



Monitoring and Analysis of Hateful Language in South Africa

Report #4:
May 29, 2019

This report is part of an initiative by PeaceTech Lab to analyze hateful and inflammatory language online in South Africa to mitigate the threat of this language to fuel violence during the election period. The terms discussed come from the Lab's recently published *South Africa Lexicon of Hateful Terms* while the data comes from our *Hate Speech and Election Violence portal*, which is updated regularly. These resources examine terms and phrases that are offensive and inflammatory, are directed towards individuals or groups based on ethnicity, religion, race, gender, national identity, or political affiliation, and may lead to violence.

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Latest Events

On May 10, the leader of the Black First Land First party (BLF) gave a speech accusing the African National Congress (ANC), Democratic Alliance (DA), and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) of being owned by the "same individuals that own the economy and the land." Ace Magashule also gave a controversial speech on May 19 in Free State. In this speech, Magashule said, "We cannot defeat white monopoly capital by allowing it to co-opt us."

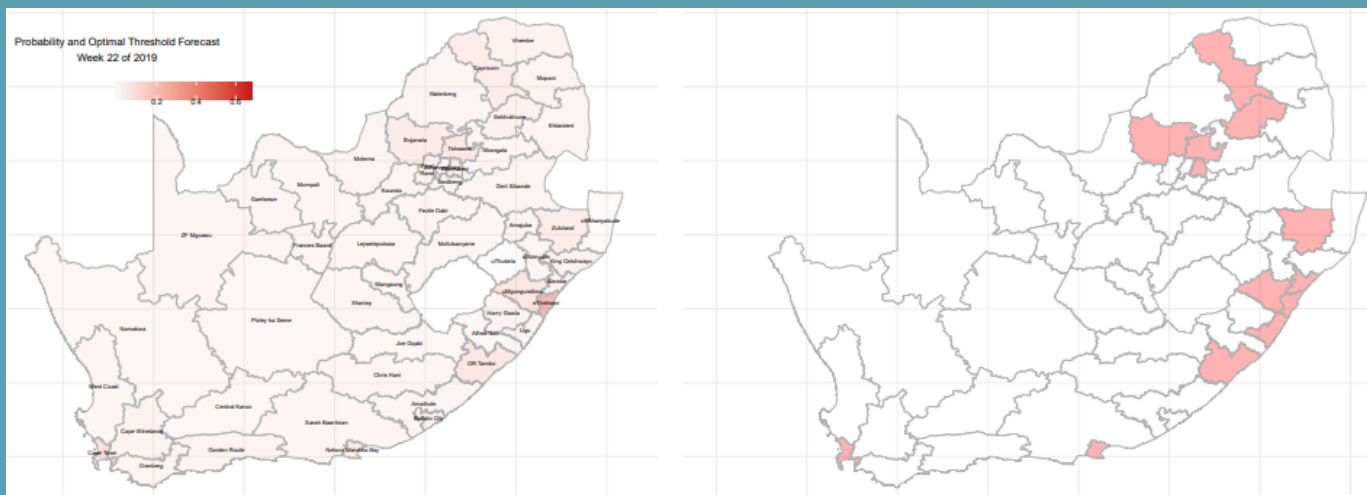
Also during this period, there were developments in the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) hate speech case against a Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) official, Bongani Masuku, over remarks offensive to the Jewish community. The media reported on May 22 that the 10-year-old court case is headed to the Constitutional Court after the Supreme Court of Appeal found Masuku not guilty last year.

Singer Steve Hofmeyr and politician Hellen Zille both made the news in controversial events. Hofmeyr was taken off the air by MultiChoice after he made racist remarks. This and his decision to lead a campaign against DStv, which is owned by MultiChoice, led to social media conversations containing hateful speech. The controversy around Zille arose when she tweeted about "black privilege" in response to an online video of an American poet discussing white privilege. Zille stated: "Well you clearly don't understand black privilege. It is being able to loot a country and steal hundreds of billions and get re-elected. If ppl want permanent poverty for the masses they are going about it the right way." Many users responded with hateful terms and engaged in discourse around privilege.

