

2019 ELECTIONS EDITION

EW BLOG

COLLECTION OF BLOG POSTS

"ISSUE 2. 2019: POLITICAL COMMENTARY AND BOOK REVIEWS"



SOUTH AFRICA

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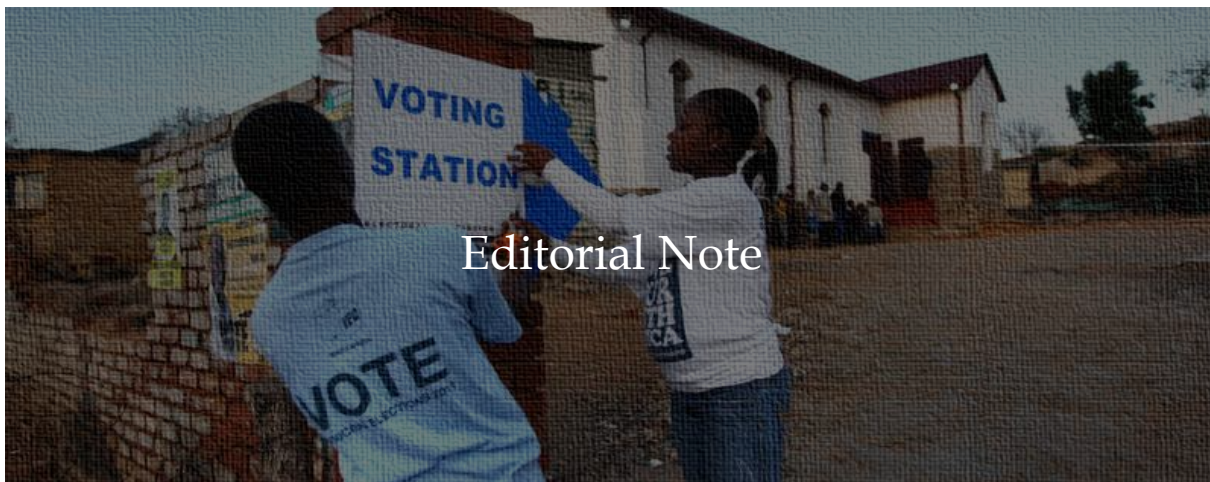
18 Inequality continues to be the enemy of the poor

Ezekiel Kekana
**POLITICAL COMMENTARY AND
BOOK REVIEWS**

COLLECTION OF BLOG POSTS

Issue 2. 2019

EW BLOG



Picture credit: aidc.org.za

In a couple of hours, South Africans will be heading to the polls to elect their next president. The May 8 elections marks the country's sixth democratic elections since our negotiated democracy in 1994. This is another opportunity for many South Africans to exercise their democratic right to vote for a party that will be in charge of government for the next coming five years.

In this EW Blog- elections edition we look at political stories that caught our attention prior to the Elections and lessons for political parties going into 2024 elections. Fixing our state-owned entities and addressing women issues in the country will be key mandates for whoever will be elected to lead the nation. We discuss why fixing Eskom matter to every citizen and why women should be allowed a space to be who they want to be. The last part will be based on the books we have reviewed in the past four months, that is, the January to April period. Genres range from memoirs, financial literature and politics.

I thank all the people who have made this edition to be possible, Rego Mputle for her contribution, Khotso Sello for editing, co-founder and business partner of EW Blog Thabang Malatji and our favourite publisher Jacana Media for making all this possible. A special mention to Mine Venter and Nicole Steyn for providing us with top and latest books.

In conclusion, I urge each and every citizen who has registered to vote, to go and make the mark that matters. I also wish all the competing political parties good luck and whoever emerge victories must put the interest of the people first. Please enjoy this second edition of the EW blog eBook edition.

Yours truly,

Ezekiel Kekana

EW Blog Chief Writer

PLEASE no more placards and billboards in 2024



Cyril Ramaphosa | Mmusi Maimane | Julius Malema

I continue to have massive respect and admiration for former President Abraham Lincoln for having built a strong democratic system that is purely based on the people, for the people and by the people in the United States of America (USA).

The US continues to be one of the leading and progressive democracy in the world, because its citizens continue to play an instrumental role in who they get to elect as their President. Most importantly, they get to hear what their presidential candidates have to offer during live presidential debates in all different public platforms prior to the elections.

With less than a few hours before the country's sixth democratic elections. South African citizens were yet again denied an opportunity to see three major presidential hopefuls, Cyril Ramaphosa of the African National Congress, Economic Freedom Fighters' Julius Malema and Democratic Alliance's Mmusi Maimane battle it out on a public platform about their respective policies.

Instead South Africans were bombarded with elections posters, billboards in all the streets, radio and television advertisements on daily basis as this has been the norm in the previous elections.

Politicians and their political parties need to start taking voters seriously and that means they need to provide them with more options than they have been doing in the last 25 years of our democracy.

While the billboards and posters are well written and with catchy slogans such as 'Let's grow South Africa' of the ANC, 'Our Land and Jobs Now' of the EFF and DA's 'One South Africa for all'. We need to see the voices behind these catchy slogans in 2024 and that means we need

to see politicians selling their ideas on a public platform with their opponents, speaking for themselves to the citizens.

