



# Towards the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Migration data and research forum for enhanced Migration measurement and governance

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International Forum  
on Migration Statistics  
IFMS 2023  
24-26 January • Santiago, Chile



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# Layout of Presentation

- Background and context
- Operation Dudula
- Anti-migrant violence in South Africa
- Why a migration data and research forum
- Labour Migration in South Africa
- What lies ahead

# Background and Context

- South Africa has a history of labour migration whereby the mining industry was established by exploiting labour migration in the region.
- As the economy has evolved and labour migration had extended to sectors beyond the mining industry, labour migration has become a pathway out of poverty and unemployment caused by political instability, poor governance and violence
- Currently official unemployment rates in South Africa have deteriorated to over 30% with a peak of 35.3% being reached in Q4:2021
  
- During Covid in 2020 trucks headed to the eastern port city of Durban were being burnt by communities who felt they should be employed to drive them
- In 2021 this became a political tool by those behind the most significant social unrest since the transition to democracy in the KwaZulu-Natal province where Durban is located
- Political discontent and labour migration are issues that are intertwined with each other



# Operation Dudula

In the midst of the aforementioned social unrest, a vigilante group called Operation Dudula was established under leadership of community leader, Nhlanhla Lux. *Dudula* is a Zulu word which means to push back and which has polarised South African society.





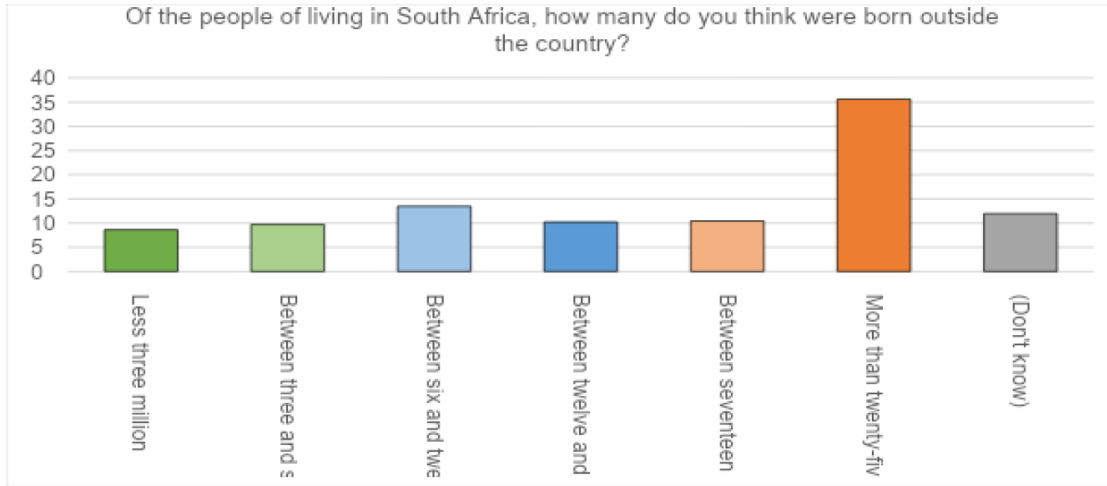
- The **pushback** is that of impoverished and unemployed South Africans against foreign nationals whom they are competing against in the labour market and whom they suspect are responsible for **other social ills** as well as such crime and consuming of public services such as health and education
- Operation Dudula along with other movements such as #PutSouthAfricansFirst believes that all **jobs should be reserved for South Africans** except those highly skilled jobs that foreigners can occupy. Low skilled jobs should be for South Africans only and irregular migrants should not be holding any jobs at all.
- As can be imagined many disagree with this and along with a strong civil society sector anti-xenophobic groups have emerged which have **elevated the issues around labour migration** even more into the public discourse and have been intersected with issues around gender-based violence.
- Operation Dudula can be said to have been pushed back themselves in this regard which led to the resignation of their founder but their activities continue and they continue to influence policy and pressure political groups from a **non-evidence based perspective**
- It should be noted that this situation is not unique and quite **similar to populist driven, anti-migrant groups** or campaigns in other parts of the world
- Remains to be seen what impact these activities had on Census 2022



