

S/TINES 15/10

SOUTH AFRICA

One old white guy who plans to stay

SUDDENLY the newspapers are full of stories about the white exodus and I expect it's only a matter of time before we'll be hoarding baked beans and tins of soup again.

Most of my white friends have glumly taken the view that South Africa holds no future for people with a pale complexion, and have done what all good parents do: educated and prepared their children for lucrative employment opportunities overseas.

Friends in the medical profession have been lamenting the drop in standards for years, and unsubstantiated rumours of exam passes based on quotas for the right skin colour rather than medical knowledge seem all too believable.

We should all be worried when being previously disadvantaged because you walked 20km to school in bare feet gives you a better chance of entering the medical profession than straight A's.

One might have thought that taking affirmative action to such ridiculous lengths would deeply offend the many black professionals who have genuinely earned the right to be where they are today.

Fortunately, there are still some who are not afraid to raise their heads above the parapets and tell it like it is.

But the majority of black professionals are terrified to rock the boat. How else could we have found ourselves in a situation where we have such a lamentable skills shortage and where people who are completely incapable of doing a job are not only employed but even move on to higher paid employment?

It's a conspiracy of mediocrity

and keeping talented whites out reduces the chances of ever being found out. Whistle-blowers like Paskalis Mokupo should be hailed as national heroes instead of being treated like lepers.

The culture of dishonesty and corruption is now so widespread that it is people like Mokupo who make the news and not the legion of crooks all busy making off with a share of the public purse.

Pressure from the government to pretend that black students who haven't a hope of passing exams

should still be allowed to practise as doctors will eventually devalue academic institutions. So is it any wonder that parents are prepared to make huge financial sacrifices just so their children can get a credible qualification at a proper teaching establishment?

The high levels of dangerous crime are also given as a reason for white emigration, but that has always been a factor in this country; part of the

risk-reward ratio, if you like.

My guess is that whites would be more prepared to put up with the appalling crime levels if they felt their skills were appreciated and would be rewarded. But most of the job adverts in our brave new nonracial world make it quite clear that it would be pointless for whites to apply.

So am I about to leave?

Not a chance. As this newspaper's resident middle-aged white polemicist, I have to keep the flag flying.

Besides, my neighbour has just introduced various amphibians to his garden pond and I am serenaded to sleep every night by the deep croak of the Red Toad and woken in the morning by the Hadedda Ibis. Does life get better than that?



OUT TO LUNCH
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