EARLY WARNING OF CONFLICT

Week of May 28-June 3

The predictive maps below present the likelihood of each municipality experiencing one or more of the following event types (as classified by ACLED): 1) Violence against Civilians; 2) Battles; 3) Protests or Riots. For the Week of May 28-June 3, PeaceTech Lab's statistical model predicts higher likelihoods of these events in the municipalities shown in darker red on the map on the left. The map on the right applies a probability threshold to forecast which of these municipalities can be expected to experience one or more of these types of events over the next week. These districts are Bojanala, the City of Cape Town, Capricorn, Ekurhuleni, eThekwin, iLembe, Nelson Mandela Bay, OR Tambo, Sekhukhune, the City of Tshwane, uMgungundlovu, Ugu, and Zululand.



Click on the map to visit our Hate Speech and Election Violence data portal for South Africa and read more about this predictive model and our data analytics.



HATEFUL LANGUAGE DATA & ANALYSIS

May 10-23

6,788*

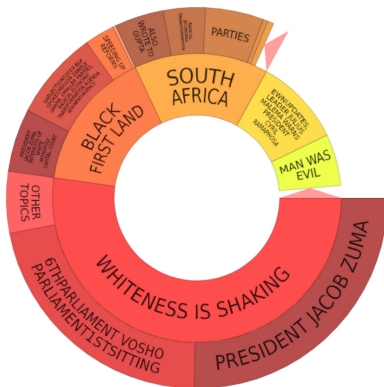
Total Number of Hateful Posts for South Africa for Current Period*

+23%

Change in Hateful Post Volume for Current Period Compared to Previous Two-Week Period

"WHITE MONOPOLY CAPITAL"

Most Frequently Observed Inflammatory Phrase for Current Period



South Africa HateSpeech Monitor: Wh. — Topics from 5/10/19 to 5/23/19

Trending Topics Linked to Most Frequently Observed Term

During May 10-23, the volume of hateful posts increased by 23% from the previous two weeks, continuing the upward trend in hateful content post-election. Post-election coverage of speeches and the parliamentary swearing-in likely contributed to this increase. While the sense is that many people are happy with the election results, others, such as BLF members, have expressed otherwise in angry online discussions.

The inflammatory phrase that appeared most frequently in this period was "white monopoly capital." This trend is related to several of the events discussed above, including the speech by the BLF leader referring to the ANC, DA, and EFF as parties that represent "white monopoly capital" and Magashule's controversial speech. Another event contributing to the conversation was the firing of Dennis George, former Federation of Unions of South Africa General Secretary, for alleged misconduct in an investment. George blamed his firing on "white monopoly capital."

Additionally, in his congratulatory message to Cyril Ramaphosa, sworn in as President on May 22, Julius Malema advised the president, "Listen to the collective wisdom of people you are elected with, not white monopoly capital. It will not be here to defend you. Once you listen to white monopoly capital, you must know that you are likely not to finish your term."

*Number of posts was drawn from Twitter posts monitored via Crimson Hexagon and Facebook posts monitored via Dataminr by human analysts from Media Monitoring Africa.

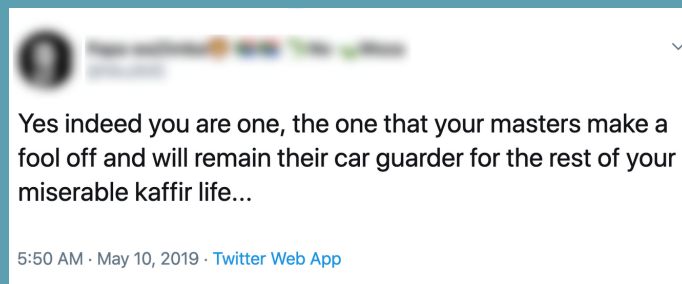
HATEFUL TERMS & PHRASES SAMPLE POSTS

May 10-23

"White Monopoly Capital" Sample Post (Twitter)



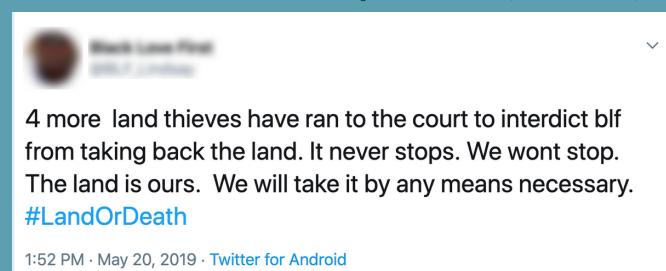
"Kaffir" Sample Post (Twitter)



"Mlungu" Sample Post (Twitter)



"Land Thieves" Sample Post (Twitter)



If you have any feedback on this report and/or suggestions of the most useful types of content to include, please email us at info@peacetechnology.org.