

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THE CONFLICT DYNAMICS OF RACIAL ASSAULT ON INTRA-AFRICANS MIGRANT WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The racial Assault in South Africa towards non-African migrant workers becomes one of issues concerned by worldwide. Every year, there are victims and attacks launched by local people of South Africa to migrants, especially for migrant workers. For South African people the occupation of land by migrants takes the African people job opportunity in their own land. Historically, in the post-apartheid era, some South African people still have their paradigm that foreigners including of refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers are a threat for their country. We have known that apartheid is the serious issue of humanity and racism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in which at that time South Africa is white monopolized by white people. The system, judicial system, economic, social are ruled by them, and the owner of the land cannot do some significant actions in order to protect their sovereignty.

As time goes by the words of black in racial discrimination is getting known in South Africa is post-apartheid era. It means the discrimination and racial gap among intra African people, they come to South Africa with some purposes in status of migrants, refugee, asylum seeker. It makes the assumption that the case of racial assault towards migrants both the intra African migrant workers and non-African migrant workers is the improvement of apartheid, it also can be called as modern apartheid because the target of discrimination is getting wide and they want to be independent in social economic and cultural sector because of some structural factors mentioned (Chengu, 2015).

**Picture 1 : Map of racial assault incident in South Africa**



(Roundtripticket, 2017)

The racial assault towards intra African migrant workers spreads into almost every part of South Africa country, for example Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, KwaMashu, Umlazi, even in the capital city of South Africa Cape Town. These facts show that racial assault done by South African towards migrant workers is spreads and increases in every year with many forms. In this chapter, the writer discusses and explains about the conflict dynamics of racial assault in South Africa by serving historical sides, actors and some track records of racial assault action done by local people.

#### **A. Timeline and History of Conflict in post-apartheid era**

The conflict of racial assault between local South African and intra African migrant workers can be figured out because every situation is related from year to year. This thesis is concerning the issue or conflict that happened in 2015 until 2017. However, the situation in previous year before 2015 can

be a good reference to determine the factor that causes racial assault tragedy toward intra African migrant workers in South Africa structurally.

The apartheid era ended in 1991 when Nelson Mandela was released from prison and fought against apartheid system and erased three main regulations ruled by apartheid. The first regulation is about land act where black people are not allowed to own the private house outside the land that is already served by apartheid system. The second regulation “group areas act”, where there is a segregation of home living between white skinned and black skinned people, and the last regulation is population registration act where obligate all black skinned people to register themselves based on their race. Those regulation was erased by Nelson Mandela and his party ANC and it brings good atmosphere for the condition of South Africa at that time, but after that people of South Africa have some problems and conflict with migrant workers and refugees with many variants of reason, almost in every decade there are some cases that take a victim from another country (Alence, 2004). For the detail here below is the table of racial assault timeline in South Africa:

**Table 3 : Table of timeline of racial assault incident in South Africa 1994-2013**

No.	Year of incident	Place of incidents	Moments	Victim
1	1994	Johannesburg	Marching and removing undocument ed foreigner	none
2	1998	Johannesburg	Blaming foreigner as the sources of crime and AIDS	Two Senegalese and Mozambican

3	2008	Cape towns of Jeffreys Bay and East London Johannesburg,	Attacking intra-African migrants shops	Seven people of Zimbabwean , Pakistanis, and Somali
		Durban, and Cape Town	Violence action	Intra African migrant workers
4	2009	Breede Valley	Local people removing migrants from rural area	3000 Zimbabwean
5	2013	Daveyton	Boys arrested and violence done by police officer	Mozambican
		Diepsloot	Xenophobic Attacks	Two Zimbabwean

On October 1994 armed gangs in Alexandria found an undocumented foreigner and marched that person to the police and they forcibly demanded to remove that foreigner from their country. In 1998 two Senegalese and Mozambican who are intra African migrant workers had been thrown away from the train by group of people in Johannesburg because they were blamed those people as the cause of crime, taking their job and spreads AIDS virus in South Africa.

On March 2008, xenophobic action continued assaulting intra Africans migrants workers. At this time the victim were 7 people of Zimbabwean, Pakistanis, and Somali in the Eastern side of Cape towns of Jeffreys Bay and East London, because their shops were attacked, and in May there was assaulting tragedy in Johannesburg triggered by violence in township and

two weeks after the violence goes to urban city in Durban and Cape Town with the same reason.

