

### **CHAPTER III**

## **THE ASSUMPTIONS OF MODERN INCIDENT OF RACIAL ASSAULT CONFLICT IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The racial assault case of intra-African migrant workers is becoming the concern of the international world. Some impacts can be predicted because of this case. Migrants come because they have interests and purposes in the destination place for example in South Africa, some of migrant workers from Zimbabwe, Somali become victims of xenophobic or racial assault, that gives impact toward relation between South Africa and Zimbabwe or Somali. The impact is not only bilateral impact, but also multilateral impact because particular country has their own allies in order to support their country and the issue can be globalized and become threat for world peace. Because the impact of this case is quite dangerous, this chapter describes about the perspectives from the actors of racial assault in South Africa.

This issues happens and becomes the concern because the significant impact from actors of racial assault, they have different perspectives and assumption towards some problems, that is how conflicts were made, because the differences of assumption and perspectives towards something. Racial assault is not new problems in South Africa, from previous chapter mentioned that there are linked situation in past era and modern era, therefore in modern era many actors even international organizations tried to find the root and solution from this problem and stop his problem to take more victims (Robert Jackson, 2016). This chapter also describe about the implementation of the theory of conflict causes analyzed by actors and sectors in South Africa.

#### **A. The Actors of Racial Assault**

There are some actors in the case of racial assault on intra African migrant workers in South Africa. The roles of actors between South African and outside South African are

significant. South Africa is usually called as the rainbow nation diversity because South Africa is a sought place for migrants to take the opportunity, and refugee for shelter. South African consists of black skinned South African people or local people but white skinned South African also exist because of post colonialism by Netherland and English. The population is around 144.700 people according to world refugee survey in 2008. Two main actors in this case who are local people of South Africa and migrants are very contradictive each other. They have different paradigm towards migration, the dilemma of migrants for going to South Africa happened because South Africa is the most integrated country in Africa, while in the other sides the threat towards migrants is very big for them since long time ago (Kok, 2006).

### **1. Local People of South Africa**

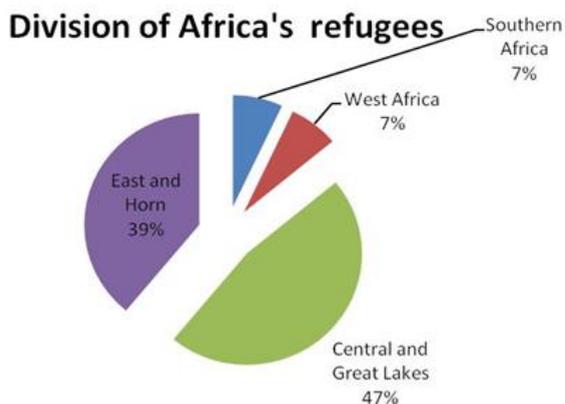
Regarding to this issue, some of South African still have traumatic post-apartheid era about foreigners. It has been proven by some accident mentioned before, some people treat foreigner especially migrants worker as a threat because of their occupation in the job field sector and blame them as the bringer of AIDS virus, at the beginning only non-African people as a victim because of their historical record, but now intra African people also become the victim of xenophobic attack.

This case related to apartheid almost 40 years from 1948 that allow segregation and discrimination towards local people of South Africa ruled by white skinned people. It gives significant impact on politic, economic, socio cultural sector. South African people at that time is very tortured until they take a step with Nelson Mandela with African National Congress (ANC) by referendum with De Klerk, ANC is the party in South Africa as the pioneer to get rights of all people without segregation whether they are black or white skinned, all of them have same rights in their nation in many terms. This tragedy gives some positive and negative impacts towards local people of South Africa.

The positive impact of Apartheid is that people of South Africa can united and make the improvement for their own life in many sectors, they bring equality for local people, but it leads to bad sides or negative impacts called egocentrism caused by high solidarity in their side and make some gaps or another segregation with another group. This impact goes too far and can be categorized as the factor of racial assault or xenophobic attack towards migrants in South Africa. Local people of South Africa are categorized as fair educated and some of them still lack of education. Thus, in South Africa there are many conflicts among local people of South Africa or between local people of South Africa and migrant, for example crime, looting, and xenophobic attack itself (Saal, 2017).

Most of people in South Africa have their independent job for example opening their own store and services, but seeing that migrants do the same thing or even make some improvements of local job in local area. It makes local people of South Africa feel dominated by them. There are some South Africans that are still less educated, one of thing that can be done to fulfill their daily needs by selling something or delivering their services, whether non and intra-African migrants who doing the same thing, local people will feel intimidated and assume that their jobs have stolen by migrants. However because South Africa is integrated well in economic and becoming sought place for refugee and migrants to take opportunity, the migrants wave is coming higher even though there are still some racial assaults towards them.

**Picture 3 : Division of Intra Africa Refugees in South Africa**



(Refugee and violence, 2011)

From that statistic, it cannot be denied that the movement of intra African migrants and refugee to the land of South Africa is quite high, almost all from part of Africa move to South Africa because South Africa is quite fair in political condition and economic welfare.