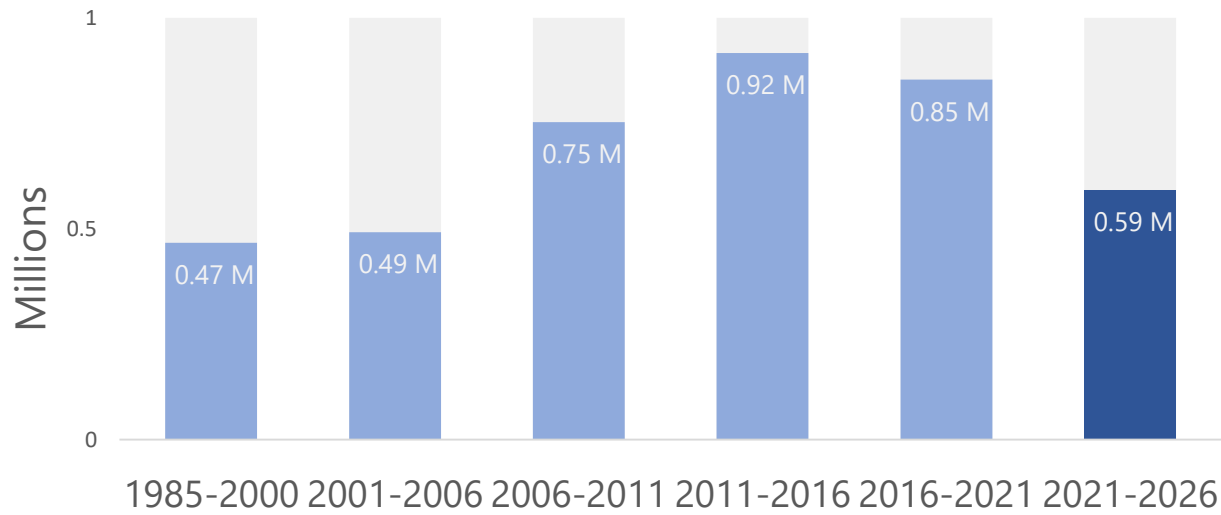
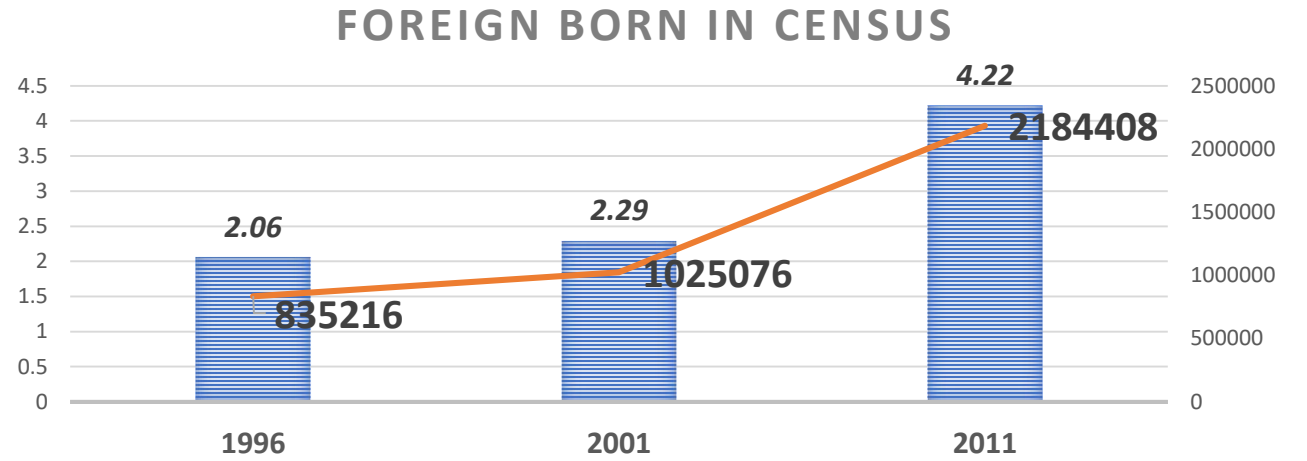
# Xenophobic violence and immigration myths

