



Higher Education Transformation Network

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For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE: HETN CONDEMNS ONGOING CHINESE RACIST XENOPHOBIA

The Higher Education Transformation Network (HETN) hereby strongly condemns the ongoing racist xenophobic campaigns perpetrated by the Chinese government and its citizens against Africans in Guangzhou.

Since the 10th April 2020, there has been a concerted campaign of unbridled racism, bigotry and xenophobia perpetrated by Chinese citizens partially encouraged by the Communist Party of China.

Contrary to the promises and guarantees by the Chinese government, Africans continue to be publicly humiliated, evicted from their residences without cause and further subjected to undue COVID 19 restrictions without any justifications. Africans continue being targets of heavy-handed law enforcement by Chinese authorities and are denied access to public and social services in Chinese restaurants and shopping malls.

Chinese hostility against Africans is not new and has been historically documented over the years, including riots aimed at Africans in 1988-1989 in Nanjing. In Chinese official media, Africans are often characterized as backward or primitive and blackness characterized as ugly and unattractive. Virulent racism is commonplace on Chinese social media and continues largely unchecked by Chinese state officials including claims that Africans are rapists, drug dealers or AIDS carriers.

It remains our view that the xenophobic attitudes proliferating in China against Africans are dangerously akin to the racist xenophobia that fuelled the infamous “*Kristallnacht*” of the 9th November 1938 in Nazi Germany.

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Directors: SR. Legoabe; SK. Kopung; ML. Seolonyane (Executive); L. Tlou; TS Phendla; DT Molea; S Malinga; RI Ramatshosa; O. Matshediso

We accordingly hereby call on President Ramaphosa to condemn the Chinese government in both his official capacities as State President of the Republic of South Africa and current Chairperson of the African Union and further follow the example set by the Kenyan and Nigerian authorities in planning the evacuation of affected citizens.

African governments beware, the Chinese Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) across Africa are not built on any Sino-African mutual trust but on selfish economic domination motives devoid of any meaningful longterm fruits for Africans. Ends.

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About the Higher Education Transformation Network (HETN):-

The Higher Education Transformation Network (HETN) is an independent network of alumni and graduates from various higher education and further educational institutions across South Africa committed to the process of transformation of higher education to increase equitable and access to education, skills and learning to eliminate of socio-economic disparities.

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