

# FREEDOM DAY REFLECTIONS. ARE WE REALLY FREE?



REFLECTIONS OF FREEDOM IN AZANIA & MOTHER AFRICA



## AN INQUIRY INTO THE FREEDOM OF AZANIA.

BY SANDILE MSIBI

Revolutionary greetings family. As you know, the South African calendar prescribes that we celebrate our Freedom today. This day is marked by the famous event that saw marginalized black masses, having a say in who should govern them. Very long queues of first-time voters were seen all over South Africa on the 27th April 1994.

Finally, their suppressed voices would be heard, their stolen land would be retrieved and at last they would be economically emancipated after all the years of hardcore oppression, at least this is what they thought, this is what they hoped for.

A very demanding question has to be posed however, an undeniable inquiry must be instigated; **Are we really free? Did 1994 truly mark our long-awaited liberation?**

Let's resume our inquiry by conducting a brief post mortem that examines the state of our country and its continental context, AFRICA.

The colonial era left Africa and her descendants socially, psychologically and economically bankrupt. It trampled on the integrity of black lives and exploited them of their resources and wealth.

Post-colonialism, the imperialistic agenda continues to economically ostracize and psychologically subjugate black lives.

The truth of the matter is that colonialism never loosened its grip on Africa, it just renewed and modernized its chains. These sophisticated chains now go by the name Neo-colonialism.

Kwame Nkrumah once said: "The essence of Neo-colonialism is that the State which is subject to it is, in theory, independent and has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. In reality its economic system and thus its political policy is directed from outside." This plainly tells us that what we deem as free independent African states is in fact an illusion, "symbolism without substance", in the words of Louis Farrakhan.

Ever since the Berlin conference, where Africa was scrambled on the table by European countries that claimed their own share of Africa, Africa has since never recovered. To date, 136 years later, the colonizer has not allowed any African state to reach its full potential.

To this day, there are mines all over Africa overseen by European companies and governments. The proceeds of these mines do not return to the ordinary people of Africa.

Africa, the richest land area in the world, home to the masters of civilization is tragically also the most underdeveloped in the world...what a depressing irony.

***"Inequality in South Africa is very high, persistent and on the increase in the last 26 years" - World Bank***

In Azania, the southern part of Mother Africa, this criminal agenda, of oppressing and exploiting black lives was cemented by an evil system called apartheid. A very carefully thought out, cunning and conniving system, that was not only sustained by violence, but also psychological warfare was put into operation to terrorize our people.

Post 1994, our acclaimed year of liberation, imperialism and apartheid still haunt the poor masses of South African black people.

Inferiority complexity is an example of the shadows that re-visits and torment our people, suffocating their identity, self-pride, dreams and aspirations.

The education we receive reinforces this suffocation. Our education system insists on the generalization of the western way of life. Making it even more painful to be African in Africa. Our education assumes that the only way of life is the westerner's way. It forces us to detest our indigenous systems and cultures.

Ironically, the more educated we get, seems to be the less African we become. Carter Woodson once said that: **"The thought of the inferiority of the black man is drilled into him in almost every class he enters and almost every book he studies."** How true is this? Our textbooks promote the views and insights of white supremacist and say very little about the vast knowledge of Africans' history and their brainpower. Our education system in more ways than one furthers incarceration and a sense of servitude.

It is clear, without any reasonable doubt that the imperialistic agenda continues to thrive in Azania like it does in all other African states.

Neo-colonialism has numbed our will to fight by giving us black faces in government but not the power. Our political leaders are like puppets in the hands of white supremacists who dictate the direction of our state. This deceit is perpetuated by terminologies such as "democracy" and the "rainbow nation"-an utter scam that masquerades inequality and inequity.

Family, research by the world bank, has proved that South Africa is the most unequal of 149 countries that they surveyed. It is one of the most unequal countries in the world. Inequality in South Africa is very high, persistent and on the increase in the last 26 years.

Poverty remains concentrated in previously disadvantaged areas. The majority of land in South Africa is still in the hands of white minorities. White supremacists still own: land, mines, banks, factories, shopping centres, industries, farms and many private companies. University and school management is dominated by the liberal Eurocentric views of the oppressors.

**THE QUESTION PERSISTS...ARE WE REALLY FREE?**



It is APPARENT with the partial evidence brought forward to this inquiry, that Azania **IS NOT FREE**.

I recommend that we continue to war on. Let's look past the things that divide us and let's unite for maximum impact.

Tribalism and Xenophobia are nothing but destructive mechanisms to stall our freedom. Let's wake up and realize our true enemy.

In this era, our freedom will not come from throwing stones but organizing ourselves and using our minds.

Family I'd like to make it clear that there will be no revolution, whether economical, political, social or intellectual until there is **PSYCHOLOGICAL REVOLUTION**.

Steve Biko's lasting words of wisdom are relevant now more than ever: **"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor, is the mind of the oppressed."**

We remain slaves if our minds are in shackles. **"None but ourselves can free our minds"**-Bob Marley.

We must free our minds by not being naïve and believing everything we hear and see. Propaganda is the remote control in the hands of the enemy.

If we continue to allow ourselves to be controlled by mass media, we do it to our own peril. We need to see things for what they are and distance ourselves from further psychological bondage.

***"there will be no revolution, whether economical, political, social or intellectual until there is psychological revolution"***

Let's redeem the essence of black consciousness and fall in love with ourselves. Whiteness is not the standard of beauty or intelligence, let's stop treating it as such.

Let's counter the colonial education we receive with self-education of African content that teaches us about our true selves and sparks our brilliance. Education that sets us up for psychological reformation.

Let's not be lazy, the enemy works day and night to suppress us, we must work twice as hard to rise up against the odds. We must always imagine a better future. We are inherent geniuses, masters of civilization, We can do anything we put our mind to.

Thomas Sankara, my favorite Pan Africanist, revolutionary leader once asserted: **"We must dare to invent the future. Everything man is capable of imagining, he can create."**

So family, let's take charge of our lives and our destinies. **Let us re-engineer our minds for a re-invented awareness for it is NOT YET UHURU!**

# **"IT IS NOT YET UHURU!"**

## **Arise Black Child**