

JANUARY

Thurs 1

Tales told of the life of Blade Runner, now a guest of the South African state prison service. According, to one who knows, J van Vuuren; a former sports acquaintance of Oscar and now the court court artist at the Pretoria court building his cell life is one of constant disruption. There is no stopping the prison high command people invading his cell and taking uninvited 'selfies'.

Fri 2

Seeing the need, since 1997, for the need of a 'place of peace' for the growing number of refugees fleeing acts of persecution the cleric in charge at the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg decided on a bold move.

From that time, until twenty fours ago, the building became a safe haven for those who had fled oppression in their own country. However in recent times the refuge has been host to persons who seemed more intent of damaging the buildings structure whether by vandalism or other unseemly habits.

Some would say that the building was closed because the cleric in charge, Paul Verryn, was removed from his post as a Bishop. He denies this.

Tues 6

Chosen, in 2013, Mandla Maseeko is about to embark on a training schedule that will ultimately see him become the first black African to travel in space as an astronaut as part of the Africa2Moon project.

Speaking of why the moon was chosen for attention, when there was much criticism of any funds being used in this way when there was more urgent needs on the African continent, J Weltman, manager and chief executive of the Foundation for Space Development noted that when any child on the continent stepped outside and looked into the night sky as see the moon.

The Cape Town based space non profit organisation, the FSD; a not for profit organisation, is seeking the backing through crowd funding via the internet. Since the cash plea was launched on 19/11 \$12, 744 has been made available. It is hoped by 31/1 that \$150, 000 will have been made available by investors.

Not only is this project deemed forward looking there are great hopes that those with a yearning for science, from throughout the African continent, will not feel the need to leave for other more developed countries in the West

Detractors of such missions fear that such a mission will only encourage others; America, Russia or China, to become more ambitious in their 'race to the stars' and ignite a second cold war.

Wed 7

According to figures released by the General Medical Council in 12/14, the number of doctors employed in the NHS, initially trained in South Africa was 5, 282. In total, there are 97, 910 physicians employed who received their primary medical training outside the UK employed.

Fri 9

The nation has gained its first chess Grand Master who was born, one of eight children, in the Mitchell Plains township, which in 2013 was deemed to have the highest crime rate in South Africa with 1.8m crimes reported in 2012.

Now aged 33 Kenny Solomon gained his title in 12/'14 at the end of the chess gathering in Namibia. At the age of 13 his interest was first sparked as his older sibling flew to a Chess Olympiad in the Philippines and was in need of reading material; which turned out to be focussed on the life of another chess grand master; A Karpov. Within two years the youth had won an under 16 years championship after teaching himself the game.

Fri 23

Still of concern, to the authorities in Pretoria, is the rising number of rhino deaths; killed for their ivory. It has now happened that a 22/7 plan to move a number out of the country has come to fruition. The new policy will see 100 of these endangered animals sent out of the country for their own safety. The majority, 87, of the threatened species will be uplifted out of Kruger National Park while a number of other Park rhino's will be relocated to a more secure area within the park.

The environmental minister, Edna Molewa, said that the rhino's final destination would be kept secret for their own protection. The total number of rhino 's killed in 2014 was 1, 215. Of that number 827 died within the borders of KNP.

Sat 31

Having served a jail term of about 20 years Eugene de Kock, known as 'Prime Evil' has been granted parole, at his second attempt, for the crimes he committed when the head of a special police unit dedicated to hunting down, and killing those opposed to the pre 1994 Nationalist government.

Giving details for his release, from a jail sentence which, if served in full would have seen him behind bars for 200 years plus, justice minister M Masutha noted the release was “in the interests of nation building and reconciliation.”

FEBRUARY

Thurs 12

Plans to rename one of Cape Town 's main thoroughfares, after the last ethnic white leader of South Africa, has angered many members of the African National Council and the countries Congress of Trade Unions. The move to honour F W de Klerk, with his own 'Boulevard' and drop Table Bay Boulevard comes on the anniversary of the release of Nelson Mandela 25 years ago.

Critics of the move, devised by the Democratic Alliance who are in the majority on the city council, note that street names would not be changed to honour the name of the National Socialists in pre WW2 Germany.

Support from the 'notables' of the struggle against apartheid seems constant. Neither the likes of Desmond Tutu Chief Buthelezi or one time Robben Isle detainee Ahmed Kathrada have voiced any protests.

Fri 13

As president Zuma made his opening address at the start of the parliamentary year his words were drowned out by a demonstrators from among the assembled members of parliament. The protest was led by the leader of the Economic Freedom Party, Julius Malema. This one time 'golden boy' of the youth league of the ANC is now the leader of the party that is fiercely opposed to the Zuma style leadership.

One of their parties chief 's concerns is the amount of government money that the party leader used, and has been ordered to repay, during the renovation 's to his family home deep in Natal province.

Fri 20

The first recorded white settler to arrive in the land that is now led by a Jacob Zuma led government, Jan van Riebeck in 1652, has emerged out of the mists of time to land the head of the ANC administration in a heap of trouble

A member of the Afrikaner member of Freedom Front + Party has accused the president of a 'hate speech' incident. Such is the anger of Pieter Mulder he has reported the presidents words to the nations Human Rights Commission.

