

24HR TREND REPORT

Issued by the Centre for Analytics and Behavioural Change

21 – 23 August 2020

Politics and Governance | Women's Safety

This is a summary of the trending, highest impact, and most active themes and their narratives related to social cohesion and division in South African public-domain social media conversations.



Email: info@cabc.org.za

Politics and Governance

The second biggest topic for the day was “South Africans”, encompassing conversation around ANC corruption, the EFF’s stance on the decriminalization of sex work and the #PutSouthAfricansFirst movement.

EFF in the Spotlight

The EFF came under social media scrutiny this weekend after EFF MP Naledi Chirwa took to their social media channels to discuss the decriminalization of sex work. South African social media users, in an increasingly xenophobic and bizarre turn of events, took to Twitter to portray the EFF as a party of foreigners.

Twitter user @Phumlan_Mabaso [posted](#) “These are jobs the EFF say must be done by South Africans, prostitution. All other jobs must be done by foreign nationals. South Africans must do prostitution. These are results of having foreigners as a member of parliament.” Another user questioned if this was EFF’s strategy to win elections [posting](#) “Is Naledi Chirwa of the EFF promoting prostitution in South Africa? Is this how the EFF plans to provide jobs for South Africans if they win elections?”. Another Twitter user, self proclaimed “Minister of Illegal Immigrants in SA” drew outlandish conclusions [stating](#) “EFF says prostitution is work. In other words SA women are lazy for not wanting to selling their bodies because prostitution is employment. We are back to that statement of “South Africans are lazy” Can you hear, Comrades, at the back?”.

Political commentator Simon Grindrod took to Twitter to [highlight](#) “Agree with them or not, the EFF cannot be simply wished away as a political inconvenience. In this time of great hardship the ANC has abandoned millions of people in need & the DA are not seen as representing them. The EFF remain a relevant political force.” The tweet received significant traction over the weekend garnering over 1 700 likes and 460 retweets and comments by this morning.

ANC on Trial

The ruling party faced a tough weekend as South African social media users put the ANC on trial. Award winning news personality Redi Tlhabi called out the President [tweeting](#) “Sir, how many turning points can our battered nation handle? How many “new” starts & “this time we are serious” does your ANC thinks it deserves? Whatever debt South Africans owe your party for fighting apartheid, has been paid up. OVERPAID actually. We owe your party NOTHING Sir”. The tweet, posted on

Sunday, has garnered over 2 800 likes and over a thousand retweets and comments. Another social media user [posted](#) “That's why it's very important for us as young black South Africans to get into politics and get involved, because if we don't, we end up being led by bo @tito_mboweni and that old age home belonging to Cyril Ramaphosa called @MYANC”.

President of the Mining Forum of South Africa, Blessing Ramoba also took to Twitter to share his dismay, [posting](#) “The sad thing is ANC looters have entered level 2 as millionaires while citizens enter level 2 unemployed, homeless and blacklisted. This is a sad reality of South Africans.” The post received 1 400 likes and over 500 retweets and comments at the time of writing. #VoetsekANC trended all weekend on Twitter. The weekend culminated with [news](#) that the ANC will bring in independent, legal and forensic experts to deal with members who have been implicated in misconduct.

#PutSouthAfricansFirst

A movement that continues to gain the attention of politicians was back in spotlight on Friday as MP and President of the African Transformation Movement took to social media to throw his weight behind the #PutSouthAfricansFirst hashtag again.

Vuyo Zungula [shared](#) “Media can say whatever they want but realities are realities. #PutSouthAfricansFirst is a genuine struggle of poor South Africans who are neglected and sidelined economically in our country. This report affirms what people have been saying all along.” The post was accompanied by an article titled “Foreign nationals ‘hired preferentially’ for entry level jobs – CEE”. The post received nearly 1 000 likes and over 500 retweets and comments by early today. The movement has been wading between nationalism and extreme xenophobia, taking South African Twitter by storm over the lockdown.

Women's safety

Conversations about gender-based violence, femicide and the oppression of black women gained traction over the weekend. These topics trended as top topics by volume and burst.

Alarming GBV rate in South Africa

Conversations about South Africa's concerning gender-based violence and femicide rates trended throughout the weekend. On Thursday 20 August 2020, @cnejshuga [tweeted](#), "Guys women and children are being killed and abused at the most disturbing rate in this country." This generated nearly 900 retweets and over 1 800 likes.

