

## **Political and social ideals cost money- Yagyah Adams - Cape Muslim Congress**

Recently, a fellow Councillor became annoyed with my request for information. I wanted to know what programs and campaigns his organization was advocating to support and educate their supporters with regards to family planning. Regretfully I used China as an example where women are compelled to undergo sterilization and late term abortions as part of a twisted application of China's "one child policy". Although I do not support the policy, with a population of 1.4 billion, I understand the Chinese context. As a result of far-reaching social sacrifice, China is one of the largest and fastest growing economies. Globally, billions experience poverty and nations with fewer natural resources than South Africa have uplifted themselves with determination and practical policies. India Malaysia and China similar to South Africa were also colonized and experienced great oppression. This did not prevent their leaders from creating an innovative environment.

In my opinion, our leaders are reluctant to learn from practical approaches that are required for national progress. Because of Apartheid, many S-Africans think that we are supposed to be immune from future hardship. Subsequently billions from our national budget is spent on issues that are a result of misguided sentiment. For example, though government began spending about R40 billion in 1999 on submarines and corvettes etc. criminal syndicates continue to decimate our marine resources in exchange for illegal drugs. Whilst we bought fighter jets and helicopters to protect the sky, gangsters continue to kill children on the ground. I suspect that should we be invaded, the enemy would probably arrive the same way that millions of illegal migrants do, by slipping across the porous border without one of the 154 armed vehicles purchased, approaching.

Also, if we want to reduce poverty, we must stabilize population growth via natural attrition, family planning, quality education and border control. It is unsustainable to reduce poverty and simultaneously allow millions to illegally cross the border. This is poverty displacement from one country to another. Perhaps our foreign policy should begin to address the reality that Africa's leaders should be held accountable. Instead of permitting Africa's stolen resources to be hidden by corrupt leaders, economic migrants should be encouraged to demand economic justice from their governments. Local taxpayers shouldn't be responsible for sustaining African leaders by accommodating their corrupt behaviour. For example, while King Mswati III of Swaziland parties with his 13 wives 38% of his nation suffers from HIV/AIDS and scarcely have enough to eat.

We must also recognise that the "discourse" of reducing the gap between rich and poor is a political aberration. For instance, the City of Cape Town like other cities in S- Africa pay some staff in excess of R1.5 million per annum while many others earn roughly 5% of that. The wage gap is only increasing. Consequently politics is in effect the skill of getting votes from the poor and election funds from the rich, by agreeing to protect each from the other. Also, "black economic empowerment" has in effect created a few new rich individuals while the vast majority remain poor. The notion of BEE causing wealth to "trickle down" was perhaps the biggest deception by the old and new elite. 2000 years ago Jesus of Nazareth said "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter heaven"? This wisdom dictates that South Africa requires a majority middle class with an intellectual ethic and not predatory elite to re-charter a progressive course for the next generation, if we desire success.