

EDITOR'S VIEW

Nothing done to create jobs as figures are released

I AM NOT surprised that South Africa's unemployment rate is now sitting at 29%. The evidence is in front of me as growing numbers of people in my family struggle to find decent work.

What we lack is a vision of what our future could look like.

President Cyril Ramaphosa acknowledged this when he pointed out in his State of the Nation address earlier this year: "We have not built a new city in 25 years of democracy."

He added: "I dream of a South Africa where the first entirely new city built in the democratic era rises, with skyscrapers, schools, universities, hospitals and factories."

What also holds us back is our inability to find innovative solutions. Take the trade in rhino horn as an example.

Every year, some people in China spend billions in the mistaken belief that rhino horn has health benefits, including as a cure for cancer. In reality, rhino horn is made of keratin, the same component found in our finger or toe nails.

The problem is that rhinos are then killed for their horn, and that has put the species on the brink of extinction. To keep the rhino safe, we spend millions. But there is another approach, one that could make us billions.

We could farm rhino using the vast expanses we have in our country. If we could change the law and legally sell the horn to those who want to buy it, we could earn billions in much needed rands. In the process, we also save the rhino. The government could adopt the same approach with abalone.

The government's only role would be to do whatever was necessary to help rhino and abalone farmers make money and pay their taxes.

We also need to get our priorities right. The R200 million that Ramaphosa raised from business people to become ANC president could have paid the salaries of almost 5 000 people for a full year.

They would have earned the minimum wage of R3 500 per month but they would have worked, spent and boosted economic growth.

Every year, big business spends billions on Mandela Day. According to the South African-based consultancy, Trialogue, last year almost R10 billion was spent by big business on social projects.

In reality, the figure is a lot more because Trialogue only used information from 74 companies listed on the South African bourse and a few dozen non-profit organisations.

Be that as it may, the R10bn would still have paid a quarter million people a minimum salary for a year.

But few solutions are presented and, when viable options are presented, little is done to make them a reality.

As a result, a week after the latest unemployment numbers were released, we have done nothing to create jobs or put in place plans that address this national crisis.

By seeking posterity in Kashmir, India has ignited a powder keg

Modi government dealing with a hot potato as protests in disputed territory become troublesome



JUGGERNAUT

KANTHAN PILLAY

ON 22 JULY 2019, US President Donald Trump held a press briefing at the White House with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, following their bilateral meeting. Trump then said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked him to mediate on the 70 year Kashmir dispute with Pakistan.

Trump: "He actually said, 'Would you like to be a mediator or arbitrator?' I said, 'Where?' He said, 'Kashmir'. Because this has been going on for many, many years."

The response from New Delhi was swift. "We have seen (Trump's) remarks to the press that he is ready to mediate, if requested by India & Pakistan, on Kashmir issue. No such request has been made by (Prime Minister Modi) to US President," India's foreign ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar posted on Twitter.

Two weeks later on the night of Sunday, August 4, Indian Kashmir went dark. Mobile and landline and internet services were shut down. Hours later on Monday, India's Home Minister Amit Shah announced in the upper house of parliament that the Modi government had repealed Article 370 of the constitution which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Shah said the state would be split into two territories under control of the national government in New Delhi.

To understand the roots of this conflict, one has to go back to the United Kingdom of July 18, 1947 when King George VI signed into law the Indian Independence Act "to make provision for the setting up in India of two independent Dominions... to be known respectively as India and Pakistan".

Pakistan comprised two chunks, west and east, separated by India. Two Indian states, Punjab and Bengal, were split in half. East Bengal and West Punjab were incorporated into East and West Pakistan, respectively.

At the northernmost part of India was Kashmir. Both India and Pakistan laid claim to the territory.

Burton Stein says in his *History of India*: "Kashmir... had been created rather off-handedly by the British after the first defeat of the Sikhs in 1846, as a reward to a former official who had sided with the British. The Himalayan kingdom was connected to India through a district of the Punjab, but its population was 77 per cent



PEOPLE protest over India's decision on Jammu and Kashmir. | IANS

Muslim and it shared a boundary with Pakistan. Hence, it was anticipated that the maharaja would accede to Pakistan when the British paramountcy ended on 14-15 August.

"When he hesitated to do this, Pakistan launched a guerrilla onslaught meant to frighten its ruler into submission. Instead the Maharaja appealed to Mountbatten for assistance, and the governor-general agreed on the condition that the ruler accede to India. Indian soldiers entered Kashmir and drove the Pakistani-sponsored irregulars from all but a small section of the state."

And that, in a nutshell, has been the status of Kashmir for the past 70+ years. The Pakistan portion comprises two provinces of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. The Indian portion comprises Jammu and Kashmir. Because the entire area is disputed territory, dividing the two is a "line of control" rather than an international border.

But India's constitution had allocated special status to Jammu and Kashmir, setting it apart from the rest of the country.

People born in Jammu and Kashmir had dual citizenship – of the territory and of India. Jammu and Kashmir had its own flag. Only citizens of Jammu and Kashmir were

" Kashmir... had been created off-handedly by the British as reward to a former official

Burton Stein
AUTHOR OF 'HISTORY OF INDIA'

allowed to own property. If a woman from Jammu and Kashmir married a non-citizen of Jammu and Kashmir, she would lose her citizenship. India's free speech "Right To Information" law and "Right To Education" law did not apply in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Modi government has now changed that. Jammu and Kashmir is no longer a State – it is now a Union Territory. There is no longer dual citizenship. All Indians may now purchase property in Jammu and Kashmir. Women no longer lose citizenship by marrying non-Kashmir citizens.

