

London International Press

# SOUTH AFRICA

**The World's Most Unequal Country ?**

*Special Edition*

5,25 £ R110 January 2021





Aerial view of Cape Town, South Africa  
with the Cape Town Stadium,  
completed for the 2010 FIFA World Cup  
in the foreground.

06

SOUTH AFRICA: "THE RAINBOW NATION"

08

SOUTH AFRICA'S INEQUALITIES (ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE)

10

TOURISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

14

COVID 19 PANDEMIC IN SOUTH AFRICA

**SOUTH AFRICA**



# **The World's Most Unequal Country ?**

Kenzy  
Thomas  
TSMP2





# INTRODUCTION

This month, our special edition covering English-speaking countries around the world is entirely devoted to South Africa, a country with a difficult past and ridden with social inequalities.

The democratic election of President Nelson Mandela in 1994 signified the end of Apartheid, a system that is responsible for the almost total separation of different ethnic groups in South Africa. During apartheid, South Africans were categorized into four different races: White, Black, Coloured, and Indian/Asian, with about 80% of the South African population classified as Black, 9% as White, 9% as Coloured, and 2% as Indian/Asian. The White population held almost all of the political power in South Africa, while other races were almost completely marginalized.

Although the end of apartheid allowed equal rights for all South Africans, regardless of which ethnic group they belonged to, today's South Africa still hasn't been able to correct the social inequalities created by decades of apartheid.

Despite a growing GDP, poverty, unemployment, economic inequality, life expectancy, and land holdings have declined due to the apartheid system which left the country socio-economically stratified on a racial basis. Successive government policies have attempted to correct inequality with varying degrees of success.

Thomas



## SOUTH AFRICA "THE RAINBOW NATION"

South Africa is often called "**the Rainbow Nation**" because its inhabitants come from all over the world: Europeans, Indians, Chinese and of course black Africans. This incredible cultural diversity is illustrated by the 11 official languages spoken in South Africa, of which English, Afrikaans and Zulu are the three main ones.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu was the first to evoke the notion of the Rainbow Nation in 1994, to refer to his dream of building a harmonic post-racial South African society. Undoubtedly a positive symbol, the rainbow is a metaphorical way of thinking about the cohabitation of ethnic groups.



### Faces of South Africa

The two images shown here highlight the ethnic and cultural diversity of South Africa's 59 million people, while being a symbol of hope and unity. They therefore represent the "rainbow nation" very well.



### A nation united behind its rugby team

The picture on the right is a photograph that was taken during a rugby match opposing the South African national team, the "Springboks", to the New Zealand team. While highlighting the incredible cultural diversity of South Africa through the vibrant and diverse colors that emerge, this photograph is also a symbol of hope for the country and reflects the concept of "Rainbow Nation", which is the harmonious and happy cohabitation of the entire population regardless of origin.

Article by Thomas







# SOUTH AFRICA'S INEQUALITIES

## (ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE)

On June 30th, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the official abolition of apartheid. Although it is obviously important to celebrate this historic date, a question remains: has the situation concretely evolved since then?

South Africans have never stopped showing great national unity: the death of the iconic Nelson Mandela provoked a wave of unifying emotion. People "got a better understanding of each other's cultures" South African writer Hagen Engler told Reuters. His mixed-race family offers a model of what the "rainbow" nation should be like. On the not so bright side, can years and years of separation really be erased so easily? It would be very naive to say so. Has South Africa really achieved the equality it hoped for in 1991?

This is a major problem in contemporary South African society. Although there is no longer any official separation, frightening gaps remain between blacks and whites. The figures speak for themselves: a report from the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) in South Africa found that poverty among blacks averaged 42 %, compared to only 1 % for whites. Can one not talk of a new social segregation in the South African townships where violence occurs on a daily basis?

There is widespread discontent with the ANC, the liberation party, with many criticizing its corruption and lack of action, for example, in the face of white men holding more and more management positions in the country's largest companies and the lack of education for many blacks.

The balance sheet thus drawn up is rather negative. However, one should not despair. "But it's not all bad," says Georgina Alexander, a policy and government researcher at IRR. "Race relations are not as bad as some of the racial incidents we have seen, make us think. On average most South Africans live alongside each other in a relatively civil and peaceful way." Engler rightly points out that the country has already come "a long way" towards equality. While we are not forbidden to be optimistic and confident about a more just future, we should not forget to what extent social inequalities still strike the country, such as the picture on the left reveals, which probably concludes our remarks better than any sentence could.

