Stop blaming colonialism

Feb. 26, 2013

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Pretoria News (South Africa)

IT took President Jacob Zuma just a few minutes to again fall into the trap of blaming the past for all the wrongs of today. It is so sickening to hear the president and his cabinet blaming colonialism and apartheid for their inability to govern the country.

I don't think that any white person disputes the fact that white people grossly benefited from apartheid and that they will benefit for decades to come. But there is another side to this.

I want to urge all my black brothers and sisters to look at the two countries in Africa that never had colonialism or apartheid, Liberia and Ethiopia. Go look what unemployment of 85 percent looks like. Go look at the infrastructure of these countries. Liberia is the third-poorest country in the world. Go see for yourself how a country succeeded in killing 250,000 of its citizens since their so-called democratisation. This is truly Africa.

I want to urge Zuma to look no further than Zimbabwe. They got their "freedom" in April 1980 and turned around a flourishing economy into a "successful democracy", complete with democratic and economic revolutions. Zimbabwe cannot have an election since it has less than $2 000 (R17 750) in its coffers. The country has an unemployment rate of 95 percent (2009 estimate). Zimbabwe is now truly Africa.

I am asking you, Mr. President: Why is South Africa different from Liberia, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe? Why do we have the strongest economy and the best infrastructure in Africa?

It is time you and your cabinet started appreciating what the settlers and white people brought to this country. Visit the countries that have never seen colonialism and see how "successful" they are. Come back and count your blessings.

And please stop this irritating reference to colonialism and apartheid. It doesn't do your image good.