Natives of South Africa people in modern era still launch a racial assault, it seems timeless for them to do racial assault and demonstration towards migrant workers because they assume that migrant are stealing their jobs. Actually there are some similarities and also differences between racial assault during apartheid, post-apartheid and modern era. During post-apartheid era in South Africa racism appeared in many forms of actions. One of good points racism is not legalized by law like in the previous era of apartheid. Racism as the root of racial attack in South Africa is one of serious issues concerned by international organization because this issue can be a barrier for international relation.

Racism can be done verbally or physically in nowadays era. These table shows the details of attacks during 2015 until 2017 done by local people of South Africa.

**Table 4 : Table of timeline racial assault incident in South Africa 2015-2017**

1	2015	Soweto Township	Somali shop owner killed	Migrant worker from Somali
		Limpopo Province	Shop Looting	Intra African migrant workers
		Johannesburg	Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini controversial statement	None
		KwaMashu and Umlazi	Attacking Foreign Shop	Five Migrant workers
		Durban	is looting of foreign shop	none
2	2016	Tshwane	political discontent within the ANC	None
3	2017	Pretoria	Anti-migrants protest	None

As mentioned in the writer's scope of research, 2015 was a triggering point of racial assault towards migrants especially intra African migrant workers. Started in January 2015, a Somali shop owner killed a 14 year old boy during an alleged robbery of shop in Soweto Township, he shot in the neck and there was another victim is 23 years old with same tragedy, he was shot three times in arm, this happened because of

looting of foreign owned shop. On March, in Limpopo Province Xenophobic attacks occurred again, the foreign shop owner left their shop after protesting villagers to burn them alive and the looted them. Then, the man was killed in Ga-Sekgopo area.

On April, there are three tragedies. The first tragedy happened because Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini made statement that foreigners should go back to their countries with no exception because they are changing the nature of society and they are get wealth that should belong to local people of South Africa. This statement is quite controversial and dangerous for international relation by removing them from South Africa. The second tragedy is the attacks in KwaMashu and Umlazi, outside Durban when shops is burned. A shop that owned by foreign national was burned by a mob of suspects and it took five victims. The last tragedy happened on April 2015. There is looting of foreign shop in north Durban and some clashes between local people, migrants, and police officer in the city centre. About 300 people looted foreign owned shop.

In 2016, riot in Tshwane triggered by political discontent within the ANC. Same tragedy of looting foreign owned shop and number of migrant workers were attacked brutally. In 2017 in Pretoria, there is Anti migrants protest. A group of people march to foreign department and demand government to remove migrants from South Africa, this tragedy is related with the tragedy of previous year, they made a protests and that group were assuming that migrant workers only taking their jobs that refers to local people, they feel dominated by migrants worker. Besides, they were assuming that migrants causing crime, AIDS, and another bad things in South Africa. Because of this protest, the government arrests protester during the march.

## **2. Intra-African Migrant Workers in South Africa**

The next important actor is the migrant worker in South Africa. The migrant worker is one of many types of migrant. In the big line migrants, refugee, and asylum seeker are different. The definition of migrant is a worker who moves from place to place to do seasonal works across international border or within a state away from his/ her habitual places of residence, regardless of the person legal status, whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary. The causes for the movement, and the length of the stay is. According to 1951 convention and regional refugee instruments of UNHCR's statement, refugee is the person who moves from their country of origin reasons of feared persecution, circumstances, and conflict. They need international protection because they have seriously disturbed public order. UNHCR also gives a definition for asylum seekers. An asylum seeker is someone whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed. From that definition, there are some differences among these types of foreigner (UNHCR, 2017). However, the focus of this undergraduate thesis is on migrant workers.

Migrants can be classified into three big types. There are economic migrants, political migrants, and environmental migrants. Economic migrants is the movement of people from their country to another country to take opportunity this migrant usually from less developed country and move to well developed countries or at least developing countries that have imperial power of economic (Cathryn Costello, 2014).

Political migrants is migrants that are forced by the condition that is almost same as refugee but there is also different perception because these people are usually unable to return to their home country because they have fears of being persecuted and are unlikely to

receive any protection from government. Meanwhile the refugees are able to back to their country when the condition is safe for them.

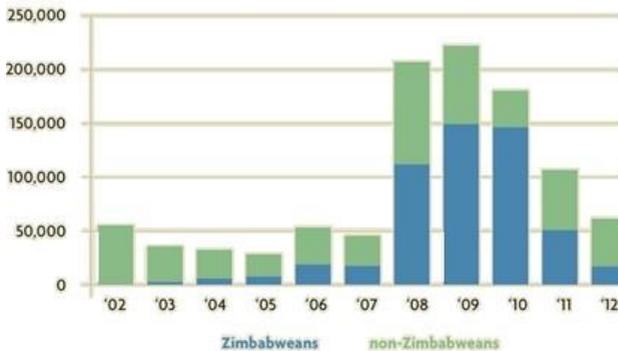
Environmental migrants are the migrants who are forced by situation and condition of the environment due to sudden or long term movement because the situation can affect their life. Based on the definition, migrant workers in South Africa is the people who take the opportunity as mentioned in economical definition because South Africa is the land of opportunity. Migrant workers come to South Africa from many countries of Africa or outside Africa Island. Actually, in South Africa migrant workers have important role toward development of South Africa. In economic sides migrants in South Africa are initiating service needs of poor consumers, by proper quality and quantity and creating land of job with bringing the scarce skills like manufacturing in the township economy (K. R. COX, 2012).