- Violence against foreign nationals is **nothing new to in SA even prior to the democratic transition** in 1994 particularly as a result of armed conflict in Mozambique and the DRC (Zaire)
- In **May, 2008** the first major episode of orchestrated xenophobic violence occurred with 62 killed. In April and **October of 2015** a further episode erupted which led to many countries offering to repatriate their citizens as a result.
- Many opinion polls have revealed the perception that a sizeable proportion of people feel that migrants are responsible for various social ills including violent crime, drug dealing, prostitution usage of public services, 'stealing' jobs
- One such study is the SA Social Attitudes Survey conducted by the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) which indicates the misguided perception of the size of the foreign population in SA
- Census data from 1996, 2001 and 2011 as well as the most recent Mid-Year Population Estimates show that the size and proportion is far less that what is imagined as a result massive misinformation, particularly via social media
- Similarly other data sources can be used to debunk claims related to crime, education and health

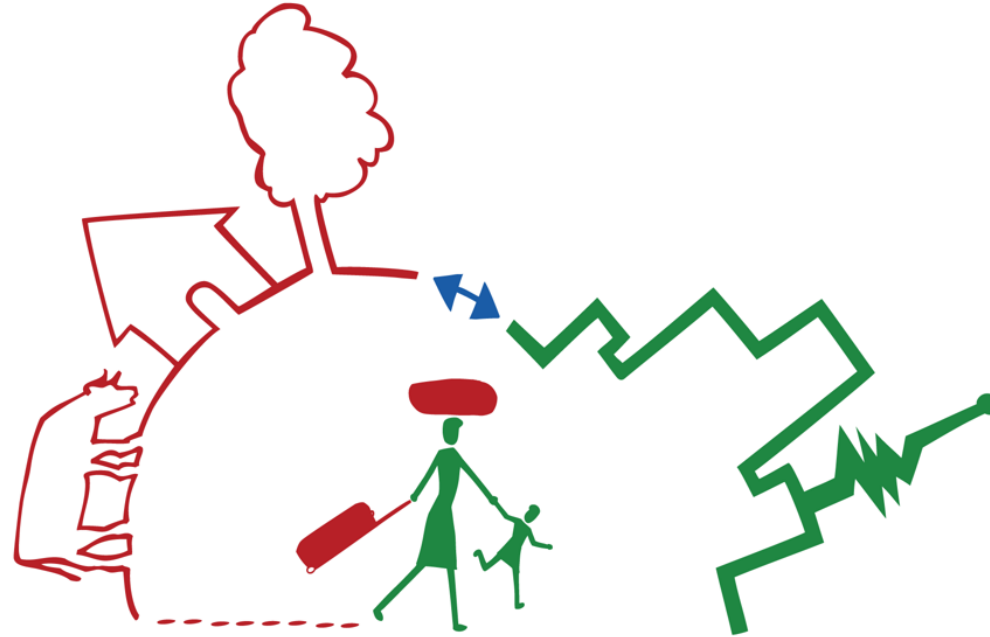




Source: South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) 2018



# Why a Migration Data and Research Forum



## NATIONAL MIGRATION AND URBANISATION FORUM





- First mention of establishing the forum was when results of the CS2016 were questioned which culminated in a session on this topic being presented at the IPC 2017
- Whilst discussions around the GCM were ongoing globally, **national discussions** made it clear that a platform to discuss migration data and research was needed. There was a need to **build capacity** in collecting data but also in using data as a form of evidence to manage migration better at all levels of government
- Whilst many countries have **co-ordinating committees** that exist at political level the need to establish data and research co-ordinating bodies can not be stressed enough
- Forum was established at the first migration and urbanisation conference in July 2021 along with Department of Social Development and was subsequently **endorsed by the cabinet** in August of the same year. The forum will report back to cabinet on an annual basis on what it has achieved
- Forum is a **broad based stakeholder platform** which aims to elevate issues related to migration data and how migration engages with policy and current issues through an all of government and society approach
- Forum is responsible to **build capacity** in this regard, **respond to quantitative obligations** nationally and globally related to migration and **co-ordinate activities** between stakeholders



- Some of the successes of the forum have been **hosting of 4 meetings** thus far where issues around concepts and definitions, climate change, labour migration, trafficking and statelessness have been discussed with the view on how to measure and inform ourselves better
- Release of a statement of concern related to misinformation around labour migration



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STATEMENT BY MIGRATION SCHOLARS ON INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION SITUATION IN  