Our democracy is growing and so should politicians and their political parties' election strategies change. One can only assume that the current sitting US President Donald Trump won the presidential elections purely on the basis that he was able to sell himself to the public and also able to discredit his opponent's policies during those live television and public presidential debate.

South Africa should learn from the US in this regard, as citizens are able to vote having a clear idea of who they are voting for. The era of billboards and placards should fade now. We need politicians to sell their ideas directly to people on a public platform and the SABC as a public broadcaster should provide them with that platform.

Think first before you vote for anti-women parties



Pule Mabe

Surprise, surprise, I do not know which one is the real shocker here.

Pule Mabe not found guilty of sexual harassment allegations or the ANC not having a sexual harassment policy? To be Africa's oldest liberation movement and not have a sexual harassment policy is embarrassing. This simply illustrates that the party has no interest in being a non-sexist organisation, a protector of women and children in the country. One can just conclude that indeed the ANC has a misogynistic culture. What happened to the party

that OR Tambo and Nelson Mandela represented with pride? Men were seen as leaders of society who provide and protect their families.

The party seems to have lost its moral compass which begs the question of what is the role of ANC Women's League if there are no policies that safe guard women? Is it not their role to ensure that women, especially those working at Lithuli House and other ANC office branches are protected from sexual predation? Bathabile Dlamini and co are letting women down. Honestly, if the ANC and the ANCWL need South Africans to take them seriously, the sexual policy issue must be dealt with urgently.

The ruling that Mabe is not guilty is just unfortunate and shows that the party continues to be an enemy of a just and non-sexist society we pray for. It was always gonna be 'difficult' to find a powerful individual like Mabe guilty of this crime, especially when the accuser is a junior and a woman. Men in the ruling party continue to get a free pass in cases related to sexual and physical abuse. Former Deputy Minister of Higher Education Mduzuzi Manana beat up a woman at a night club and MP Mervyn Dicks assaulted a fellow ANC MP in Parliament.

The unfortunate reality is that Mabe will resume his duties as a spokesperson for the party, while her accuser will surely be without a job. The ANC needs to be punished for having no regard for women's rights and women have a golden opportunity to do so in the upcoming May 8 elections.

For past 25 years of our young democracy women entrusted the ANC with the responsibility to drive the agenda of ridding society with violence that is directed to them and children. However, the party has failed dismally in this task and must reap what they sow. To date, women and children are the most vulnerable citizens in our country, because the ANC led government is doing absolutely nothing to protect them. Instead of protecting them, the party perpetuates the stigma by ruling in Mabe's favour.

While the sexual harassment policy should cover both men and women, the main tenets of that policy should focus on protecting the latter, because women continue to be victims of sexual harassment in the work environment.

POLITICAL COMMENTARY

POST 03

Eskom belongs to the poor

For many years politicians have been treating ordinary citizens like fools with no brains and this should come to an end. ANC politicians continue to show us that they have no respect for us and it doesn't even surprise me these days when they, unashamedly, talk down to us. The crisis at Eskom was created by them and now they want to benefit financially from the mess they've created. Blaming the apartheid government for today's power crisis is something that should be laughed at.

ANC leaders are forever meddling in the day to day management at Eskom and never allow engineers to do their jobs. Granted, they found Eskom lagging behind after 1994 in as far as infrastructure is concerned, but they have done little in the past 25 years to clean up boardroom maladministration at the state entity.

The announcement from President Ramaphosa during his state of nation address to unbundle the power utility into three operating units will not resolve the rot that the SOE finds itself in.

Instead, it will see the company in private hands and we all know that ANC politicians and their close associates will benefit more when the entity is in private hands. One thing that the ANC politicians and their capitalist friends must know is this, Eskom like other SOEs belongs to South Africans and we should never allow anyone, irrespective of how much money they have, think they will just come and steal our national asset from right under our nose.

We have lost Telkom, thanks to the ANC led government and we cannot afford to lose Eskom. The recent load shedding and one is indeed tempt to agree with ANC's Zizi Kodwa that it smells like it was engineered in order to make the case that Eskom needs to be unbundled.

We should not allow politicians to play with our minds, most importantly play with our state companies for their own selfish ends. President Ramaphosa, his cabinet and his comrades in the ANC and in business should and must stay away from the daily operations at Eskom and allow civilians to turn the ship around without political pressure.

It is encouraging to hear unions, opposition parties, civil organisations and all ordinary South Africans all against of unbundling Eskom. Let's work together to fight and not allow people who are greedy to steal what belongs to us.

Eskom is our national asset and should be protected from the greedy paws of politicians and their capitalist friends. This unbundling in later stage will eventually lead to privatisation and we do not want that.

Eskom belongs to the ordinary people of South Africa, not a handful of rich fat cats.



Women are abused not men



Picture credit: unknown

There's a false believe that a man who has a University degree or just formal education will know better about how our society is structured.

