# 24HR TREND REPORT

*Issued by the Centre for Analytics and Behavioural Change*

05 August 2020

## Zimbabwean Lives Matter | Black Identity Politics | Beirut Explosion | Other trends

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.

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## *Zimbabwean Lives Matter*

***With over 28 850 mentions, #zimbabweanlivesmatter was the number 4 top topic for the day. The movement has taken South African Twitter by storm.***

## The Crisis

Constitutional lawyer Fadzayi Mahere (@advocatemahere) took to Twitter to share harrowing details of Zimbabwe's failing healthcare system, posting concerning pictures that highlighted shortages of supplies and PPE. In a tweet, Mahere posted "Look at what our hospitals have been reduced to. No proper strapping or bandages for patients because of a looting, corrupt incompetent regime that doesn't care about its people. This is why we are protesting and telling the world that #ZimbabweanLivesMatter" alongside a picture of a patient bandaged with what appears to be a OK shopping sticker. In another post, he shared an image of hospital staff and nurses wearing what appeared to be sheets as PPE stating "The lack of personal protective equipment in public hospitals means nurses often have to "make a plan." Corruption and chronic underfunding have brought our public health system to its knees thus placing lives at risk. #ZimbabweanLivesMatter." The posts had received nearly 7 900 likes, retweets and comments at the time of writing.

Alex T Magaisa (@Wamagaisa), listed on Twitter as the former Chief of Staff in Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's office and former adviser to Zimbabwe's constitution-making team, posted

"Zimbabwe in brief:

• abduction & torture of opponents

• killing of protestors

• compromised justice system

• rampant corruption

• bankrupt economy

• decrepit public health system

• severe food shortages

• a violent, uncaring & callous regime

#ZimbabweanLivesMatter". The post was widely shared receiving over 2 900 likes and 2 000 retweets and comments.

Another constitutional lawyer, @BitiTendai took to Twitter to share "Emmerson's regime is one of the few in the world that actually wakes up to plot repression, pain &

suffering against its people Literally every single day ,there is an attack on citizens be it be abductions , arrests ,laws,policy measures or bad governance.#ZimbabweanLivesMatter." The tweet resonated with social media users, receiving over 2 800 likes, retweets and comments at the time of writing.

## Solidarity

As countries banded together behind the #ZimbabweanLivesMatter movement, Mahere (@advocatemahere) took to Twitter to acknowledge their solidarity by posting "It's important for us to take a step back and thank all the amazing people from across the continent and the world who have taken the time to show solidarity with Zimbabweans in expressing the inalienable truth that #ZimbabweanLivesMatter." The post received widespread traction, garnering over 4 600 likes and 1 900 likes and retweets. Several users thanked and showed support for the advocate having taken their fight to an international stage on Twitter.

Ardent, outspoken supporter of the movement and award winning media personality Lasizwe Dambuza took to Twitter to share continued support despite having suffered recent homophobic attacks. In a post he shared "Yoh! I really thought this homophobic thing wasn't going to affect me but damn!... it got me hard! But I still stand with Zimbabwe! I wish for the violation of human rights in Zimbabwe to STOP and the rights of the LGBTQI+ to be treated equally! WE ARE HUMANS TOO!" The post took Twitter by storm, with over 18 200 likes, retweets and comments. Many thanked him for his continued support and reassured him that he was loved by his friends, family and fans.

## Deafening Silence

South African self-proclaimed public interest lawyers and militant non-racialist Richard Spoor took to Twitter to share his dismay at the deafening silence of the South African government on the crisis in Zimbabwe. His post, which has now garnered almost 1 000 likes, retweets and comments, stated "The silence of the South African government on the current wave of repression and human rights abuses in Zimbabwe is shameful. The government has lost whatever moral standing it once enjoyed. As a South African, I am ashamed."

Both the DA and EFF have come out in no uncertain terms against the current regime in Zimbabwe with the DA posting "The DA calls for Ramaphosa and SADC leaders to prevent, on a major scale, the erosion of human rights in Zimbabwe and any further decline in reputation and investment risk to the entire region. We are deeply concerned about the situation in Zimbabwe." The post received widespread

support from social media users with over 2 700 likes and 1 500 retweets and comments. Meanwhile, the EFF has called for the shutdown of the Zimbabwean Embassy in South Africa.

## *Black Identity Politics*

***This reporting cycle featured conversations about the nuances of black identity, black empowerment, black governance and black business that received a significant amount of attention on Twitter. These issues trended under multiple drivers in the top topics by snapshot, volume and burst.***

## Division within the Black community

During this 24-hour cycle, conversations about the nuances of black identity garnered considerable traction amongst Twitter users. Several users expressed their reflections on the notion of colourism. On Wednesday 5 August 2020, @Sethuuuuuuuu shared a three-part thread with an initial tweet that read, “The black racial group is so divided tbh. do you see white people fighting over light skinned and dark skinned within their own racial group?” This tweet received 177 retweets and 309 likes. On the same day, @mpumz_n shared an anecdotal tweet which read, “people who grew up calling us “mnyamane” and “sash” are now saying that colourism isn’t a thing?” This tweet generated 380 retweets and nearly 700 likes.

