

**THE TEN "ROCKS" OR STUMBLING BLOCKS THAT SHOULD BE REMOVED
(OR SHATTERED) *EN ROUTE* TOWARDS A SATISFACTORY "SOLUTION" OF
OUR POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INEQUALITY (PUI) PROBLEM
COMPLEX**

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1. The American neoliberal global empire

Its military power and the *inclusion* of a 20-30% elite in the South and the social *exclusion* of the poor and unskilled $\pm 50\%$ of the population of the South that (allegedly) cannot be employed "profitably" by the powerful transnational corporation (TNC), is a serious structural problem. The *transnationalization* of the world, the triumph of the TNC's short-term interests over the humanity of billions of people, can be regarded as the conundrum faced by billions in the 21st century.

The global unemployment problem will remain unresolved as long as the transnationalization of the world remains as at present.

2. The four South African capitalist formations:

- a) The white (or apartheid) capitalist formation,
- b) The BEE capitalist formation,
- c) The global capitalist formation,
- d) Cosatu and its affiliates.

All four formations are powerful vis-à-vis the powerlessness of the political formation of the ANC. All four formations are guilty of greediness and short-termism. The first three capitalist formations are inclined towards unduly capital intensity and towards minimizing their labour cost. The trade-unions (in the public and private sectors) misuse their political and economic bargaining power to get annually wage increases considerably higher than the rate of inflation in spite of the fact that almost 40% of the potential labour force is unemployed.

The South African capitalist sector is still an "immature" sector. The mining sector plays a dominant role and it is a capital intensive sector. Our industrial sector has declined in the past 20 years due to intensive competition from the North and from the Bric countries. Many employment opportunities in this sector were lost since 1994.

3. The ANC political elite

It operates in an "undemocratic" environment because the poorest 50% cannot exercise the democratic rights effectively. Consequently, the political elite cannot be held accountable. The political elite displays a strong inclination towards avarice and corruption and cosseting a "get-rich-quickly" culture. Although the ANC political elite is relatively powerless vis-à-vis the capitalist formations, it has the power to collect taxes and to spend public money. We have reason to be concerned about the ANC-government's spending priorities and also about their conception of what constitute the General Interest (Bonum Commune) of the 50 million South Africans. The ANC is a collection of "factions". The most powerful faction(s) promote(s) its (their) own sectional interest.

4. The ANC bureaucracy

The majority of the bureaucracy are pathetic inefficient in service delivery, they are inadequately trained and without in-service experience and display a strong disposition towards corruption, careerism and demands inflated remuneration. Affirmative action was driven too hard in the public sector.

5. The African education system

The "African" schools have poorly trained teachers with a lack of motivation and dedication towards their profession; the teachers display a lack of discipline and it is impossible to hold them accountable for their "misdeeds", because of the "protection" allotted to them by the teacher trade-unions. Due to the poor education system for Africans, many of them are to such a degree "unskilled" that they are unemployable. The ANC government spends adequate amounts on education, but the educational "output" is pathetic.

6. Housing

The inadequate housing and urban infrastructure of black township (formal and informal) on the periphery of the big cities are huge problems. (The skewed spatial lay-out of neighbourhoods in the urban areas is an unresolved remnant of "urban development" during the apartheid period).

7. Crime and violence

High levels of crime and violence (in especially informal townships) and the lack of adequate security services in these townships are very much perpetuating poverty. (The poor is the victims of rather serious bodily harm).

8. Health services

The inadequate and inefficient public health service is a huge problem. (The lack of good hospitals, clinics, nurses and doctors). The life-expectancy of South Africans has declined from ± 60 years in 1990 to less than 50 years today. (The Aids pandemic has causes havoc in the black community.)

9. Civil society

The "underdevelopment" (or the absence) of civil society organisations in the ranks of the poorest half of the population vis-à-vis the "overdevelopment" of the powerful "pressure groups" in the capitalist sector and the trade-union movement is also a rather serious problem.

10. A poverty mentality

The "poverty mentality" of those that are the main victims of apartheid, that are chronically impoverished, that are born and bred in a "subculture of poverty" or in a situation of "chronic community poverty" or those that are the victims of a "vicious circle of poverty" are *excluded* from the rest of the society. (How are we going to "liberate" the poor from the "mentality" of which they are victims?)