



23 April 2015

For Immediate Release

Down with xenophobia! The enemy is poverty, unemployment and informality!

Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET) condemns in the strongest terms the Xenophobic attacks that have swept through Johannesburg and Durban since the beginning of the year. These attacks inflict wounds of prejudice, exclusion and humiliation on black people, and therefore it must be fought with the same vigour that we ought to fight racism and white supremacy.

The xenophobic violence that has been meted out on our black brothers and sisters from other African countries obfuscates the fact that they too are mired in the impoverished conditions of townships and informal settlements on the urban periphery.

We therefore call on poor communities to direct their indignation at the capitalist economic and social policies pursued by the ANC government, which are responsible for their poverty, unemployment and informality. They have helped fuel the xenophobic violence and immorality among the poor in Soweto, Jeppestown, Umlazi, KwaMashu, etc.

The awkward reality is that while the country will be celebrating Freedom Day on the 27th of April, the majority of black people continue to endure harsh social and economic conditions.

Through our work with poor communities and informal traders we will promote tolerance, mutual co-existence and solidarity between locals and foreign residents.

Sonto Magwaza
Executive Director

For further information contact:

ESSET

6th Floor, Khotso House

62 Marshall Street

Johannesburg

South Africa

Tel:+27(0)118331190

Fax:+27(0)118331076

E-mail:info@eset.org.za

Website: www.eset.org.za

P.O. Box 62098

Marshalltown 2107