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Fagmeedah Petersen-Cook 2 weeks ago

There are so many grassroots poverty relief Foundations who are staffed by volunteers. Why doesn't government let them apply for funding to do the distribution of the food parcels. They all have beneficiary registers, and the distribution networks. That is how we will get a maximum bang for the buck in this environment. These organisations have reputable Treasurers, and clean audits, or they would not get the donations from their regular funders. SARS has their details to make the vetting process easy, since they are probably registered as PBO's. Department of Social Development does not have the implementation capability for this.

Tony Westbrook 2 weeks ago

Same old corruption and socialist manipulation of the masses.. Why are we not suprised ?



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LOCKDOWN: PRASA

Covid-19 shutdown of trains sees rail agency lose almost R200m in revenue

By Suné Payne

(https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-07-covid-19-shutdown-of-trains-sees-rail-agency-lose-almost-r200m-in-revenue/?utm_source=homepage)

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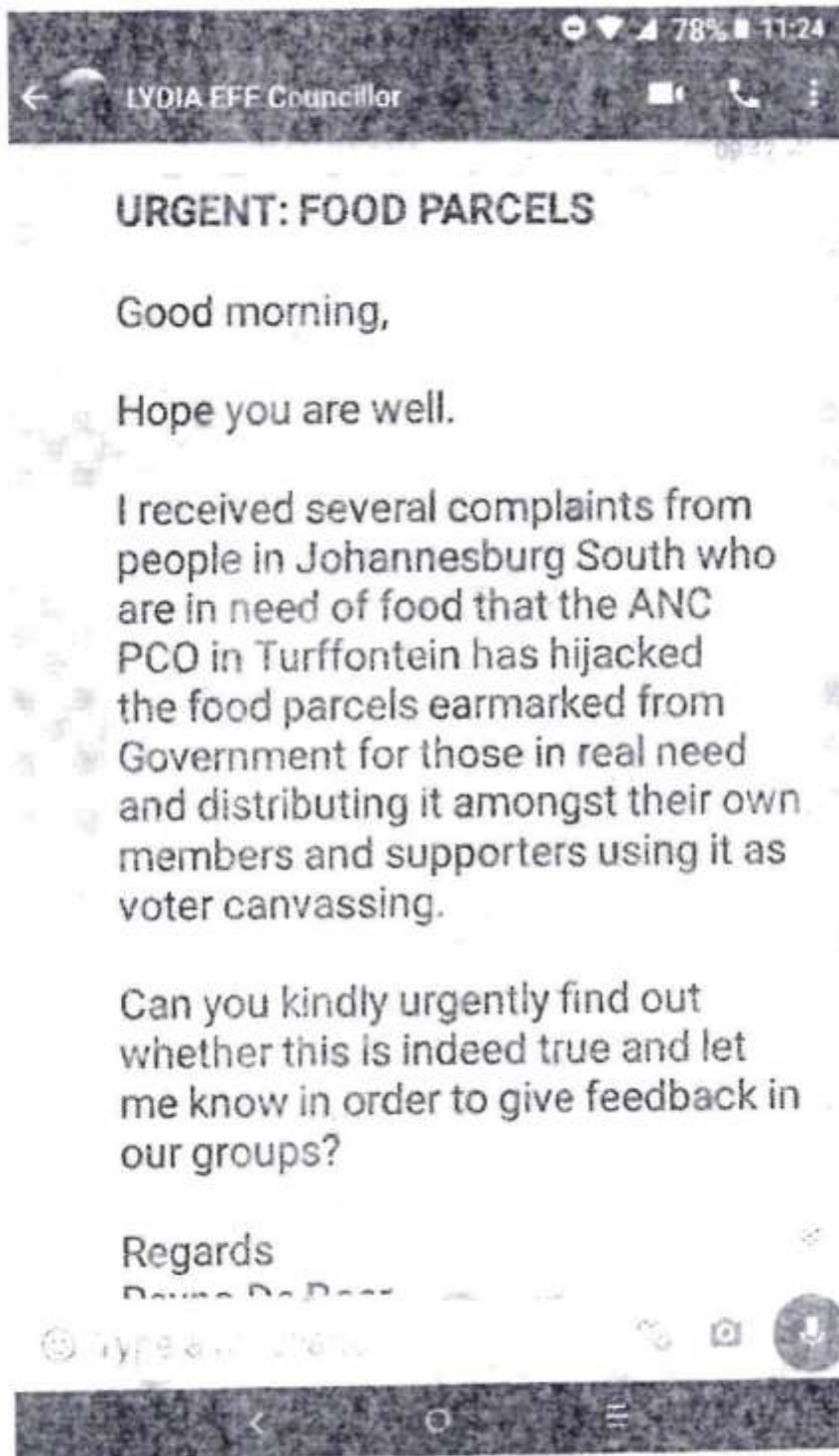
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POLITICS & SOCIETY DISPATCHES

