



Monitoring and Analysis of Hateful Language in South Africa

Report #2:
May 3, 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 regularly updated with new data. This report and the two resources above 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 which may lead to violence.

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Latest Events

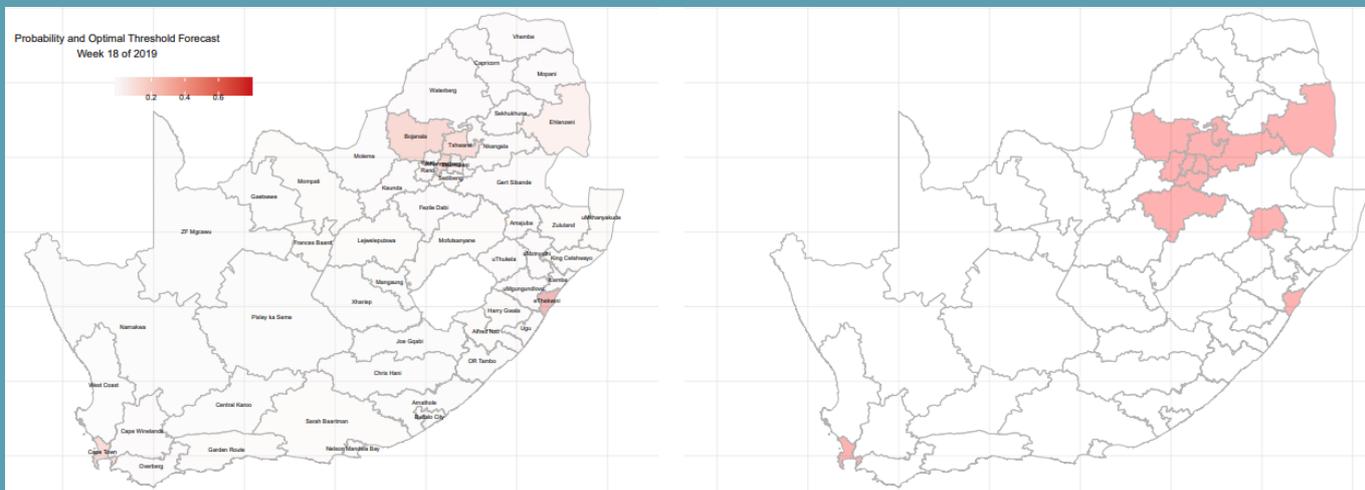
A recent example of an offline event sparking the use of hateful terms on social media was a radio show (702) debate between the Democratic Alliance (DA) and Black First Land First (BLF) on April 30th. BLF Gender and Sexuality Secretary Thabi Miyeni was attacked on social media and in some cases referred to as a "30 percenter" (a term used to demean someone's intelligence) because the public felt she could not articulate herself or debate issues intellectually. Additionally, because of her remark that Parliament "is captured by capitalists," posts using hate terms such as "white monopoly capitalist" appeared in related conversations.

Overall during the election period, in instances where hateful terms are used, it is mostly when politicians utter them at political campaigns typically in the context of trying to increase awareness and bring the public's attention to these terms. For instance, Freedom Front Plus (FF+) has uttered phrases like "one settler, one bullet," not to call for violence against white people but to bring the public's attention to the phrase as one used by BLF. FF+ has been involved in a legal battle with BLF to have them unregistered because FF+ believes a party like BLF, that denies registration of white people in their party and calls for violence against white farmers, should not be allowed on the ballot.

EARLY WARNING OF UNREST

Week of April 30-May 6

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 April 30-May 6, 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 Amajuba, Bojanala, the City of Cape Town, Ehlanzeni, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Fezile Dabi, the City of Johannesburg, Nkangala, Sedibeng, the City of Tshwane, and West Rand.