*Article by Kenzy*



**Poverty among blacks  
averages 42%, compared to  
only 1% for whites.**



*Institute of Races Relations (IRR) Report*





Johannesburg,  
South Africa,  
suburbs Primrose,  
left, and Makause





# **T**OURISM IN **SOUTH AFRICA**

*Can tourism help South Africa's development and  
thus reduce existing inequalities?*

Topic by Thomas



## MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



### Kruger National Park

The Kruger National Park, located in northeastern South Africa, is one of the largest wildlife reserves in Africa. Its high density of wildlife includes the "Big 5": lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants and buffalos. Hundreds of other mammals have made their home here, as well as various bird species such as vultures, eagles and storks. Mountains, bush plains and rainforests are all part of the landscape.



### The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway

The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway is a cable car transportation system offering visitors a five-minute ride to the top of Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa. This cable car, which is equipped with rotating cabins, offers superb views of Cape Town, Table Bay and Robben Island to the north and the Atlantic coast to the southwest from its top station located at 1067 meters above sea level.

It is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Cape Town with approximately one million people a year using the Cableway.



### Blue Train

The Blue Train is a luxury train that travels about 990 miles in South Africa between Pretoria and Cape Town, including a trip through the Kruger National Park. It is one of the most luxurious train journeys in the world, as it is fitted with two lounge cars and an observation car. The service is presented as a "magnificent mobile five-star hotel" by its operators, who also like to recall kings and presidents have already traveled on board this train.

# TOURISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

## ...TO HELP DEVELOPMENT

With a population of approximately 59 million and a land area of 1.27 million sq. km (nearly five times the size of the UK), South Africa's resource base for tourism is phenomenal. The country's attractiveness lies in its diversity. Some of the features which make South Africa an incredibly touristic sight include: accessible wildlife, varied and impressive scenery, unspoiled wilderness areas, diverse cultures (in particular traditional and township African cultures) and a hot and sunny climate.

Tourism currently plays a relatively small role in the economy of South Africa. In 1994, tourism's contribution to GDP was right under 5%, which is very low by any standard. It is however very important to develop tourism in South Africa, as travel and tourism is the world's largest industry. If it contributed by 10% to the GDP of South Africa, as it does in the US, the tourism industry would create 2 million jobs in South Africa. Furthermore, tourism brings development to rural areas, as many of the prime tourist attractions are not located in the city centres but in the rural areas, such as the Kruger National Park.

That's why tourism allows rural people to share in the benefits of tourism development, promoting more balanced and sustainable forms of development.

**However, here are the main problems that prevent the development of tourism:**

- While the attractiveness of South Africa as a touristic destination has always been acknowledged, this potential could not effectively be realised due to many tourists not wanting to travel to the country in protest to the racial segregation policies.

- **Limited involvement of local communities:**

Another major problem facing the South African tourism industry is the poor involvement of local communities and previously neglected groups in the industry. While this has been largely due to the apartheid policy, the need to reverse this situation is of urgent importance. The tourism industry, perhaps more than any sector, provides a number of unique opportunities for involving previously neglected groups.





Cynthia Razawu at her small business at the Tourism Information Centre in Makhado, Limpopo Province, South Africa. (Gushwell F. Brooks/Jesuit Refugee Service)

**In order to involve all ethnic groups in the tourism industry, it is necessary to accept their mistrust of tourism for the following reasons:**

"Tourism is a white man's thing and not for us"  
 - tourism is perceived as reserved to the white upper and middle classes. There is a belief that "tourism is what whites do when they go to Kruger Park or the beach in Durban".

Suspicion and mistrust

- most protected areas were proclaimed without consultation or the approval of affected rural communities. Communities bore the cost of reduced access to natural and cultural resources but did not perceive, or receive any direct benefits.

Efforts have been, and continue to be made to include local communities in the tourism industry. These efforts are vital because tourism appears to be a unique opportunity to develop the country's economy, and it benefits the entire population, regardless of racial origin. In this way, inequalities in South Africa could be reduced!

Article by Thomas

# Covid-19 and inequalities in South Africa

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused considerable damage to lives and the economy in South Africa. However, the impact of measures used to fight the pandemic, such as lockdown, is not the same across South Africa. The pandemic has even exacerbated the inequalities that characterise the economy of South Africa.

Vulnerable people, mainly low-income people in precarious situations, have been the most affected by job and income losses resulting from the economic crisis caused by lockdown. The loss of jobs and income is expected to lead to reduced ability to access healthcare and nutritious diet. It will also have a negative impact on people's health, in addition to the virus itself.

Moreover, limited access to quality health care contributes to racial inequalities in the health field. Indeed, the South African health care system is strongly segmented. It is composed of a well-resourced private sector and a surcharged public sector that deals with the majority of the - mainly black - poor masses. It is estimated that only 10% of blacks are enrolled in medical aid programs, compared to 73% of whites in 2018.

