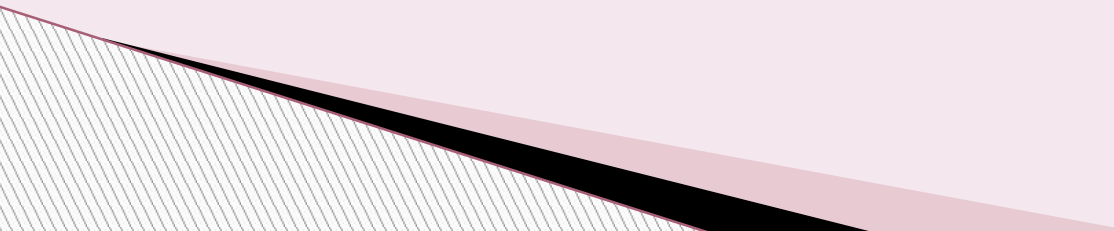


DECOLONISING THE MIND AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Boitumelo Moitshela



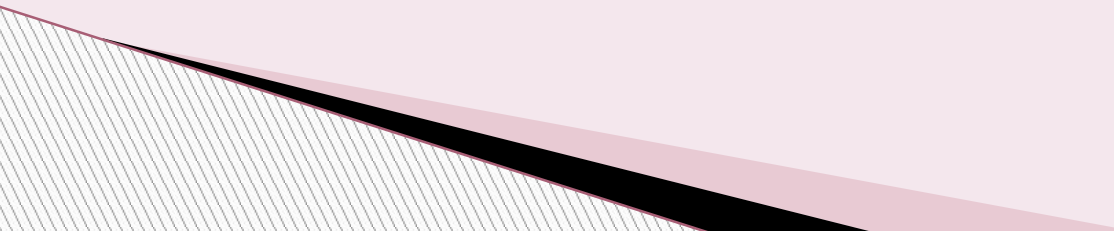
DAMAGE OF COLONISATION

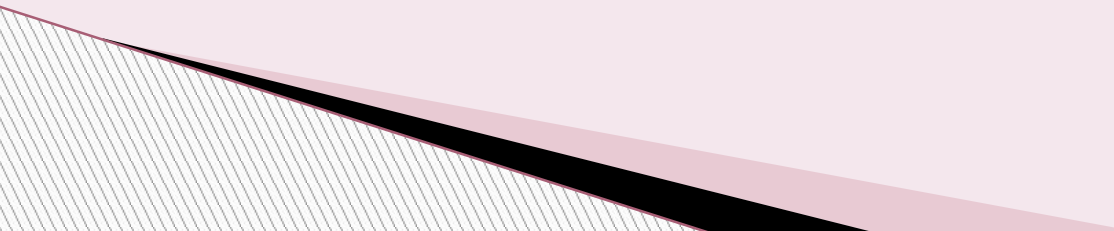
- ▶ Deculturalisation or brainwashing of the colonised.
 - ▶ Acceptance of Western cultures over own cultures
 - ▶ This manifests in the growing number of black families who not only speak English in their homes, but also reject their own cultures in exchange for the colonial cultures
 - ▶ This seems normal, but it is actually a symptom of a disease of colonisation.
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- ▶ The other germ of colonisation, which is often undetected is the wrong use of love of culture to hide one's hatred for another clan or tribe. For example a Xhosa person who refuses to speak or learn the culture of his fellow African, while they are able to enrol their children for English or Italian classes

- ▶ BUT AT THE SAME TIME WEARING CULTURAL CLOTHING OR SPEAKING AFRICAN LANGUAGES DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE DECOLONISED.

PROCESS OF DECOLONISATION IN COMMUNITIES

- ▶ YES COLONIZATION OCCURRED. BUT THE PROCESS OF DECOLONISATION SHOULD NOT PLACE IT AT THE CENTRE, WE SHOULD NOT FOCUS ON COLONISATION
 - ▶ RATHER DECOLONIZATION SHOULD BE A PROCESS OF CHANGING THE WAY WE VIEW THE WORLD
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- ▶ I SAY THIS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT COMMUNITIES HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL OF DEVELOPMENT, THERE ARE SO MANY POWERFUL MINDS THAT WE AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS WITNESS EVERYDAY WHEN WE ENTER COMMUNITIES
 - ▶ BUT THESE MINDS ARE HELD CAPTIVE.
 - ▶ THESE MINDS NEEDS STIMULATION
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THE DISADVANTAGES OF A COLONISED MIND

