourcing, procurement, and the various business functions of the business unit. The experts will engage interns and graduates that will be deployed in these projects and support staff and they will work under these experts to ensure proper systems are put in place, records kept, auditing of financials and systems done, policies and procedures established.



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The Business Support unit will ensure that no investment must fail, it will manage the process working with the training, and it will research the projects and the kind of training drives and projects viable for each country. Once it has certified that the project is viable it means this will be informed by appropriate feasibility studies in terms of laws, enabling environment and natural resources and business and political environment in that country to ensure that holding all other economic and market changes constant, that it will succeed. The Business support unit will be tasked with implementation, mentoring, monitoring and evaluation of these projects and ensuring from the training phases that the appropriate training projects are implemented by the trainers, then funding is released for the proper projects for each country as recommended by the Projects unit, and that the money is paid back for each project giving statistics of successes, failures and challenges in re-engineering the African development drive.

Research, Planning and Development Initiative

The research initiative becomes very important in the ultimate integrated development and prosperity of Africa. The migration patterns of the African continent are informed by certain factors and variables. There is a need to know why Africans are either dying in the Mediterranean Sea trying to cross over or down in South Africa burnt to death. What makes people to opt to die such gruesome deaths and live such unforgiving lives? Is it a desire to migrate or they will be escaping a death they see no escape route except leaving their countries?

The Research unit will consistently study the causes of migration trends and seek to find solutions to the migration causes especially forced migration. These will obviously include socio-economic and socio-political problems which effectively means writing recommendations and reports that might not be pleasing to the African leaders. It is important to note that this generation has a responsibility to cure the ills of the generation.



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This means staring straight into the eyes of the problem and those benefitting from these ill practices despite the power they wield and telling them that things have to change.

The Research unit will consider historically and or empirical evidence of why the things are the way they are and seek to find solutions based on what has been observed and hypothetical problems in a futuristic approach. It will consider best ways of dealing with migration and refugee related problems born out of various problems and prescribe the solutions from known historically practices by other countries or simulation related problem-solving techniques.

The research unit will serve as a basis for finding solutions to African ills both perceived and real and ensure that nothing must happen while unplanned for. All units will have to give the Research, Planning and Development Initiative all its work for research purposes to ensure that nothing is thumb sucked but rather that all is well researched, planned and executed. It is therefore the backbone of the ADF work and probably the hope of African growth.

Social Cohesion and Integration Initiative

This forms a continuous programme of bridging gaps between the native RSA and migrants. This identifies programs including already identified ones like the schools exchange program to facilitate a better understanding of the concept of being African and the need to work together and live peacefully without fighting.

The idea is to integrate and see the value each person beyond nationality and realise the benefits which they can exploit from working together as opposed to against each other. This will include skills transfer programs and learning from the experiences of migrants and taking successful projects and programs from migrants and applying them to situations



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within the South African concept and environment. This will help build an Africa that learns from other people's successes and failures.