On the same day @niqita11 [shared](#) three photographs of a garbage site where a young woman had allegedly been found murdered. The tweet read, "22 year old Nomvuzo Atoli from siyanyanzela was found in a trash container body was found this am 🤢🤢🤢🤢🤢🤢". This was retweeted over 2 200 times and liked over 2 100 times. Later, @Guugu_Lethu quoted this post in a [retweet](#) that read, "I pray for the women of South Africa. God please protect us. 🙏🙏". This tweet received nearly 600 retweets and over 1 000 likes.

On the following day, Friday 21 August 2020, @jodakgosii shared a five-part [thread](#) expressing frustration and highlighting a number of statistics. The initial tweet read: "South Africa has 5 times the global average of rape cases. South Africa is the rape capital of the world. South Africa has one of the highest infant and child rapes in the world. South Africa is the worst country to be born in as a girl. This is the most dangerous country-". This tweet gained traction with over 6 400 retweets and nearly 9 000 likes.

Some users stressed the importance of believing women who speak out about the abuse they have endured. Yesterday @BonoloMaphutha [tweeted](#), "I'll always believe a black woman. With GBV, racism and patriarchy? All we have is each other. I believe Lerato Moloi." This tweet got nearly 300 retweets and over 700 likes. Presumably, this is in reference to recent [reports](#) of Lerato Moloi filing a case against comedian, Mongezi "TollAssMo" Mahlangu, for allegedly sexually assaulting and raping her.

On the same day, @Motsoaledi [tweeted](#), "As South African women, re mo masepeng!" This loosely translates to: "As South African women, we're in shit!" This tweet received nearly 300 retweets and over 1 100 likes.

Growing concerns over missing teen

Reports of a missing teen gained traction over the weekend. On Saturday 22 August 2020, @Missy_Luu3 [shared](#) a photograph of the young woman alongside the message, "This is Hlumela Senti, a 19 year old girl from Idutywa town. She was last seen in Dutywa town at a taxi rank, next to Pep. Her family is looking for her, its been 9 days now she hasn't returned home yet. @SAPoliceService @tumisol retweet please 🙏 #PleaseHelpUsFindHlumelaSeni". This tweet generated over 6 500 retweets and 1 200 likes.

The following day, @tholi12229253 echoed this by [sharing](#) the same photograph alongside the message, “a young girl from Idutywa has been missing for over a week now, she was last seen standing next Pep taxi rank waiting for a taxi to her village, the family is not getting assistance from Dutywa SAPS. please share this #HelpUsFindHlumelaSenti Mr handsome zodwa” This tweet received over 5 100 retweets and 1 400 likes.

On the same day, the same Twitter user @tholi12229253 [shared](#) four images containing details about the missing teen. The tweet read: “This is Hlumele santi 18 years old from Idutywa EC she has been missing over a week now she was last seen next to Pep taxi rank waiting for a taxi home Idutywa SAPS they are not doing anything about the situation. Zodwa Pearl Thusi level 2 Malema. #HelpUsFindHlumelaSenti”. This tweet got over 4 500 retweets and 1 200 likes.

Megan Thee Stallion shooting

Many Twitter users have come out in support of rapper Megan Thee Stallion, following an attack that landed her in hospital where she was treated for gunshot wounds. Several users shared their reflections on the sustained violence against black women.

On Friday 21 August 2020, @SouldRevision shared a seven-part [thread](#) about the oppression of black women. The initial tweet read: ““He shot me and I still tried to protect him because the police be killing us” - @theestallion. This has me in TEARS. My god. Black women WHEW! We cant even fight for our own lives w/o feeling like we have to protect the lives of the people who commit acts of violence against us”. This tweet generated nearly 50 000 retweets and over 194 000 likes.

The following day, @chancetherapper tweeted, “I hope Meg really gets justice for what Tory did to her. And that we can all learn from this, how near and constant and serious, the threat of lethal violence and abuse is for every Black woman.” This was retweeted over 17 200 times and liked nearly 100 000 times.

About CABC

The Centre for Analytics and Behavioural Change (CABC) is a non-profit organisation based at UCT's Graduate School of Business and incubated by the Allan Gray Centre for Values-Based Leadership. It was established to track and counter mis- and disinformation, fake news and divisive and polarising rhetoric that is promulgated online to undermine social cohesion, democratic integrity, and the stability of nation states.