

## WRITTEN DISCUSSION:

The main intention of the assignment was to dig up the past & find out what really happened in the days of apartheid & to discover, first-hand, and the conflicts between the apartheid government & resistance parties such as the SWAPO and the ANC. My intention was to also discover what role my interviewee played in the struggle for freedom in South Africa.

I went to Dr. Kovins house & he read my list of questions and responded by saying "GOOD QUESTIONS". The first few questions were general questions about his personal details. We then got into the real thick of things & the interview began to get interesting. I was fascinated when he had told me that neither of his parents nor any of his relatives were involved in politics during the apartheid era. I gathered that he is a very religious man as he said that religion had influenced him to become politically active.

He addressed an ignorant question of mine very open-mindedly. I did not know prior to this interview that the SWAPO was an organization in Namibia. He told me that he joined the NIC & the UDF, which were the internal wings of the ANC.

I was in shock when he told me that he had led the student boycotts. He comes across to me as a very timid & sensible guy so I didn't expect him to do this, I was also inspired when he told me this because it takes a person with immense power to organize & lead a successful campaign such as this.

He was then expelled from the school because he wanted his opinions of those "black South Africans" to be heard. The brilliance & intelligence of the guy was clearly proven when he told me that he passed grade 10 whilst studying alone, at home. The question about his role in politics revealed that he had good leadership skills & that he played a major role in the development of the community. He commented very openly & had plenty to say about this question. *"I think that being in politics was good for me, it changed my perspective of life and the equivalent now would be that it would be more useful for young people to get more involved in community organizations because the political organizations are different now, they are more parliamentary politics, they are not anti-apartheid, they are moral-ethical types of politics. They should get more involved in the community organizations, etc because that was how our perspectives changed by seeing others suffer because they weren't rich but we not poor either, on working with the ANC, I started interacting with people who*

*had no furniture & food in their homes .Visiting them in their homes & seeing that part of their lives influenced me immensely & I have therefore gained so much from being a political activist"*

The question about police brutality was very interesting as well as disturbing because he told me every detail

*"It was very tough. We were amongst the lucky ones & despite the detention, the torture & the beatings, we were not killed. The police at that time would abduct activists & they would disappear, then their bodies were found in remote areas, dumped in some bush, etc. Alternatively some people will be interrogated so to such an extent, it would seem as if they committed suicide in prison, so I think some of us were lucky that we managed to survive that period as the police brutality as it was terrible"*

From his response to this question, I had gathered that he is a very strong person but both mentally & physically to endure 8 weeks of being kept in solitary confinement. From my experiences of solitary confinement as I have witnessed whilst watching television, I have noticed the incarcerated person gets out of there he has totally lost his mind. As Dr Kavin stated that solitary confinement did the police to make people lose their minds use a tactic & then maybe the police could force some information out of them. Dr Naidoo is a very feared man for his ability to launch anti-apartheid campaigns & get numerous people of all different race groups to participate in these campaigns. It showed that being outspoken "non-white" during the apartheid era as the police always hounded you & made this persons life very uneasy because you could not stay in one place for a very long period of time. This also meant that he couldn't start a family & be safe. He even stayed in a vehicle for a month with his 2 friends! He was very lucky to meet Mr. Nelson Mandela, let alone work with him & also politicians like Govern Mbeki. I feel its an honor to be neighbors with a person who had so much to do with securing South Africa's democratic status against all the odds and still be active in the ANC up until today.

He said becoming an activist has greatly influenced his life in a positive way & that joining the ANC made him more concerned about other people whose lives were also destroyed by apartheid. It also helped to broaden his horizons in terms of whom he interacted with. Joining the ANC taught him that they were not fighting white people but the thing they were fighting was apartheid itself. He felt that it has helped him a lot more than he was given, this is quite interesting when you take into consideration all the hardships that he had to face. He stated that it has taught him not to solely focus on the problem but rather focus on finding a solution to the problem.