This pandemic and the lockdown that followed has strengthened existing inequalities in South Africa. These have been intensified by huge job losses and a weakened labor market. There is therefore an urgent need for policies to overcome race-based disadvantage, such as universal health coverage and measures to fight hunger, in order to reduce health disparities in South Africa.

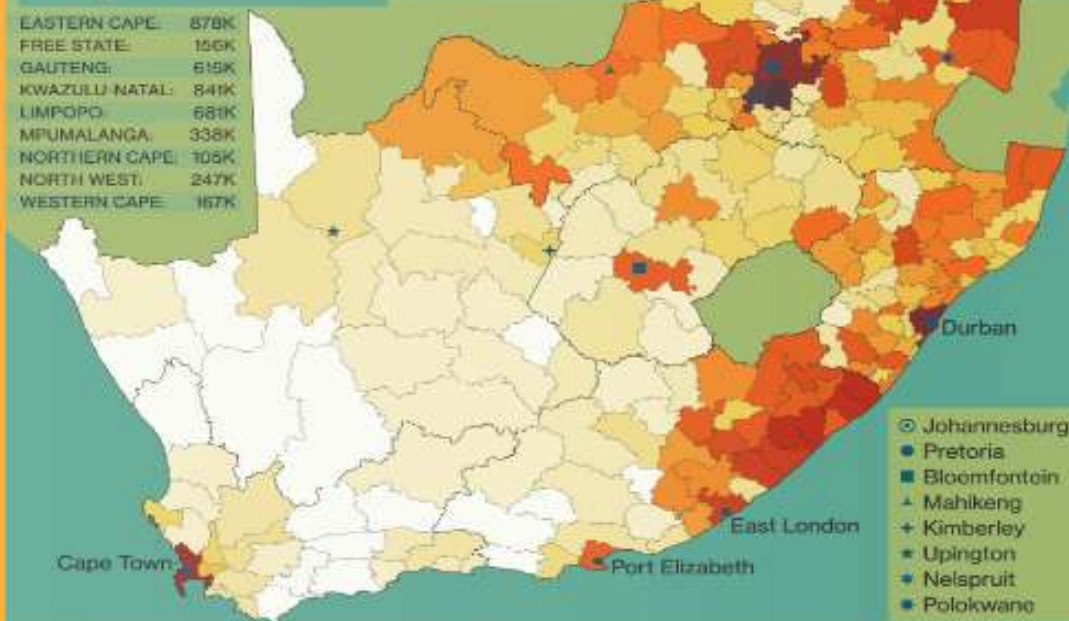
Article by Kenzy



## Poverty estimate: South African people living in poverty



The number of people living in poverty may be higher in a municipality with a large population, even if the area's percentage of households living in poverty is lower. Similarly, an area with a small population could have a low number of people living in poverty, even if a large share of the households there live in poverty.



KEY: Estimated number of people living in poverty in 2016 (K=thousand)

0 TO 1K	1K TO 2K	2K TO 3K	3K TO 4K	4K TO 5K	5K TO 6K	6K TO 8K	8K TO 10K	10K TO 12.5K	12.5K TO 15K	15K TO 17.5K	17.5K TO 20K
20K TO 25K	25K TO 30K	30K TO 40K	40K TO 50K	50K TO 60K	60K TO 70K	70K TO 80K	80K TO 90K	90K TO 100K	100K TO 110K	110K TO 120K	120K TO 130K
130K TO 140K	140K TO 150K	150K TO 160K	160K TO 170K	170K TO 180K	180K TO 190K	190K TO 200K	200K TO 210K	210K TO 220K	220K TO 230K	230K TO 240K	240K TO 250K

SOURCE: DATA FROM THE 2016 CENSUS

MAP BY: MARY ALLEN/STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA COMMUNITY SURVEY 2016

## COVID-19 STATISTICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

<b>7 653 371</b>	<b>1 346 936</b>	<b>1 117 452</b>	<b>37 449</b>	<b>9 010</b>
TESTS CONDUCTED	POSITIVE CASES IDENTIFIED	TOTAL RECOVERIES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW CASES

**MONDAY**  
**18**  
**JANUARY**  
**2021**

Learn more to  
**Be READY**  
for eCOVID19:  
[www.sacorenavirus.co.za](http://www.sacorenavirus.co.za)  
Covid-19 public hotline:  
0800 029 999  
WhatsApp 'HF' to  
0600 123 456



**DAILY DEATHS**  
**344**

**RECOVERY RATE**  
**83%**



**London International Press**

**January 2021  
Kenzy, Thomas**