He will have a better understanding on how women were and continue to be at the receiving end of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

However, I have personally learnt that this belief is simply not true.

Contrary to popular belief, educated men can be misogynistic as well as be enemies of a just and non-sexist society.

Let me give some background to my assertion.

A few days ago I had a heated debate with few of my friends on a WhatsApp group about how in 2019, abuse directed to women and children continues to be on the rise.

Now enter one chap, call him Mr X, he said that we should also talk about sexual, physical and emotional abuse directed towards men too in our society.

Allow me to quote Mr X in this regard to illustrate his misogynistic and frivolous statement.

"You are missing the point. Forget this thing of fighting for women, the problem is violence, which men also suffer, leave feminist ideas to women," unashamedly concluded Mr X.

Believe me I was having a cup of coffee and I indeed dropped it after he posted that statement.

This statement is not only shallow at best, but misogynistic and anti-women.

Mind you, this chap is a University graduate and he thinks that feminism should be 'left to women'?

Really, should feminism be left to women only?

I am still fuming from that debate!

We should all be feminists, women and most importantly us men alike.

Almost 99% of abuse is directed towards women and children on a daily basis and Mr X wants us to neglect that and focus on the 1% of abuse directed at men.

Women continue to be victims of sexual, physical and emotional abuse at the hands of men and not the other way around.

Men are perpetrators of abuse in our society and we should protect women and children and not men.

Men need to understand that abuse against women and children can only be ended, if they can firstly, fight their own male privilege.

Secondly, they need to rid themselves of their forefathers' misogynistic attitude towards women.

We cannot be a generation that continues to objectify, rape and abuse women and children.

Instead we should join hands with women in fighting abuse in our society.

Men who continue to harbour misogynistic views and attitudes towards women, should forever be called into order and taught how to respect and see women as equals.

Let's raise Kings that are fit for Queens.

FEATURED / OPINION PIECE

POST 05

Women should be allowed to exhale

"You don't have to be anti-man to be pro-woman" – Jane Galvin Lewis

A few days ago, I was in a heated debate with my male friends about the dress code of women in work spaces.

Let me give you the background of the debate.

There was a picture doing rounds on social media of a female teacher wearing white tight pants, which reveal her beautiful curves and big behinds.

Now the debate was around whether that was 'appropriate or inappropriate dress code for a teacher, given that she will be standing in front of both young boys and girls in class.

What really disturbed me, besides the fact that in 2019 we still police how women should dress, was the views that emanated from the discussion.

One guy said, 'imagine my young teenage son being exposed to such, this is so inappropriate.'

I nearly dropped my coffee mug when reading that text.

Then the next fellow said:

'There are things which happen naturally to both men and women. Men will be aroused every time they see a naked or provokingly dressed (God knows what that means) women.' An old-lame excuse that misogynists use right?

Then the last guy, trying to be on both sides of the argument suggested that maybe there should be a professional dress code for teachers in general.

The language in all these comments wrecks anti-women, sexism and misogyny.

It calls for men to earnestly stop their continued quest to try and drive the narrative around womanhood.

This attitude of forever policing how women should dress needs to stop.

For years women have been suffocated by society's demands on what constitute a proper dress code for them and we need to allow them to breathe and express themselves.

We need to stop ridiculing and slut-shaming women who feel comfortable in clothes they choose to wear.

My take on the discussion is that, instead of keeping a beady eye on female teachers and what they choose to wear, why can't we teach our sons at an early age on how to control their sexual urges and not see women as objects to fulfil lust?

Creating a non-sexist, dismantling patriarchy and sexism starts with us men teaching each other on how to fight our own sexual demons and stop objectifying women's bodies.

We can't continue to use lame excuses that women should dress 'properly', so that we can be able to control our sexual urges.

Women should be allowed to express themselves.

Let's fight our male privilege *baf'wethu* and not tell women, especially black women how they should live their lives.



Vagabond makes Africa a home



Book cover: Vagabond.

Vagabond is a brilliant response to an old cliché that Africa is a ‘dark’ continent.

For years this narrative that the continent is ‘backward’ and ‘dark’ has made people and particularly many South Africans opting to explore European or Asian countries rather than their own continent.

However, author Lerato Mogoatlhe in this travelling memoir really made a good case for the continent and planted a seed into her fellow Africans to start appreciating what is in their backyard before touring other continents.

In Vagabond- Wandering through Africa on faith, Mogoatlhe documents her travelling experiences in the five regions of the continent, from West, East, Central, South and North Africa.

In these pages, Mogoatlhe lists mostly her highs (good experiences) and a few lows (not so good experiences) of her African adventures. However, her main and most important objective is dismissing the long held and untested myths about the continent through her own personal experiences.

This book will surely make one feel proud about being born in Africa and also appreciate humanity of many Africans across the continent, as Mogoatlhe did.

In Vagabond, Mogoatlhe really brought the continent much closer into our hearts and wants many Africans to rediscover who they are, as her travelling experiences also help her to feel proud of who she is.

‘More than turning what used to be blots on my map into places I know with all my senses, my travels are also an affirmation on my blackness. They give me the opportunity to experience being black and African without disguising or denying myself to fit in.’