SOUTH AFRICA



# Labour Migration

- As indicated earlier one of the major concerns is about labour migration, hence the release of the statement which generated some positive publicity
- In February, 2022 the Department of Employment and Labour released a **Draft Labour Migration Policy** for comments which made some recommendations around labour migration data and called for implementation of quotas in certain sectors of the economy. Through the Forum comments were submitted
- Some of the issues raised through the policy which are enjoying attention are the development of diaspora mapping and regularity of migration module in labour survey and the development of a Labour Market Information System
- Previous labour migration **reports from Stats SA** have not focussed on participation in individual sectors but have highlighted overall participation in labour market as well as how the migrant workers experience therein do not conform to the principal of **Decent Work**
- **Covid 19** has also had profound impact on work experience of migrant workers particularly those in the **informal sector**



Industry	2012%	2017%
Agriculture	7,73	11,58
Mining	8,08	8,00
Manufacturing	4,90	5,55
Utilities	0,94	3,76
Construction	8,81	11,94
Trade	8,41	9,61
Transport	3,97	7,13
Finance	4,71	5,69
Community and social services	3,34	4,83
Private households	8,12	11,80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,98</b>	<b>7,73</b>
Occupation		
Manager	8,50	9,61
Professional	5,29	6,75
Technician	3,60	4,44
Clerk	2,29	4,01
Sales	6,90	7,41
Skilled agriculture	7,86	9,01
Craft and related trades	10,33	10,74
Plant and machine operators	3,89	5,45
Elementary	5,88	9,36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,98</b>	<b>7,73</b>

Part of the submission made to the DLMP by the Migration Forum to indicate participation by migrant labour on the basis of a migration module in the 2012 and 2017 Quarterly Labour Force Survey.

This is in stark contrast to what was being claimed by groups such as Operation Dudula and other such groups. The 2022 data will be released in the course of this year and consideration is being given to conducting this more regularly.



# What Lies Ahead for the Forum

Main outputs of the Forum will be

- Migration Profile Report – IOM country office
- Migration Governance Indicators
- Tracking implementation of GCM on indicators to be identified by IOM (IMRF)
- Rolling out of module on recruitment costs with assistance from ILO
- Development of modules into other surveys (IES, GHS)
- National Migration Data Hub
- Ongoing advocacy on migration related matters
- Capacity building efforts nationally as well as through UNECA, AU, Statafric
- Informing cabinet of progress of the Forum
- Disseminate and promote migration data from Census
- Developing relationships with line departments and exploring administrative data





On the basis of the experience in South Africa it is strongly recommended that countries establish a Data and Research multi-stakeholder forum to address data related activities, enhance measurement activities of migration, contribute to migration governance through an evidence based perspective and build capacity in production and usage of migration data



# Muchas Gracias

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