Some users shared their thoughts on the complexities of romantic relationships in the black community. @ZiphoratorSA tweeted “Some Black people are so used to failed marriages and relationships , that when they see a happy couple, they immediately make up malicious rumors like " IT WILL END IN TEARS” just because happiness❤❤ is such a rare thing in the black community and they cannot relate.” This tweet got 275 retweets and almost 600 likes.

Other users expressed views that highlighted the prevalence of homophobia within the black community. @zamagembe tweeted “Yaz I've never heard or bumped into a gay guy in those very deep rural areas, like in my home village eMbabe, which sometimes makes me think this Gay thing is some sort of a lifestyle n it for people coming from privileges households.I just hope my tweet won't be misunderstood”. This was retweeted 233 times and liked 647 times.

## Disappointment with Black governance

Conversations about governance in South Africa trended throughout the day as Twitter users expressed their frustrations with the current administration. On Wednesday 5 August 2020, president of the Mining Forum of South Africa @BlessingsRamoba tweeted, “The ANC government has made black people to accept and normalise poverty.” This tweet received 309 retweets and over 1 000 likes.

Later that day, @Unathi_Kwaza tweeted “Top, well paying government jobs are reserved only for Black people in South Africa. But they still blame white people for being failures in life.😂😂😂.” This tweet generated 133 retweets and 520 likes.

## Silencing of Black success

Conversations about discrimination against black people, particularly at an institutional level, received some attention on Twitter. On Wednesday 5 August 2020, @_AfricanSoil shared a two-part thread about the court case between the Council for Medical Schemes and Sizwe Medical Fund. The initial tweet contained four pages from the court document alongside the message, “📄[READ] Council for Medical Schemes vs Sizwe Medical Fund. Dear black people, this is how WMC destroys black owned brands. CMS lied about SMF status mainly to scare their clients and see it collapse. SMF faught tooth and nail & WON the case in court. This👇 is how you do it”. This tweet received 235 retweets and 263 likes.

## #BlackIsKing Uplifting Black people

Following the release of Beyonce’s #BlackIsKing project, many Twitter users expressed their appreciation for the showcasing of black (particularly African) talent. On Tuesday 4 August 2020, @BlackIsKing shared two images. One contained the #BlackIsKing poster. The other contained a photograph of the late South African composer Solomon Linda. The tweet read “Ms Tina has revealed that Beyoncé decided to make #BlackIsKing when she heard the story of Solomon Linda, the S. African composer of Lion Sleeps Tonight who received no credit from Disney. She decided to fix that injustice and show the beauty of Africa from the eyes of Africans.” This tweet gained significant traction the following day with over 6 700 retweets and over 21 900 likes.

On Wednesday 5 August 2020, fansite @BeyLegion shared a video of Beyonce’s mother Tina Knowles Lawson, speaking about the inspiration behind the #BlackIsKing project. The tweet read “Ms. Tina @knowles_lawson reveals Beyoncé's decision to create #BlackIsKing came after learning the story of Solomon Linda—the South African composer of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" for which he

received no credit & no royalties from Disney." This tweet generated over 3 400 retweets and over 8 200 likes.

## *Beirut Explosion*

***While people along the Lebanese coast are still reeling from the impact of the explosion that shook Beirut a few days ago, images and videos that display the destruction and devastating consequences of the blast are flooding social media. The Beirut explosion trended within the top 3 topics for the day.***

## The Damage

At 14:17, @ajplus tweeted that there had been 100 deaths and 4000 people injured. This user went on to say that many people are still missing and that family members have been going down to the port in search of their loved ones. This post received more than 4 000 retweets and over 5 000 likes. Within the comments to the tweet, a thread from Al Jazeera reads "Public records & documents published online show senior Lebanese officials knew for +6 years that ammonium nitrate was stored in a hangar at Beirut's port & the dangers it posed."

At 15:49, @BBCAmos tweeted high res satellite images of the area where the explosion took place which shows the extent of the material damage at the site. The post has more than 2 400 retweets and comments. He explains that the images were taken from the Pléiades 1A/1B constellation.

## Fragility of life

A video of a bride in Lebanon having her wedding photos taken at the time of the explosion has received close to 3 million views. @sunnyshakur1 retweeted the video and said "this life is so scary because Allah SWT can take everything away from you in a matter of seconds." This post trended within the top topics by volume for the day, receiving more than 9 000 retweets and more than 15 000 likes.

## *Other Trends*

## Missing Persons

Four tweets trended within the high volume drivers as they tried to create awareness about reported missing persons. At 14:31, @TheNamibian tweeted about Navita Nguvauva who they believe went missing on 31 July 2020.

Earlier in the day, @Viidot_SA tweeted the image of a person he says is Philisiwe Mkhize and he explains that she has been missing for 3 days now. This post has received more than 5 700 retweets.

On 04 August 2020, @TracyZille announced on twitter that a young person named Mimi Mmashako Makgalatiba has been missing since Saturday. This post was retweeted more than 2 200 times.

On 03 August 2020, @AfricanHairCli1 tweeted the image of a 16-year-old girl named Bonolo Thato Sefatsana. The post received more than 1 000 retweets.

## About CABC

The Centre for Analytics and Behavioural Change (CABC) is a non-profit organisation based at UCTs 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.