

Mos 3

Moses Mabokela Chikane

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I was born in 1948 August 14 in area of Groblersdaal. First of the family of NINE (9) CHILDREN. My father worked as a self taught Dental mechanic my mother is illiterate.

I started schooling in Pietermaritzburg 1957 I then moved to Pietersburg in 1960 to further my education and to ~~relieve~~ relieve my uncle from herding cattles because he was big enough to seek contract to work in Town. What is popularly known as migrant worker system. Where a person get to labour recruiting office to look for work. Often the kind of work he/she get is not explained, and he/she too would not question much because behind him/her there will be thousand of people who are ready to take the opportunity. They are all victims of the notorious South African land act of 1913 amended 1936 which entitle them to occupy 13% (thirteen) percent of the land with no heating resources, no land to grow food limited life-stock, the size which is often decided by the Government white Minority Government.

Part of the land is further taken by the cessal co-operation which benefit white market. African people work in this co-operation for what used to be £1 (one pound) per month. some work in the tobacco farms, other in the orange farm around Pietersburg.

I attended the Community school. We had nothing else except the few ~~present~~ prescribed books those who could afford them. Unipam was compulsory; Although we were still young we walked about +- 3 km. to this school because it (school) was serving couple villages. No heating system at school, you found 200 scholars in one class one teacher teaching up to three different classes of plus minor 200 children.

Now that I am old enough I feel very grateful to Mr L Moloto the school Principal for many years before I was born and even

to this day. His effort have seen many of these forgotten surplus people of Matlala-a-Thaba, the community of Tlhabanefontein, Tunes & Prospect enabled to write to their beloved ones as migrant worker in the big cities of South Africa.

For me all that has taught me to persevere to fight on for justice even before one can speak of liberation. It is there where I learned about people who have survived with ^{no} food in their tummies for days where death is a friend as many children die of malnutrition where modern medicine is fantasy (Although they have since build a clinic) ^{in 1980} only those who have few Rands sent by well instanced husband and sons from Johannesburg may get the treatment. For those families who have been befriended by mortality death rate, the friendship is like a solemnised marriage their fate was determined then and no one can change it under the present Racist exploitative system where the word mercy is banned by the colour of their skin. To those who are still to ~~die~~ die apartheid is not only statutory law in the South African books of law, but a destiny ^{is} death.

No work, no land, no school now even those who can read is allowed to teach his/her own children to ~~write~~ read or write it is not allowed by law. If they had the vote maybe they might have change the system of Government but now even protest is rebellion, is treasonable.

I then came back after completing standard 5 (five) and completed standard six ~~where~~ in Repentise Higher Primary School ~~the~~ in Mamelodi. The contrast ~~where~~ vivid. There we had books everybody was in uniform although some wore the same shirt throughout the week. The colour was the same one can say they shirts were from the same material. Little did one realise that the ugly face of exploitation has taught some teachers to make deals

Apostrophe

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with certain shops to augment their sorry year's black salary. ~~by~~ Hunger has taught these men to know no mercy to their brethren. who some of them are in the worse position than they are - the temptation of accumulation has been with them now in the corners of Johannesburg some since 1886 when Gold was discovered others learned the rules as they went along without their beloved once advising them as they then families are miles away in the dusty barren land Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Tsa Uanda or Lebowa. All these is blessed with the name of free enterprise Free market system where a farmer can hit his out kaffir with his own stone in his own hand. To cross the colour line is a crime punishable by law. I have a cousin who have has changed the history of my great family because my aunt happen to be so ignorant as not to know the law. They moved from one area to the other. They ultimately found ~~secondary~~ in Makapan start. With few friends as young boys those days used to find Sam a strange fellow. The war of nerves did not end with my aunt fighting everybody who scrutinised Sam's green eyes. It will start when Sam has to get classified in terms of Race classification act, which the family survived in rural areas as it is not so easily administered, he had to get the Passbook as he has long hair, green eyes light complexion, or to get identity that get him to be called coloured, again which coloured because here we have so many coloured Malayan Coloured, (Cape Coloured or other coloured? I cannot say what happen as I have since lost contact with him in 1966, but the information I got is that my aunt does not want him to visit us as she fear that if he does set his foot in town he might not come back to her any more. She is happy to have him with her her fifth sense is that is against the law. For coloured and Africans to live together in the cities. ~~he~~ ^{he} could be charged to live in a African area.

Apres Ance

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He will have a representative seat to parliament in terms of the new constitution. He might be asked to defend South Africa in Namibia, to stop the Communist in Angola, to maintain law and order in the African township of Mamelodi, by shedding few old lady who are collaborating with the ANC and Communist Party of South Africa and/or with UDF.