While the book is largely based on Mogoatlhe's travelling adventures in the continent, reading this book thus also open a window to know the author on a personal level, her spiritual beliefs, craziness and her bravery that saw her traveling the continent without having no money on her.

Madam Afrika, as Mogoatlhe is affectionately known changes the views of many people about the continent with this book, but most importantly she has ignited fire into those who love travelling and will make many to start thinking of travelling the continent before visiting other continents.

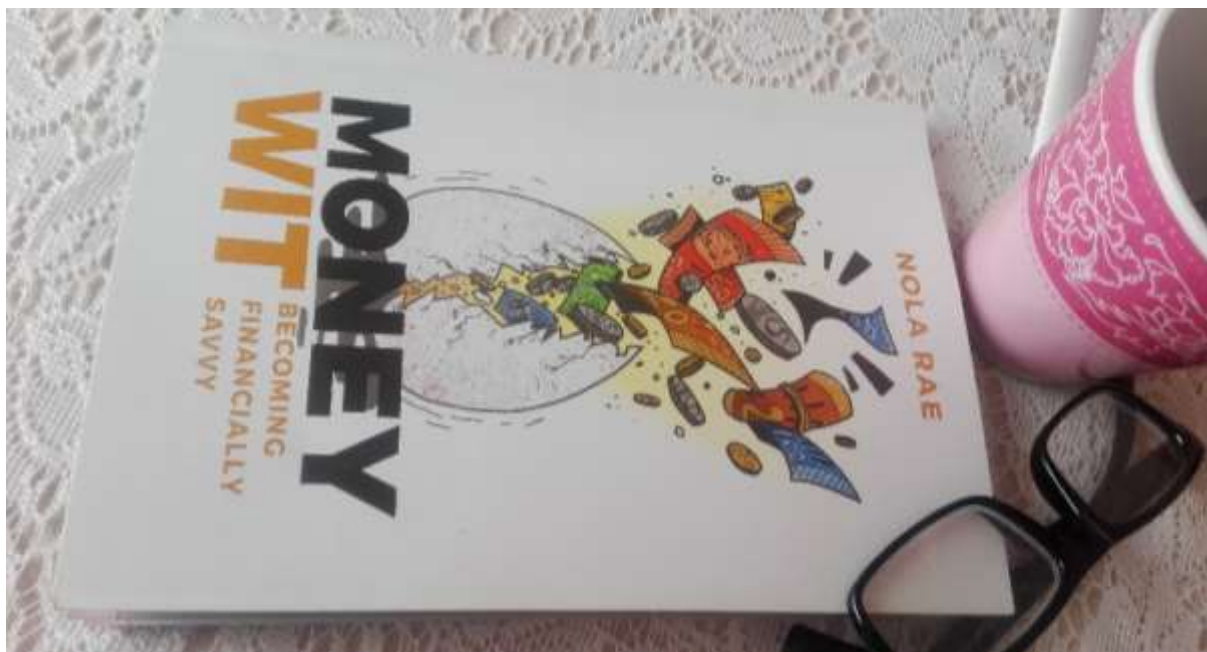
Vagabond is indeed a Bible that one needs to carry and read when planning to explore and get intimate with the continent. This book is must read and it is a proper guide which provides the reader with top museums, mosques, best beaches, delicious food and the best mode of transport that can be found in the five regions of Africa.

BOOK REVIEWS

POST 07

Money Wit: Becoming Financially Savvy Review

By Regomoditswe Mputle



Book Cover: Money WIT

Each and every year the number of graduates in the country increases, with students finally celebrating their years of hard work in colleges and universities.

These graduates are ready to take on the world with their qualifications, starting new jobs and getting their first pay cheques or salaries.

Yet often they become bitterly disappointed as most do not get what they had expected or a lack of financial education leads them to debt.

Nola Rae, a former accountant in this book has come up with ways to make people, especially those new in the work market to understand the basics of the financial world. Understanding how to manage your finances will help one make well informed decisions.

The book has eight chapters that deals with topics such as understanding pay slips to buying property.

What makes the book interesting is the use of colloquial language.

Rae makes financial jargon easy, which has often been difficult for “ordinary people” to understand.

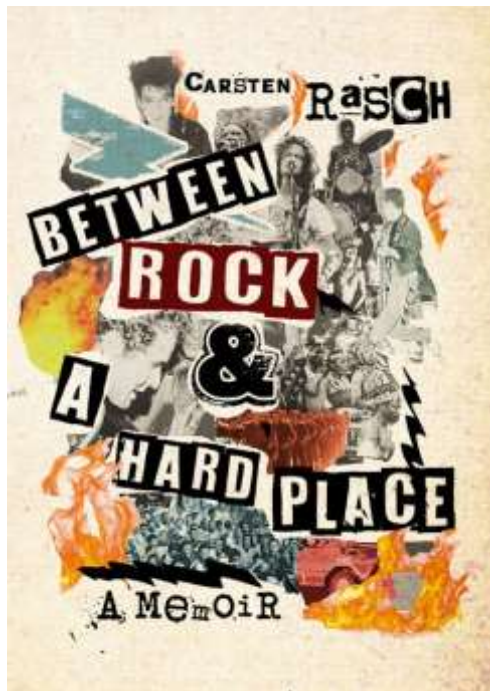
The book prepares one on what to expected when entering the job market, for example on chapter one Rae talks about understanding one’s payslip which people often overlook and just focus on the net salary and not look at the medical aid deductions or pension or provident fund.