On November 2009 in the rural areas, 3000 Zimbabwean citizens were displaced from their area near Breede Valley Municipality because they do not want to work in the same area with Zimbabwean at that time. Mozambican also become the victim in 2013 when 27 year old Mozambican tied by eight South African policemen and was dragged him down the road by van. At the same time, the man died inside the cell because of head injuries. This happened in Daveyton, East of Johannesburg. Still in 2013, two Zimbabwean men killed in the hands of South African mob in Diepsloot because of xenophobic attacks.

From that timeline of racial assault tragedy from post-apartheid era until modern era, we can see that the causes are similar and almost same with same reasons as well. From year to year, the issue or tragedy of racial assault increases even it gets worse, because it comes with many forms of violence. Violence that is launched in form of march, verbally, and discrimination in formal condition through government or legal institution are categorized as xenophobic action, even there are still physical violence by destroying and looting foreign shop ownership.

## **B. The circumstances of racism in apartheid era**

Apartheid system was one of serious threat for international relation in the past era. This system was conducted in South Africa with many purposes by white skinned people towards black skinned people in style of segregation between them. At the beginning, the first Europe country that came to South Africa is Netherland under Jan Anthony van Riebeeck in 1618-1677. As time goes by white skinned people bring problem indirectly in South Africa with segregation action and make new root of segregation problem. Netherland decided to stay in the land of South Africa and their colony also called by Boer group which is originally from Netherland. However, English started to make their

journey in African island and create the domination in north sides of Africa until south sides of Africa. When English colonial came to South Africa and met Netherlands, there was a historical war called “Boer’s war” in 1899 and this war ended in 1902. Finally English colonial can beat Boer group and rule South Africa, therefore African Union was made by them in 1910 and it made many English people come to South Africa (Glaser, 2015).

During the English administration in South Africa, the politics of segregation started to be implemented in that land. The English people which were minority in South Africa were very dominant toward black skinned people of local South Africans which is the majority in their own land. The domination also spread out in political election when the national party won the election which is dominated by English people in 1948. At that time the system of apartheid was started to rule.

The government did racial segregation by clustering African people into four groups of citizen. The first group is white skinned people or European which get the highest privileges from the authority, the second group is Bantu groups which is the original race in South Africa. The third group is Pakistani and Indian because the number of them were quite high. The last is Cape Malay. This clustering makes a barrier among citizens to access some places.

**Picture 2 : Sign of Segregation**



(Mulpix, 2017)

The sign above is the segregation sign which means the places can be accessed by white skinned people only because they have rights and privileges compared to other races in South Africa under British administration at that time.

The reason why the writer put this topic because racism is one of the root of racial assault that happen in South Africa. The politics of apartheid started in 1948, it is segregation of race in South Africa , in which the discrimination based on the color of skin not only verbally done but it legalized by law. From that system, white skinned people have some privileges that cannot be owned by black skinned people such as private housing, job, education, and political position. The regulation of group act that separates the rights of white skinned and black skinned people becomes the main concern on how racist this system is.

The system of apartheid has three laws. The first one is there is prohibition of mixed marriage age in 1949, which means that there is no interracial marriage between white skinned and black skinned people in South Africa. The second law is immortality amendment act in 1950 which rules about the validation and the immortality of amendment, in which for those who against will get the consequences. The last law is Separating the representation of voters in 1951 that separate the rights of voters in political sector. Those law leads to racism action, because in that law there were a gaps and barrier of rights among citizens. This racism is quite dangerous because of its affection towards victims and it creates discrimination that can affect their psychologies and their wealth in their own land.

There are two types of racism, that can be categorized into individual level and systemic level of racism. Individual racism consists of internalized racism and interpersonal racism. Internalized racism is within individuals, in which there is individual that could not accept diversity, the suspect will judge people because they have different race, behavior, religion, and etc. The suspect will feel superior about his or

her race, and she or he feels that his or her is better than other. Interpersonal racism is racism between individual that affect public interaction for example racial violence in South Africa.

Meanwhile systemic level racism consists of institutional and structural racism. Institutional racism occurs within institution and system of power, for example unfair policy and authority, which focus on segregation and rights of people. Structural racism is racial bias among institutions or can be done across society, for example the differences of ideology, history, paradigm, and policies (Katz, 2013).