Maybe he will conspire with me his cousin to overthrow the government by uniting all South African people under the banner of the United Democratic Front.

I then went to Mamelodi High School in 1967 until 1968 when my father died suddenly on the 9. September 1968. After the funeral a week later my life was to change dramatically. We had no food as the little that has been saved by him went for his own funeral. We had to pay rent the beginning of October there was no cent left. Lucky then the rate of unemployment was not as high as is now. I got a job with Chrysler Motor Company where I worked from September 1968 to 13 August 1976 when the police came knocking at the door of my family house I was taken to Mauder Bee Prison under Section 10 of the internal security act after the Soweto student uprising when the police rioted ~~and~~ with protesting students. I stayed there until 28 December 1976.

I worked there until I was appointed the team leader then blacks were not allowed to be called foremen or Supervisors these titles were reserved for white workers. I once became a member of Hosen Committee. The company trained me as a literacy teacher to enable those of my fellow workers who cannot read or write.

I together with others who most of are now in exile started a study group in Mamelodi to further our studies. amongst these

Asa Gulu

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who are in exile are Jane Phakathi, Mogeni Ramose
Clément Mokoka who are in Holland or Belgium
Phillip ~~Maaga~~ Maaga who is somewhere in America
Taru Mokoka whom I have since lost contact with.

We started these in order to promote that which will be the
famous slogan of Congress of S.A. students. Namely
EACH ONE TEACH ONE

Those who had access to higher education would teach those
who were less fortunate. University students will help high school
students, high school student would help Primary students and
Primary literacy. It will be here where I would learn about
the plight of many student who have fought against the odds to
go to colleges and universities in the barren sides of South
Africa in a quest to learn in the apartheid tailored bantu
education act of 1953/54. If you don't live in South Africa the
location of these universities is nothing more than a geographical
position, to us here is the industry which is meant to produce
people who would be nothing more nothing less than people who would
help administer the surplus people in more ways than one. Teachers
who would further Bantu Education, clerks in big consents who
would be able to take orders, court interpreters for those of their
people who fall prey of the barrage of laws that oppress their
people. No engineers, No scientists, No clerks, lawyers yes
who would not make the great to the Senior Councils less they
start questioning the law than interpret it.

It is at these study group where I will join South African
Student Organisation (SASO) ~~was~~ in 1974 as a
member of (Preso) Pretoria student Organisation it will be two
years later that the upheaval would emerge and together

After Church

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other people will be held in jails of South Africa

When I came back I had lost my job with Chrysler Motor company. The American company that does not purport to practice apartheid. The company might not be aware that this has happened to me but are not we numbers in big companies that are consent that we will suffer most if they divest. Whereas in some cases the echelon of these companies are people from the mother country - the middle man without fail is South African whites mostly Afrikaners speaking. Some may even have Breureman connections. Other might be activists of (SABRA) South African Bureau of Racial Affairs. Some might just be people who have been brought up to believe that blacks are inferior but these in these category do not seem to have much respect for black workers (If you find them talking to each other they would be calling each other. Maners and smiling like real passionate brothers) but as soon as a black workers come nearer to talk one would notice the change of facial expression like a well rehearsed Hollywood stars. One would say for what seek jy so far die bees that dat ek nog besig is om die ander kant te bespreek. hoer jji!

If you watch the facial expression of the white workers you will understand ~~or~~ what I am talking about. ~~Can~~

I continue to work for the group after I was released and that got me back in the jails in 19 October 1977 released around December 1977. Unemployed I tried to make a living by showing Movies in Schools worked for the community Self help scheme known as Sebata-Kgomo. Which collapsed in 1978 when majority of these brothers and sisters left the country because of Apartheid system. I start to work with Masehlakane People's Project which worked more or less like Sebata-Kgomo

It will be when I worked for these projects that the Ministers of the independent churches (Ibama) would ask me to do a survey in Winterveldt Squares area where I was to find out what can be done to help the situation which has been created by apartheid, where people come from their tribal land or trustland, surplus ^{labourers} people from white occupied farms. To seek work from city of Pretoria. I establish the need which I will briefly mention here.

- ① Water (lack of water in the area was the major problem)
- ② School (lack of schools in the area as school was run by families and therefore more like family business) without qualified teachers.
- ③ Health (no sanitary system. ~~concrete~~ concrete)
- ④ Unemployment due to lack of necessary qualification to work and live in urban area. or Pass system and influx control.