There might not be a story line to this book but financial literacy is something that people really need. Money Wit is one book that one must invest in and get as it will help one to make an informed decision about money.

BOOK REVIEWS

POST 08

When rock music collides with politics



Music is often credited with its ability to bring different races, cultures and people under one roof, as it sees no colour.

Music was used as a political tool by different artists from different race groups to defy the apartheid government and its racist policies. Artists became what writer Barry Gilder called ‘cultural activists’.

White Afrikaners who were involved in mainstream politics or the media industry such as seasoned journalist Max Du Preez are often credited for their role in showing their lack of empathy towards the apartheid government.

However, there were many white Afrikaners across all industries, who without consciously taking the ‘leftist side’ broke all the rules and laws of apartheid regime and were forever at loggerheads with the security police.

One such person is former music promoter and drummer Carsten Ransch.

In this hilarious, informative, historically and entertaining memoir titled *Between Rock & A Hard Place*. Rasch, a white Afrikaner man who hails from Springs takes the reader through a period that was characterized by bullying from the ‘Boers’ and deep racial agenda from the apartheid government.

Rasch's musical festivals, which brought together different race groups, defied the segregation and racist policies of PW Botha's government.

'The conservative fuckers who ran the country suddenly realized that many of the Afrikaans youth weren't actually behind them.'

This book is very inspirational and eye-opening, as Ransch recounts not only his experience with the then government, but also his highs and lows in his music promoting/drumming career and to his club owning venture.

He tells his story in a friendly and funny way, but yet exhibits glimpses of fears on his journey.

The memoir differs from your stereotypical one, which normally starts with the early background juxtaposed to the current.

This one however, is centred on Rasch's life only during the 70s and 80s, with a brief background history of early childhood life and family.

The only thing about his present life is that he will be marrying his partner Heidi Erdemann 'very soon'.

While there are quite a few sentences in Afrikaans, which I think should have at least been translated into English for those readers who do not understand the language. This book is well written, funny and most importantly the events follow each other seamlessly.

The title of this book indeed thus justice to the inside content of it.

Rasch has paid tributes to unsung heroes of the 70s and 80s who revolutionised punk, rock n roll and the reggae scene in a country that was in war with itself. I recommend this book to hustlers in the music business and also those who want to know the history of South Africa's punk and rock n roll music.

All you need to know about South African Politics

The last nine years or so of our democracy has been described as 'wasted' by the current sitting president Cyril Ramaphosa and many other political analysts.

This was a period in which Jacob Zuma led the nation for two consecutive terms as state president. Zuma's presidency was mired by the large scale of corruption in government, collapse of state owned enterprises such as SAA, SABC and Eskom and of course the state capture project among others took centre stage.

In this sixth edition of *The A-Z of South African Politics*, five respected former and current editors of national newspapers, Kashiefa Ajam, Kevin Ritchie, Lebogang Seale, Janet Smith and Thabiso Thakali look at the events, people and political parties that played an influential role in the last decade of our negotiated democracy.

Since the 2009 general and provincial elections, there were new political parties formed. The level of corruption has been taken to new heights, which has seen the state being used as an 'ATM' by certain politicians and their close friends and families.

The authors in this regard have boldly and one might even say unapologetically listed in alphabetical order events that changed South Africa's political discourse from the #FeesMustFall movement, expropriation of land without compensation hearings and Life Esidimeni among others.

The scribes also name and shame political players who are alleged to be corrupt, captured and enablers of the state capture project such as Malusi Gigaba, Ace Magashule and Brain Molefe among others.

A lot of South Africans, young and old have been facing a voter's dilemma, with many not sure who to vote for or even worse toying with the idea of whether to vote or not.

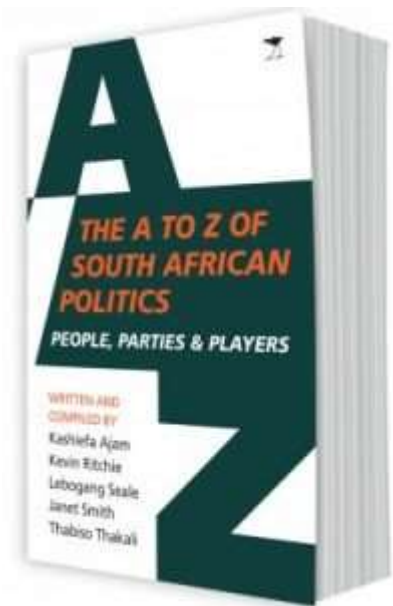
The "Big Three" political parties, the ruling ANC, DA and EFF are all facing their own internal challenges, ranging from corruption, racism and leadership squabbles and this has left many South Africans confused about who to trust with their votes.

