

## Opinion

# Xenophobic attacks: Cry rainbow nation

**S**outh Africans are at it again. Just weeks ago, there was outrage coming from South African cities, especially Johannesburg. A group of South Africans attacked fellow Africans, accusing them of many ills, but mainly "taking their jobs" in that huge and powerful economy on the continent!

Some people, even some leaders on the continent, ascribed the attacks to xenophobia, defined as "hatred or fear of that which is perceived as foreign or strange".

A few years back, similar incidents happened in South Sudan, against Ugandans in the capital Juba, for similar reasons that Ugandans were "monopolising" businesses in Juba, while South Sudanese were wallowing in poverty! The Ugandan government was forced to evacuate many Ugandans, under security escort, back to Uganda, and the economic situation in Juba got worse for the very people who wanted Ugandans out.

Why? Because South Sudan had not yet stabilised to build an economy that could afford opportunities for all, and throwing out "foreigners" who were actually making a contribution to the economic welfare of all Jubans and South Sudanese.

ly identify the causes and effects of what our challenges are today. Call it lack of a common radar to guide us to our collectively desired destination.

We have a common history of colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialist interference and exploitation, in all our socioeconomic and political life, as a result of which, we lack a common ideology that should give us common values.

It is to this effect that President Museveni has always decried the challenge of ideological disorientation among us, especially our leadership, which is the reason why often we end up pulling in different directions on matters where we all ought to pull together for our strategic survival; especially in the capitalistic environment of "man eat man" and profit before humanity. We need to emphasise the mindset change of our society.

Indeed, Julius Malema, the founder of Economic Freedom Fighters, a communist and Black nationalist party, castigated the bankruptcy his fellow Black countrymen had demonstrated. He wondered if chasing away fellow Africans, all of whom were self-employed, was solving the problems of unemployment in South Africa.

Therefore, Africans need a national ideology, developed and popularised to all the citizenry, around which to harness our energies, so that our superficial differences in form of tribes, religion, political persuasion etc. do not form points of fissure, but points of strength, which we love to call "unity in diversity".

To this effect, President Museveni and his comrades in the National Resistance Movement (NRM), came up with an ideology based on four pillars of patriotism, pan-Africanism, socioeconomic transformation and democracy. For now, this forms the foundation of the NRM ideology, around which it has managed the socioeconomic and political affairs of Uganda.

Pan-Africanism is the ideological concept whereby members of the continent working together for their strategic security experts become guarantors of their own strategic survival. These have been united and strong for centuries, but there as those who would love to have the naturally resourced Africa continue to be fragmented, balkanised, and hence breakable into even smaller "chewable pieces".

For now, let's celebrate the achievements we have so far, after the struggles that culminated in our political independence, as we forge ahead to build the ideological radar that will guide Africa in whatever policies we design, for our sustainably prosperous future!

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**Obed Katureebe**  
Politics

The issue can't be "foreigners!" Monopoly capital, in the hands of the minority Whites in South Africa, is the principal cause of economic exclusion and disparity of the majority Black people in South Africa and not just foreigners from other African countries, many of whom are in casual economic activity.

So, what is the problem? Having been a close observer of an ideologically founded, revolutionary leadership in Uganda and enriched with some knowledge of our colonial and post-colonial history, I have come to believe that our main problem is lack of a common-user "telescope" to look into our strategic future together; lack of common tools of analysis, to correct