In the subsequent discussion when I reported to the committee people felt that the first should be Health project and Mchle-Nkosi MOBIL clinic was established.

In 1979 I together with some comrades founded Letsema. Letsema was to still urban youth as to enable them to work in rural areas run literacy in ^{their} rural areas, to enable them to help in building of boreholes for water this was done with the help of Environmental development Agency. With people like Coenie De Beer

The project would fail due to lack of resources but more to harassment by the police after we formed the much loved Funeral Brigades which operated in Pretoria locations mainly Atteridgeville where people like Ngaogelo Letsoare, Coenie Dan, and Titus Mofete

Oppos Cliter

young

I was

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became, activists and ^{and} ~~co-ordinators~~ ~~respectively~~ today they are
writers in the Community Newsletter called the EYE. Pillars of
UDF structures in Pretoria. Key people in Community, Trade union
movements there.

I will not be ~~right~~ to conclude with mentioning the material
and moral contribution from Christian Institutes under Beyers
Naude. Seelie Maysen, Theo Kotze, not forgetting Jane Phakathi.

In 1980 I was a founder member of Mamelodi Action Committee
the first action Committee to venture in the area matters around
that time outside government ~~control~~ structures with the mandate
to ~~form~~ investigate the possibility of forming a Civic organisation
in Mamelodi Location near Pretoria.

I landed in jail in 1980 under the same act Internal security act
for a period of four months. for all these activities around Pretoria
we are accused of linking with the coloured and Indian school
upheavals that spread in the Indian, Coloured communities country
wide.

1983 I worked joint hand with many of my country men and women
to work towards the formation of a United Democratic Front of
which I became a regional secretary for the Transvaal in October
1983. to March 1985, during which I was a member of the
National Secretariat and National Executive until April 1985.
appointed to initiate Workshop committee of the Transvaal by
the Transvaal Executive until March 1985.

It was in 1980 when I met Aaret Van Herden together we worked
towards the formation of Community Resource and Information
Centre. which ran workshop for people who see need in

Asa Pule

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forming community based organisations to provide them with skills, by arranging workshops and seminars countrywide but mainly in the Transvaal.

1984 I was detained under section 28 of the internal security act. from the 28 August to 30 September.

I was to be detained on 23 April 1985 under section 29 of the internal security act. June 10 together with 22 people charged with Treason, alternative Terrorism Subversion and 5 counts of Murder which were committed whilst I was in prison, in September 1983.

My Political involvement the influences were all those events that I have mentioned. More was My grandfather J. Moya who is one of those few people still resisting resettlement in the Lebowa area he maintain that he is a Congressman. Although he is still able to comprehend the fact that congress was banned in 1961. He together with few of his comrades had their houses ~~burned~~ burned down their life store confiscated by the Lebowa surrogates of Pretoria. His persistence, unyielding spirit for National Liberation has been the major source of inspiration that has kept me going for these few years without hate of the perpetrators of the worse system after ~~rather~~ Nazi system. fall of Nazi Germany.

Mr L. Motsoahe's will power has seen majority of those of our people who live eleven months of their lives I spent without their beloved ones in the stinking hostels and compounds of S.A. to dig wealth for those who have the ~~more~~ better these who have the political power and those who have inherited riches of these our country through the barrel of the gun.

Abes Cuker

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Since my detention only pain has to see to my mother and eight brothers and sisters for once more apartheid has shown its ugly teeth. They too are destined to join the rank of the army of the uneducated, unemployed South African Market: without pity nor mercy from those who decide our pain with the stroke of a pen. "State security is much more important than the freedom of an individual. Therefore bail is not for us.

N.B. My uncle whom I relieved in 1960 died in a blast in African Explosive Chemical Industry in March 1985. I medderfontein His wife and three children will have to join hands with many of those who would watch death as it near everyday of hunger diseases in the forgotten land of those who have to die in the Bantustand without mercy. They have never protested neither have they heard about reforms that Nationalists Party are making to allow urban black to occupy and buy property in the backyards of cities which their father has build. For protest is threatening to the white only parliament.

Their father was not ^{Compensated} ~~compensated~~ for death. The so called company insurance only existed in name. They too will be victims of the contract system. They too if they survive the first acid test of life in S.A will get to AECI or even die there for land acts of 1913 1936 are ~~not~~ not negotiable even in terms of the new constitution.

Sam My Cousin who has never before made a political statement will have to make a political choice, to go next to parliament as a delegate not an MP. like his other cousins from the parliametal ~~side~~ side who are M.P.s. or to stick with his mother who has given all to make him happy all these years.