With a few hours left before the country's sixth democratic elections, this book provides new voters with a guide to know who is who in the political scene. For older voters, this book will give them a proper review of what the parties they voted for in the last elections have done and whether they can still trust the leaders they voted for in the previous elections.

Well the book is a much needed compass for ordinary citizens ahead of what is tipped to be a highly contested election of our young democracy.

Many politicians named in the book to be corrupt and agents of state capture project will not be happy with this book, as many might claim that the authors based their assertions purely on rumours and not facts.

The book is well written and organised and I recommend that each and everyone facing a dilemma about who to vote to for in the May 8 elections, should read it in order to find a good solution to their problem.



There's always a second chance to life

Stellenbosch is known to be one of the richest Afrikaner town in South Africa and a producer of the finest wines in the world.

However, politically the town has been labelled by some as the home of the White Monopoly Capitalist agents, referring to the powerful and wealthy business men who live in Stellenbosch.

However, like many wealthy towns in South Africa and the world, Stellenbosch has its own scandals which at times are swept under the rug, whilst others sporadically pop-up like the Steinhoff incident, with the town still reeling from its effect to this day.

In *Sex, Lies & Stellenbosch*, author Eva Mazza exposes publicly the most confidential scandal that dominates the daily lives of most Stellenbosch married couples, which is Infidelity.

Most women who are married to powerful businessmen in the town continue to die in silence in unhappy marriages.

The bulk of them cannot divorce their cheating husbands in a fear of losing their lavish lifestyles should they decide to end their union.

Through a fictitious character named Jen Pearce, Mazza takes the reader through Jen's unhappy marriage with her wealthy cheating husband John Pearce.

John, a wine farmer who was married to Jen for over two decades not only sleeps with different women, but also showed his 'John John' to his employee, the farm's sales rep Patty.

The straw that breaks Jen's back is when she finds out that her husband has also been sleeping with her 'best friend' Frankie Holms.

Not to give away too much, Jen decides to leave her unhappy marriage and takes a leap of faith that changes her life forever.

This is a book that aims to motivate and encourage many unhappily married women out there. Women who are scared and trapped in loveless marriages. Women who are married to cheating husbands and who are financially dependent on their husbands.

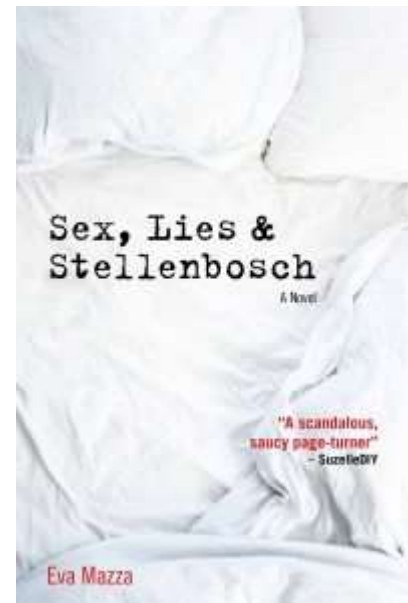
Mazza, a Stellenbosch resident for 22 years, has given women through the character Jen a fighting chance to find happiness.

Despite the drama and debauchery between the pages, this book above-all is about forgiving, loving, making use of second chances that life provides and most importantly appreciating friendship.

The book is well structured and easy to read, with sentences and chapters brief, concise and to the point.

Mazza has done fantastic job in her first novel, which puts her under immense pressure to maintain or escalate her standard of writing for her second book.

I will give this book an 8/10 rating.



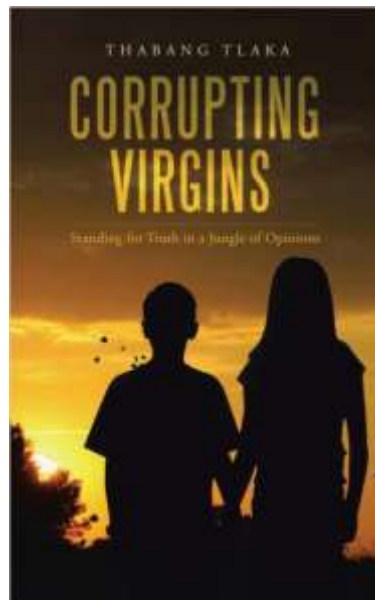
Preserving your purity is hard, but possible

In an era where young girls are forever being lured by powerful men in our society to be 'slay queens' and where young boys are turned into 'Ben 10s'. The challenge of preserving one's sexual purity or virginity continues to be a taunting task.

More often than not, people these days especially the older generation enjoy asking the question: 'Are there still virgins these days'.

This question at best is directed to young girls, as if it is only girls who are supposed to protect and preserve their virginity or sexual purity.

In *Corrupting Virgins- Standing for The Truth in a Jungle of Opinions* author Thabang Tlaka takes us through the challenges that young girls and boys must go through in order to keep their sexual purity and virginity. The scribe also touches on the benefits that come with protecting one's sexual purity/virginity.



