Language Of Education In South Africa
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THE LANGUAGE DEBATE
• Language of discourse
  - tool for academia
  - structure of exclusion
  - insularity of debate
• Legacy of language diversity
  - relic of the past
  - resource of the present
  - access to language of success

PEOPLE AND LANGUAGES
• Four main groups
  - African indigenes
    - nine languages
    - numerically dominant
    - predominantly rural
  - Indian population
    - users of English
    - mainly peri-urban
  - Coloured population
    - speakers of English/afrikaans
    - mainly peri-urban township
  - White population
    - English and afrikaans
    - farmers and urban dwellers
    - economically dominant

• Legacy of white rule
  - marginalisation of languages
  - dominance of English
  - fragmented education system

CURRENT LANGUAGE POLICY
• Constitutional imperative
  - respect for diversity
  - designated official languages
  - respect for all languages
• Language in education
  - parity of official languages
  - right of citizen
  - multi-lingualism

DEBATING ISSUES OF IMPLEMENTATION
• Language liberation vs under-development
• Language preference vs proficiency
• Multi-lingualism vs deficit-ridden schooling
• Issue of blueprint vs implementation

CONCLUSION
• Need for inclusive debate
• Collaborative action research
• Baring the myth under-development
• Rethinking teacher education