India's ruling party believes this will usher in an era of prosperity for the region as

investors will now flock in from the rest of the country, acquiring property and establishing businesses.

Immediately though, Jammu and Kashmir is on lockdown without telecommunications.

There are 500 000 Indian security forces based in the region. Some 10 000 more troops have been deployed over the past week and a further 25 000 on the way.

Pakistan has called for a UN Security Council meeting, but the US government has said it is treating this as an "internal matter" for India.

Russia and China are unlikely to jeopardise their new alliance with India over this matter. Is this a definitive conclusion to a conflict that has lasted 70 years? To a large extent, yes. But I expect terror attacks by Kashmiri separatists in other parts of India in the months and years ahead.

Srikanthan is one of the names of Vishnu. Another name for Vishnu is Jagannath, "the unstoppable force", which gives us the modern word Juggernaut. Pillay writes about understanding the unstoppable forces which shape our lives in technology, commerce, science and society.

The Quote

A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman

MELINDA GATES
www.proflowers.com



YOGAN DEVIN

WHY has wealthy Durban businessman Naren Pattundeen swapped the corporate boardroom and tailored suit to volunteer his services on a full-time basis to a home for the aged and children in need?

Pattundeen was the chairman of Palm Stationery, one of the largest stationery companies in South Africa, when he decided to devote his waking hours to putting the Aryan Benevolent Home on a sound financial and administrative footing.

Dressed in casual jeans and a short-sleeve shirt, the ever-genial gentleman mixes applying his mind to fund-raising ventures with scrutinising refurbishing work and walking through the wards, offering words of encouragement to the sick and frail.

One of the country's most sought-after criminal lawyers, Advocate Kessie Naidu, was at the height of his legal career – his mane of silver hair and wily style of interrogation earned him the sobriquet "Silver Fox" – when he chose to hang up his black waistcoat.

What made the Durban senior counsel who could easily demand a daily court appearance fee of R50000 decide to dedicate all his time to the social and welfare work of the Ramakrishna Centre of SA?

It is the desire to use their visibility, sharp minds and contacts to do good that has got Pattundeen and Naidu – and other successful businessmen – to help humanity with charitable efforts.

Helping others in need is a philosophy that was instilled in Pattundeen when he was a young boy by his businessman father Kassiepersadh, who believed that those who are suffering do not need to suffer alone because compassion and affection go a long way in creating a better world.

Pattundeen is all too well aware that while we all want to lead a healthy, happy life, not everyone in the world is fortunate enough to do so.

"Disease, poverty, and social injustice are a burden on society. I am thankful to be given the opportunity to do my little bit to ease the burden of those who are sick or in dire circumstance," says Pattundeen.

Naidu realised he had achieved great success in his professional life, and espousing the slogan "why be greedy when you can



PROFESSOR Yusuf Karodia has immersed himself in philanthropic work in the education sector among disadvantaged communities through the Yusuf Karodia Foundation. | Supplied

only eat two slices of bread", he took up permanent residence at the Phoenix branch of the Ramakrishna Centre from where he helps direct educational, medical and feeding schemes.

Professor Yusuf Karodia spent two-and-a-half decades founding and guiding Mancosa to become a leading higher education institution in Southern Africa.

Nowadays he is less hands-on and instead has immersed himself in philanthropic work in the education sector among disadvantaged communities through the Yusuf Karodia Foundation.

A strong believer that reading is an essential ingredient for children to improve their literacy, further their education and to brighten their future, he has launched the "Million Books Project" which aims to provide more than a million books to school children across South Africa through mobile libraries.

"Research has shown that access to libraries improves learner performance and increases their chances of success. A literate, educated society is a safer, healthier, and more prosperous society. Sadly, hundreds of schools lack libraries.

"The mobile libraries can be wheeled from one classroom to another and learners can easily access a diverse collection of books," said Karodia.

Giving back to society is a complex thought. What is meant by giving back? What are we going to give? Is it money, time or ability?

One should give back whatever one has a surplus of. Share your wealth with the less fortunate if you have too much. Share your time if you leading a meaningless life.

No tycoon can take full credit for all the wealth amassed. Money earned is not just a function of one's own effort. Being wealthy is a responsibility because no one became rich by themselves. There are costs the society bore to enable that wealth, and there is the moral obligation to give back.

In the past, we found that the wealthy turned their attention to philanthropic giving only as retirement approached. But that has been changing in recent years. The ultra-wealthy have been starting their philanthropy at younger and younger ages.

It is becoming more fashionable for young barons to spend time embracing worthy causes and changing the world.



Naren Pattundeen

Some wealthy individuals are moved to donate for recognition after seeing that their peers do so, sparking a bit of envy that ultimately creates a virtuous cycle. At least some good comes out of a bad trait.

The idea of welfare of the community we live in, the need for public service to the society that supports us, and the appeal of the common good, should always prevail.

Only a fool dies with loads of money in the bank. Of course, you can't take it with you. No hearses have Venter trailers, right? If you end up with millions left over, it could only mean you were unnecessarily depriving yourself along the way – like using one teabag twice – or that you worked longer than you had to.

If you saved and scrimped and denied yourself simple pleasures only to be left with a big bank balance, you would have only done yourself a great injustice. You would have wasted all those years instead of living it up a bit more.

There is a saying that money can't buy happiness unless you spend it on others. Research has shown that giving makes us far happier than receiving. Giving money, time and effort to others or to charity will put a much bigger smile on your face than spending on yourself.

Helping others may just be the secret to living a life that is not only happier but also healthier, wealthier, more productive, and meaningful.

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