Through the lead character Virgin Vuyi and other virgins, Tlaka takes the reader through the lies that one had to ignore, temptations that one has to fight, demons that one has to overpower, insults that one has to ignore and most importantly the tests that one has to pass with flying colours in order to stay sexually pure.

While Virgin Vuyi and the rest of the virgins went through Jungles of Insults, Cities of Instant Gratification and were in and out of Train of Testing, their journey was not an easy ride.

Not to give away too much, but only a handful of virgins managed to meet the Maker of All at the 'Village of Virtue', as many tried, failed and were consumed by the evils in the Train of Testing.

Tlaka has shown his brilliant ability to narrate a true story using imaginary characters. He used ill elements such as Sugar Daddy, Teenage Pregnancy and Pleasure-Only as characters in the book, while highlighting such characters as the ills that can see one lose their virginity and sexual purity.

This is a book that every parent should ensure that their sons and daughters read before they enter into that adolescent stage. A book that will help young boys and girls know the importance of sexual purity and most importantly learn to defeat the evil spirit of 'Zijumzum' and his agents who are turning young girls into slay queens, boys into Ben 10s and the contemporary generation into living zombies.

This book is inspirational, enlightening and serves as a Bible that should guide those who wants to remain sexually pure until they meet their Kings and Queens.

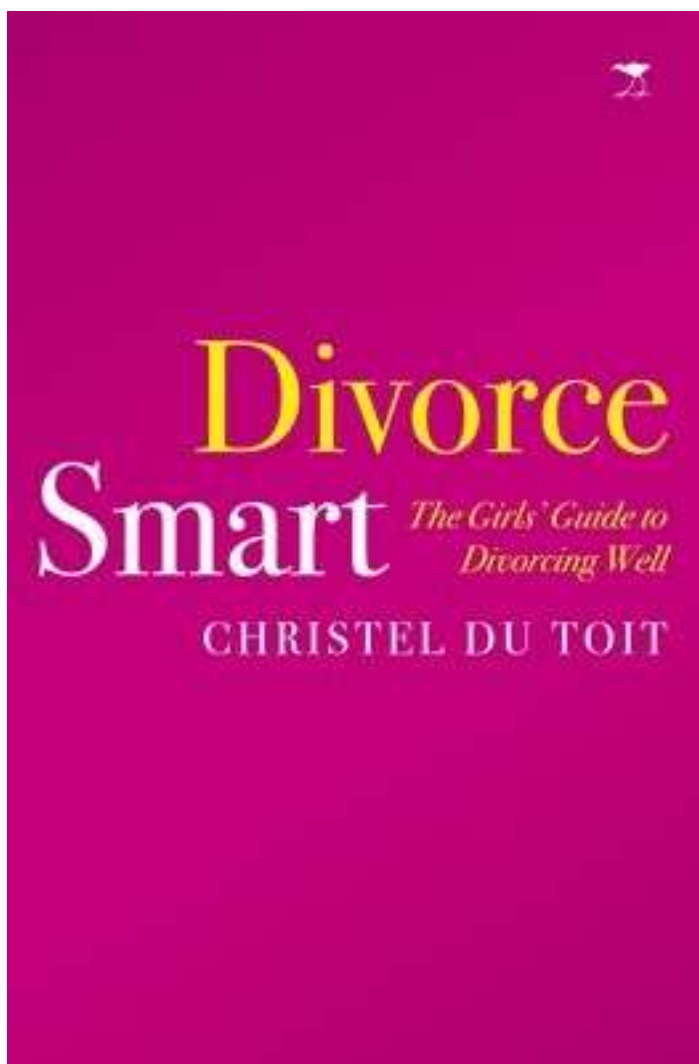
While both virgin girls and boys started their sexual purification journey together in this book, virgin girls outnumbered the boys who arrived at the 'Village of Virtue'. Tlaka's decision in this regard questions his patriarchal beliefs.

Does he believe that girls should do more than boys to keep their sexual purity/virginity?

Besides this sexist undertone, I will give this book a 7/10 rating for the manner in which Tlaka managed to give motivation to young girls and boys.

This is a sexual purification Bible that provides a clear distinction between bad and good with a slight glance at our moral compass.

The smarter way of divorcing



Before I could even peruse through the pages of this book, I knew through the pink colour wrapping it that this book is aimed and directed to women.

Pink is always associated with women power and certainly *Divorce Smart-The Girl's Guide to Divorcing Well* is aimed at financially empowering women who are in the process of divorce, those who are thinking of divorcing and those who are already divorced.

Going through a divorce has the potential of leaving one in a very bad emotional, psychological and financial state, especially if one has no tools at her/his disposal to deal with this tragedy when it happens.

Women are often the one's who have to deal with the burden of having to continue raising children post failed marriages and this means all the

decisions that are made during the divorce process must be made with children's interest at heart.

In *Divorce Smart*, author Christel Du Toit equips women with the necessary tools to help beat the emotional and most importantly the financial stress before, during and after the divorce.

Du Toit, a divorcee herself does this by using her own experiences through her divorce process by giving women financial tips which should see them emerge emotionally and financially stronger post their marriage.