Hunger begins to replace Covid-19 as existential fear in South Africa

Anthony Egan
April 28, 2020

As South Africa moves into the fourth week of its Covid-19 lockdown—the initial 21-day period having been extended a further 14 days—South Africans are beginning to assess its human costs. Apart from its devastating impact on the economy, the lockdown has suppressed some major types of crime and inspired a surge in some others. But above all, the lockdown has translated into a sharp increase in national levels of

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more harm than good.

As the lockdown enters its second month, there is some good news to report. Compared with the same period in 2019, violent crimes have dropped sharply across South Africa. Year-to-year reported numbers for murder (326 to 94), rape (699 to 101) and assault (2,673 to 456) have all declined. Similarly, car and truck hijacking and business and house robberies have dropped from 8,853 to 2,098, and the deaths from road accidents over the Easter weekend dropped 82 percent—from 162 in 2019 to just 28.

The national coronavirus lockdown has translated into a sharp increase in levels of poverty and malnutrition in South Africa. Some are already beginning to wonder if the nationwide restrictions are doing more harm than good.

Police Minister Bheki Cele argued that these declines could be ascribed to the ban on alcohol sales during the lockdown. Many on social media have condemned that assessment as a reflection of the minister's own prejudices against alcohol (he is at heart a prohibitionist). While a now necessarily sober judgment might characterize the alcohol ban as a contributing factor, the restriction on movement and insistence on social distancing are the more likely causes of the overall decline in violent crime.



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Unfortunately, gender-based violence has comparatively increased during the lockdown—2,300 complaints were registered between March 27 and March 31 alone. The majority of these assaults go unreported, suggesting the true numbers are, as always, much higher.

And despite the drop in business and home invasions, there has been a spike in burglaries of unoccupied buildings. At least 183 schools and a number of churches have been robbed and vandalized during this period. St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Cape Town, burglarized on April 17, was a prominent case.

Ironically, St. Mary's is situated in central Cape Town opposite the House of Parliament. Evidently, with Parliament not in session and security forces deployed to keep order elsewhere, the legislature and its precincts were vulnerable.

But behind these specific lockdown-related developments a great specter looms: hunger. A widely circulated statement captures the growing public sentiment: "I would rather die of Covid-19 than die of hunger."

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As the lockdown enters its second month, there is some good news to report. Compared with the same period in 2019, violent crimes have dropped sharply across South Africa.

The wealthy and the middle class can tap into savings to buy necessities, but the vast majority of South Africans among the working poor and the unemployed—and in particular their children—have no income now because of the lockdown and no reserves to reach into to buy food. Those who work in casual employment or in the informal sector are now unemployed. South Africa already had a high unemployment rate at 29 percent in early 2020. Now even larger numbers are unable to provide for themselves and their families.

In conversations among priests from various parts of South Africa a doleful reality is heard: People are starting to starve. In one of our own Jesuit parishes in Johannesburg we hear of parishioners who are unable to find food.

The normal channels of getting food to the hungry are, of course, seriously hampered by lockdown restrictions. We have heard accounts of charitable individuals who have tried to deliver food during the

