

Council: Commonwealth of Nations

Country: Tanzania

Name:

**First issue:** Revisiting and Reconsidering the Actions Taken Upon the Commonwealth of Nations During the Apartheid

The Apartheid was a major issue in South Africa from the late 40s to the early 90s. It was an issue not only in the sense of its effect on South Africa, but its effect on countries in correspondence with South Africa. Those countries, mainly the Commonwealth of Nations, struggled to find a solution to such a problem that is beneficial to all countries. The CoN knew of the risks and the additional prices all the countries would have to pay once implementing their solutions, however the Apartheid was a sickening concept and the continuation of segregation up until that point in history was purely wrong.

Building on that knowledge, the countries decided to put sanctions on many things in relation to South Africa, this basically got rid of all former associations of these countries with South Africa. They put sanctions on air travel and investments, as well as a bar on promoting South African tourism and agricultural imports. Other imports were banned as well (coal, iron, steel, and uranium) and bank loans to there were completely cut off. Such actions of course would have a devastating effect on the countries. As for actions from the UN, in November of 1974 South Africa was expelled from the United Nations, and was not allowed back for another 20 years (up until 1994).

Tanzania has tackled this issue along with the rest of the Commonwealth in the same manner. As well as the sanctions however, Tanzania ended diplomatic relations with South Africa (that was backed up by Britain) and so sacrificed £7.5 million in aid. As well as that, Tanzania also undertook a railway project, helping their neighboring country, from Zambia to Dar es Salaam. This helped lower Zambia's reliance on South Africa. Today, South Africa plays a major role in Tanzania's economy, this is through the aid of 180 South African companies (as well as South Africa being listed in the top 10 countries investing in Tanzania)

The way this issue was handled, though effective as it was, caused drastic effects on the majority of Commonwealth countries. Relations with South Africa were affected negatively and the halted trade with the country negatively affected the economy as well. Tasked to revisit this particular issue, because the best way to grow as a country is to benefit from past mistakes. The addressal of this issue earlier on, around 5 to 10 years after it was first implemented or shown traces of, would have been the best method. Rather than spend around 40 years with this severe problem in a fellow Commonwealth nation, we could have combated it in 5 to 10 years if it were paid attention to earlier. In addition to that, rather than cut off South Africa until it retaliated and started to handle the issue, a demand for the issue to be instantly addressed would be much more effective. A sure-fire way to make sure the issue is immediately solved is to demand for an all inclusive vote for president, after an entirely new presidential campaign, no matter if the current president still has more years in office. Seeming as the non-white population makes up the majority of the country, and all are allowed to vote, a more representative president would prevail to take the former's place.

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**Second issue:** Assessing the Allowance of the Maldives Re-gaining Membership in the Commonwealth of Nations

13th of October, 2016. The very day that brought the delegates of these nations here in the first place. On that very day, under the orders of former president Abdulla Yameen the Maldives officially withdrew from the Commonwealth of Nations. The reasoning behind such a play was that the Commonwealth were supposedly interfering in the internal affairs of the country as well as alleged “right abuse”. Once the government realised their great mistake, mostly due to the election of a new president, the decision was duly regretted and attempts to take back those actions were made. The current President, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, has requested the Maldives re-enter the commonwealth because it is of great benefit to their nation. Of course, more important is the benefit of the majority.

Following the departure of the Maldives, the secretary general of the CoN, Patricia Scotland, released a statement in which she said: “The Commonwealth family at large – its member governments and its peoples worldwide – will share my sadness and disappointment at this decision.” The Maldives were not under the best control during the office periods of President Yameen. In fact, he was just recently arrested for money laundering. In addition to that he arrested all those who opposed him, these people were later set free by current President Solih. This is an obvious example of the country's turning point, and change for the better. President Solih states the reason he'd like to re-enter the Commonwealth is for the young Maldivians to gain opportunities such as scholarships and athletes to play internationally.

Tanzania being a part of the Commonwealth is of course inclined to agree with what fellow countries in the CoN think. In regards to the issue Tanzania is with the re-entering of Maldives into the commonwealth. This is because, though there are no direct foreign affairs between the two countries, there are indirect ones, through the passage of shared countries. Tanzania has never had past issues with the Maldives, and believes the current president will be of great effect to the country, boosting the economy of countries around him.

To this acceptance of course, must come terms as well. The Maldives should be aware that the Commonwealth has the power to suspend countries should their government not follow the values and principles of the bloc. If any repeated mishaps or issues occur, an immediate suspension, or a forced removal from the commonwealth shall be applied. As well as that, aid will be given to the youth of Tanzania, from the rest of the Commonwealth. By doing so Tanzania is inclined to participate in the helping of other Commonwealth nations as well, especially after they raise their economy once again.

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