Du Toit, who is also now a certified financial planner, offers step by step tips to how women should go in as far as claiming maintenance, pension funds and investment funds from their soon to be their husbands.

This is the type of book that definitely gives courage, educate and bring hope to many women that they can still dream post their divorce, like Christel did.

'My divorce gave me a career I could never have dreamt of and I'm still building on this. The best asset I have at this very moment is time and I plan to spend it well.'

The book has cleverly been divided into three sections, before the divorce, during the divorce, after the divorce.

In every section, a reader is taken through different kinds of decision that she has to make during the divorce process, from financial, emotional and legal decisions.

While this is a without doubt a book that will empower so many women in distress. However, the kinds of examples that Christi uses in this 'pink nuclear' can alienate other readers, especially the underprivileged women.

Reading some examples she offers, one can quickly pick she targeting mostly privileged women or that her target market are rich and wealthy women.

Divorced women, who are married to husbands who have no properties or other investments might not relate with a lot of her examples.

However, besides that Du Toit has given women, especially those who are currently in the process of divorcing and even those who are still married a tool that can be useful for them to emerge financially and emotionally strong post their marriage.

One thing for sure is that many married men will not be happy to see their wives reading this book, as one might quickly think that divorce papers are on their way after seeing the wife reading this powerful book.

However, the goal of the author is crystal clear, the point is to empower women to know better when it is time to call it quits.

This is a must read book for every woman. Men can also read the book to know more about what their responsibilities are, especially where children are concerned. I give this read a 7/10 rating.

Inequality continues to be the enemy of the poor

As a researcher, whenever I am in Alexandra Township, Johannesburg and see the place next to it called Sandton, where living conditions are way too different. I am reminded of what inequality looks like.

When I visit Ga-Rakgoatha Primary School in Limpopo Province, where pupils learn in a class that has no roofing and then I visit Afrikaanse Hoer Seun skool also known as Affies in Pretoria, where there's world class sports facilities, I see how certain pupils are more privileged than others.

When I speak to Shoprite employees about their poor salaries and see the amount of money the CEO of the same store gets annually, I see how inequality continues to be an enemy in our beloved country.

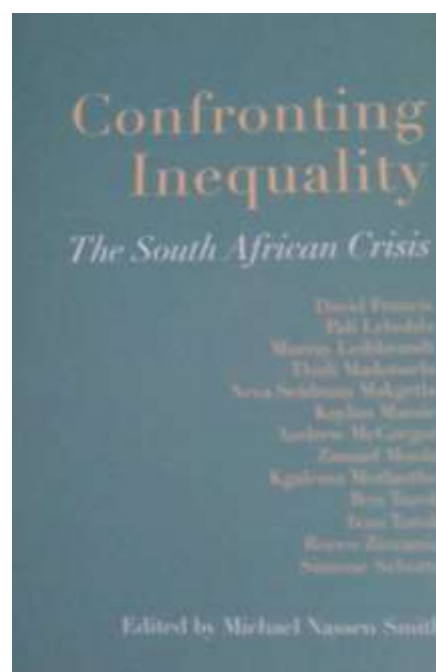
Confronting Inequality takes a deeper look at the issue of inequality in South Africa holistically, looking at its different forms, the consequences of inequality in poor communities across the country. Most importantly the book is providing solutions on how we can finally tackle this issue in order to create a just and equal society we all pray for.

The book is a collection of essays from influential individuals such as former President Kgalema Motlanthe, Professor Ben Turok and Advocate Thuli Madonsela, who are all social justice champions.

Michael Nassen Smith, the editor of the book, has also cleverly included essays from researchers such Simone Schotte, Rocco Zizzamia and Murray Leibbrandt among others, who have written extensively of inequality in South Africa. Most of the essays in this book are based on the World Bank's report that listed South Africa as one of the most unequal country in the world, confirming what President Thabo Mbeki once viewed as 'two nations in all'.

Every chapter however, deals directly with how inequality manifests itself in different forms, from economical inequality, gender inequality, pay and wealth inequality. The book is not just reminding us of what we know and see everyday, however, the contributors are offering the government, private sector and the elite solutions on how to end and confront inequality, poverty and unemployment.

Advocate Madonsela, the former public protector challenges the government to review its trade deals with other countries, especially with the BRICS countries and also that it must deal with maladministration in public institutions, as some of the solutions the government of South Africa can do in order to confront inequality.



The book is loaded with facts, from graphs that illustrate the difference in percentages of pay grades in South Africa's labour force, levels of unemployment in and across all racial groups and components of income inequality in South Africa.

Smith, who is currently serving as a deputy director at the Institute for African Alternatives, has done a fantastic job in editing this volume, he reminds us that we all have a duty to confront inequality wherever we see it. Government and private sector need to join hands in reducing levels of inequality, poverty and unemployment in the country.

However, failure to do that as the ANC led government has done since 1994, will further results with poor African Blacks, Coloured townships and village dwellers continually protesting against socio-economic issues. I am giving this book a 8/10 rating.

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