Migrant workers came to South Africa since a long time ago, after Boer's war between Netherland and English, many white skinned migrants move from Europe and Australia to South Africa. Census recorded in 1911 there were 754 migrants living in Victoria, at that time South Africa dominated by white skinned migrants, migrants also give a birth child in the land of South Africa, until the end of segregation where black skinned people demand their rights back and fight against apartheid, the number of migrant's from Europe and Australia was decreased because of the fallen of apartheid and racial assault towards migrants especially white skinned migrants by local people. In modern era, racial assault is not only targeting white skinned migrant workers, but racial assault from natives also targeting intra-African migrants, not only migrants but all types of foreigners whether refugee, asylum seeker, and workers outside their countries, the interest of migrants,

refugee, and asylum seeker in South Africa were going to get their wealth because their countries is not capable or not supporting their interest, because South Africa is the most integrated country in Africa, migrant workers move from their countries to get the opportunity with interest of economic and politics. South Africa has better asylum quality rather than other countries in Africa, since there are many asylum seeker especially from Zimbabweans.

### Picture 4 : Asylum Seeker claims in South Africa

#### The 2002-2012



(African Check, 2013)

number of asylum seeker does not constantly increase from year to year. One of the causes is racial assault towards them which is not only asylum seeker but it also happens to refugee and migrant workers as well. The right of migrants in South Africa is quite limited and they can live in peace area somewhere and somehow.

## **B. Racial Assault in South Africa from International World View**

International world actors such as scholars, internal organizations, and other countries also give some assumptions and perspectives toward racial assault on migrant workers in South Africa. Their assumption is quite affecting for government of South Africa to take a step in order to make decision and policies on natives and migrants in South Africa. International world such as United Nation is also concerning in this issue since long time ago. During apartheid era United Nation is not supporting them after there was a segregation issues from apartheid in South Africa about the unbalanced right between white skinned people and natives of South Africa. In 2015 United States supported South Africans government for eradicating the wave of xenophobic and racial assault in South Africa, United Nation sent the representative from UNHCR (United Nation High Commissioner of Refugee) to South Africa. UNHCR had been contacted by refugees who targeted by local people, the attacks occurred when in their job field or their home, because there are many force in many forms of xenophobic action whether its physically or through demonstration. However migrants and refugee need some protection from international world (Webintern, 2016).

President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, who are concerning on this issue sent an army and special force to stop xenophobic attacks towards migrant workers, refugee, and asylum seekers in South Africa with the help of UNHCR to get proper place and livelihood for migrants.

On 22 April 2015, the United Nation Secretary General Ban Ki Moon condemned the xenophobic and racial assault done by local people towards migrants in South Africa that has resulted victims if seven people on April. United Nation always makes a coordination to President of South Africa Jacob Zuma regarding this issues, because South Africa still has 1 until 3 million Zimbabweans who live in South Africa with many profession and status. More than 32000 Somalis,

more than 250000 Nigerians still live in South Africa as well and also South Africa still has China city, that is why United Nation concerns and tries to prevent racial assault happens against and takes more victims. According to President of South Africa, South Africa is not xenophobic. He is refusing the assumption of world and he wants to break the stereotype that South Africa is xenophobic. Zuma says whether South Africans are xenophobic or not, it is depends on the debate, and he doubts South Africans are xenophobic, according to him it more refers to crime, because from long time ago South Africa already have many foreigners, because economy in South Africa is very integrated (Katenga, 2015).

Some scholars also give their opinion and respond toward situation that happened in South Africa. The first scholars, Jean Pierre Misago the researcher at the African Centre for Migration and society at the university of Wiltwatersrand. He said that South Africa has historical sides about the attacks toward foreigner and migrants, he is not surprised if he sees the violence again, he is contradictive with the statement of President of South Africa Jacob Zuma who said that South Africa is not xenophobic but it is just a crime, Jean Pierre Misago said that the tragedy that occurred in South Africa can be called as criminal and xenophobic. Another scholars named Michael Neocosmos, he is a professor and director of UHURU ( Unit for the humanities at Rhodes University ) according to him, there are several ways to solve this issue, first thing that must be done is people should understand other people's ways of thinking, after that people have to sit down and start talking, because according to Michael Neocosmos there is no talking culture in violence that is why that's the way to solve it. It is important for him to stress that in some places violence has not occurred around foreigners and ask some organizations or local community to give a platform for local people and migrant to meet and talk. (Aljazeera, 2016).