- ▶ For as long as we are colonised in the mind we will slaughter one another like flies, we will hate each other on the basis of country of origin, ethnic group and even skin complexion and we will continue to hate everything African, including our creations, our designs, our governments and even our talents
- ▶ All these shall bring nothing less than poverty, wars, hatred and economic slavery.
- ▶ These hinder the process of community development, Therefore it is very important that we decolonise ourselves



THE BEAUTY OF A DECOLONISED MIND


- ▶ A person with a decolonised mind accepts their past, loves their present and creates their future regardless of what stands in their way. Then it will be easy to utilise the Appreciative Inquiry approach because when community members accept their past it will be quite rare for them to focus on it, instead they will focus on the positives, the strengths they have, what is working and most importantly what will lead them to development. With this being said a community that is decolonised is more likely to be more capacitated than a community that is still colonised in the mind.
- ▶ A decolonised mind defends culture by defending the root of who we are
- ▶ Decolonisation revolves around taking issues of social justice seriously. We as people need to understand that community we stay in contribute to our knowledge

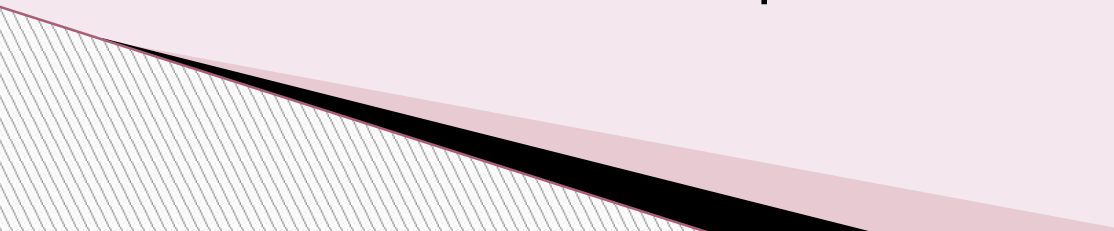
A DECOLONISED MIND

Decolonizing the mind starts with insightful thinking.

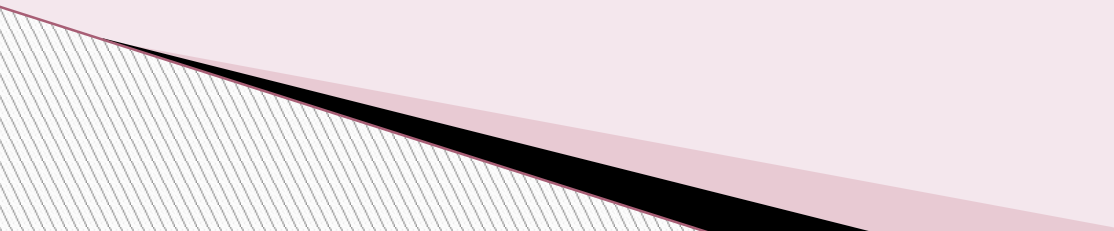


MOVING TOWARDS A DECOLONISED MIND

- ▶ A decolonized mind moves away from a vertical style of leadership to a horizontal relationship.
 - ▶ A horizontal relationship helps the community facilitator to help community members to look forward to the future and most importantly to use the past as a reference and not a weapon to continue the fraternal conflict.
 - ▶ less polemical & more instructive to sharing and teaching
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- ▶ empowerment
 - ▶ There is still a long way to go for communities to be fully decolonised as some still feel that the state owes them for the years of torture they were put in.
 - ▶ The mind as being a very powerful tool
 - ▶ Through education, these realities can be transformed and turned into important motives for social development and change.
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A DECOLONISED COMMUNITY

- ▶ A DECOLONISED COMMUNITY IS A GROWING COMMUNITY
 - ▶ A DECOLONISED MIND IS A CAPACITATED MIND
 - ▶ A DECOLONISED MIND TACKLES DEVELOPMENT AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL
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- ▶ 'PRIDE IN OUR PEOPLE SHOULDN'T STEM FROM THE FACT THAT WE USED TO BE A GREAT EMPIRE BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME, BUT FROM THE FACT THAT WE STAND AS A GREAT EMPIRE REGARDLESS OF THAT CONQUEST''

A DECOLONISED MIND

THANK YOU