In Apartheid era, racial actions of discrimination happened in many types of racism mentioned that leads to the main problem of racial assault in South Africa. This issue is common issue for South Africa and uncommon issue for non-South Africa because it takes a lot of victims. The victims were migrant workers from intra Africa and also non Africa. “Group areas policies” as the limitation of property rights for black skinned people in South Africa gave heavy traumatic and pressure for local South African people. The system of group areas that already legalized by law also used to control the wave of migrants, refugees, and movement in urban for black skinned people. There were many regulations to segregate black skinned people with white skinned people. For example the segregation location in port Elizabeth to control settlement of Africans in that region, rights of people that given by government also different between black skinned and white skinned people. This system is ruling until the first black skinned president of South Africa named Nelson Mandela is released from prison. Nelson Mandela with his party called African National Congress (ANC) erased the group act law from apartheid (Green, 2014).

### **C. Breaking out the apartheid domination in South Africa**

The domination of apartheid that always discriminates and clusters people based on their originality makes some subjects in this case feel their wealth is dominated by the



authority of English administration. Racial segregation started to call many assumption and protests against apartheid in forms of demonstration and riots. They demand their rights and their wealth and which is contradictive with government's policies that makes natives and some migrants from black skinned people lost their rights and privileges almost in every sectors.

Some actions done by local South African always give significant force towards government. One of the actions is called Sharpeville action in 1960, it was a demonstration action done by 5000 until 7000 black skinned demonstrators towards police officers. However, when black skinned demonstrators tried to approach, police officer launched the shotgun and killed almost 70 people of demonstrators. In 1970, government allowed local people of South Africa to make a union, but there were still some actions that limited by the government. In 1980, governments gave a sheet in parliament for black skinned people but with limitation of rights in parliaments (Maylam, 1995).

Nelson Mandela is one of important actors who concern on erasing apartheid policies. His efforts to free South Africa from apartheid took long time and it was not an instant action. Nelson Mandela tried to get support from the international world, He did that inside South Africa by gathering local people of South Africa for make their voices against apartheid and with the support of external countries Nelson Mandela launched their action with their followers in order to bring back the wealth of local South African people because of domination from English in the land of South Africa. Nelson Mandela with his party African National Congress (ANC) led a demonstration action to free South Africa from Apartheid. In 1961, Nelson Mandela asked people to stay in the their home. Because of his action Nelson Mandela arrested by government and prisoned in Pretoria in 1962. In prison, Mandela tried to make a strategy to continue their action with proper strategy.

The efforts of reformation were also done in many forms. P.W. Botha's administration as the president of South

Africa in 1978 until 1989 created bright sides for people of South Africa, because he is the first white skinned president who wants reformation for natives. He wanted to make equalizer between the rights of white skinned and black skinned people in South Africa but it was not implemented well, until in 1989 P.W. Botha retired because of his health condition and he was replaced by De Klerk. The administration of Franklin Willem de Klerk made black skinned people start to have free movement to make union and party such as National African Congress or ANC. Nelson Mandela was released from Pretoria's prison at February 1990 during administration of Franklin Willem de Klerk. In 1990 Nelson Mandela met African National Congress with formal action and made non-racial regulation.

At February 1991, in parliament of South Africa, president Franklin Willem de Klerk decided to erase some foundations of apartheid because of unstoppable force launched by natives. Franklin Willem de Klerk erased three main points that quite affected for the system of apartheid. These foundations are land act, group areas act, and population registration act. Land act is the regulation to forbid black skinned people to own land outside the area that already determined by government, because the government at that time already segregate the land between black skinned people who are natives of South Africa with white skinned people in South Africa. The second regulation that is erased is group areas act, to make a clustering about home living between white skinned and black skinned people in South Africa. That is why Nelson Mandela is prisoned because they ask people to get their home living and did some violations towards government's rules. The last regulation is population registration act, which means people must register themselves to government based on their race. This regulation only regulated for black skinned people. Those three regulations are erased because of effort from local people of South Africa and also critics from international world (SA ePublication, 2008).

The government of South Africa at that time agreed and decided multiracial political election for the first time in 1994. As the result, ANC the party led by Nelson Mandela won the election and Nelson Mandela was elected as the first black skinned president for South Africa. On May 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected in the ceremony of Union Building, Pretoria. It was a memorable moment for South Africa because the politics of apartheid was finally ended. During the administration of Nelson Mandela South Africa started to remake many things and start new development in politics, economics, and social. As the result, South Africa become the most integrated country in South Africa that attract the wave of migrants to come because South Africa has good economic development. However, apartheid gives a legacy and traumatic psychological factors for South Africa towards foreigners and create new modern issues in international relation called racial assault that is quite known in South Africa.