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

April 12-25

4,213*

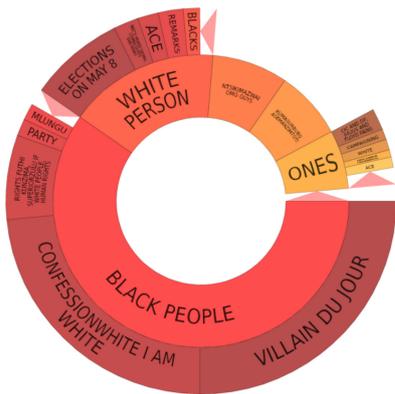
Total Number of Hateful Posts for South Africa for Current Period*

-1.4%

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

"UMLUNGU"

Most Frequently Observed Inflammatory Term for Current Period



South Africa Hate Speech Monitor (SM) - Topics from 4/12/19 to 4/25/19

Trending Topics Linked to Most Frequently Observed Term

During April 12-25, the volume of hateful posts remained fairly consistent from the previous two weeks, decreasing by about 1.4%. This being an election period, the use of hateful terms, especially by political parties, should not be expected to increase significantly as the use of hateful and offensive speech violates the Electoral Commission (IEC) code. This, therefore, will result in political parties avoiding the use of the terms. As mentioned above, however, politicians may present these terms at rallies or events to bring attention to them, leading social media users to discuss or use the terms online.

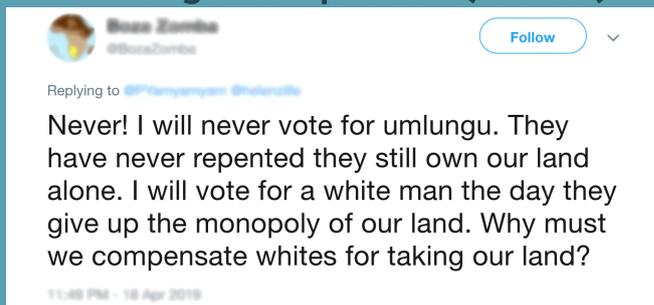
The inflammatory term that appeared most frequently in the past two weeks was "umlungu" and its variants. ANC Secretary General Ace Magashule used the term during a campaign on April 13th in Philippi when he referred to DA as "umlungu" and urged voters not to vote for the party because it was a "white party." Magashule also used the term "abelungu" ("white people") on April 24th, saying at a rally in Zwelihle that DA was a party for "abelungu who are rich." This was after visiting Paradise Park, a predominantly white, gated community in Hermanus, Western Cape where he said that South Africa was for all, black and white. Both of these events attracted the attention of the public who took to social media; this likely contributed to the increased use of the term from 9% of all hateful posts over the previous two weeks to 19% of all hateful posts during the most recent period.

*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.

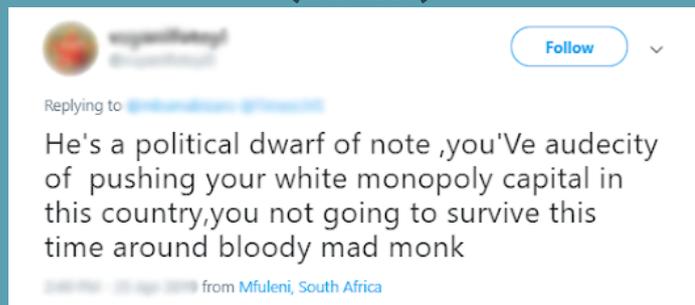
HATEFUL TERMS & PHRASES SAMPLE POSTS

April 12-25

"Umlungu" Sample Post (Twitter)



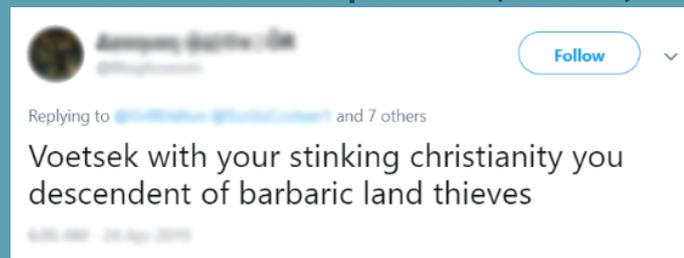
"White Monopoly Capital" Sample Post (Twitter)



"Kill the Whites" Sample Post (Twitter)



"Land Thief" Sample Post (Twitter)



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