In the opinion of the FFP 's leader the president was saying that ever since the white man arrived there has been nothing but trouble for the black population throughout the years since discrimination was ended in 1994. In his defence the president noted that his comments "were historic fact. Wars happen, people were removed. It's written down, I'm not concocting it.

It has now emerged that the demonstration mounted on the opening day of the parliamentary session (qv 13/2) members of the Freedom Front + Party were active in their criticism.

Sat 28

With the coalition government of Lesotho at loggerheads, at a point two years before a due general election, the landlocked kingdom's people will go to the polls two years early. Since the return of

prime minister Thomas Thabane; leader of the All Basotho Convention party, from a brief exile in Pretoria in 8/14, his party has been in confrontation with coalition partners led by the Lesotho Congress for Democracy and other minority parties.

Academics are concerned that any miss handling of the election process, such as the failure of a fair distribution of the ballot papers, throughout the rural areas, could lead to more protests throughout the nation. It is the opinion of 'those in the know' that the result of the election will again be a coalition led by the Lesotho Congress of Democracy having the greater number of seats.

MARCH

Tues 10

This writer lavishes praise on the Beijing government for its small start in combating the crime of ivory poaching that, especially throughout Africa, is harming the existence of the white rhino. For a period of 12 months the communist government has banned the import of elephant tusks that are used in traditional medicine. Many will say such a limited time span is of no consequence.

In the past the regime has, in attempts to curb this criminal activity has; implemented an SMS text alert system to all citizens travelling to, for example Kenya, to remind them not to purchase rhino horn or other ivory based goods. Other nations policies to save endangered wildlife have seen the Hong Kong government of a 24 month action plan to destroy all their ivory stockpiles. - **Dr P Bergin**
CEO African Wildlife Foundation -

Thurs 12

With the near conclusion of a fast housing development, approved by the late Nelson Mandela in 2007 and 'topped of' by his widow Graca Machel, eleven years later, the finish date for the Steyn City development is in 2018

The development, named after Douw Steyn a billionaire insurance magnate, is located close to the sprawling township of Diepsloot north of Johannesburg. Those that see such a development as a new type of apartheid; financial rather than racial, note that the cost and the 400 hectare /1, acres size of this new exclusive residences; along with shopping malls, schools, medical centres and two golf courses that costs R6.5bn /£352bn could be better spent.

Speaking for the developers, G Plumari, notes that the development is ideally sited to give work opportunities to the 20, 000 township dwellers. It was notes, that with the governments help, within this new suburb! 5, 500 homes will be built to accommodate those township residents who wish to be relocated to this site.

President Zuma, a man not unknown to make the odd speaking gaffe, has once again made an outrageous comment. This time, speaking to a gathering of traditional leaders, his comment that teenage mothers should be separated from their child and sent to Robben Island where they "must be forced to go to school far away" according to a report by the nations press association.

Such a remark saw the opposition party the Democratic Alliance's national spokesperson, Phumzile van Damme, call on the ANC leader to apologise for his "offensive disservice to the country 's teenage pregnancy crisis."

Sat 14

Not uncommon for medical first 's, note South Africa being the first country to carry out a survivable heart transplant in the mid 1960's, a team from Stellenbosch University working at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town have received a penal transplant.

According to the Universities head of urology, Professor A van de Merwe the patient a 21 year old patient was 'doing extremely well.

Mon 16

Angolan national Nadir Tati, one of the countries leading fashion designers, displays examples of her autumn/winter 2015 collection during Portuguese fashion week in Lisbon..

Sun 22

Long known as a country, that has an undiscovered wealth of diamonds underground, the state authorities in Angola are to put on trial Rafael Marques de Morais, investigative journalist and anti corruption campaigner well known for his endeavours to expose the corruption within the diamond industry.

Within days he will appear in a court in the capital Luanda, where he will try and fight off the challenge of his being sued, for £800, 000 /\$1.2m over his charge of a government that is corrupt and exposing brutality and human rights abuses in Angola 's diamond mines. If found guilty he will face up to nine years in jail.

His claims of human rights abuses concern several generals of the countries army and the directors of the Cuango Mining company. Cited in the accused evidence are cases killings, torture and farmland grabs in lucrative diamond fields.

This is not the first time the journalist has come in contact with the Luanda authorities. In recent times, prior to 2010, he spent 43 days in detention without food or water; in solitary confinement, for calling president dos Santos a dictator.

Much of the states anger was aroused by the publication of Blood Diamonds: Corruption and Torture in Angola. Within its pages de Morais details more than 100 killings and 500 cases of torture carried out by security guards and members of the Anglon army. Those that were targeted were were small scale, illegal?, miners digging in the land that the mining companies wanted to exploit.

Tues 24

With the thoughts and deeds of the early life of Nelson Mandela well documented in his Long Walk To Freedom auto biography; his thoughts and deeds after he stepped down from office until his health forced him to rethink his priorities, will now appear in a second biography.

Much of the manuscript, as yet untitled will be published by Pan Macmillan in 2016. will use handwritten notes he himself made about the the issues that were at the top of the agenda of South African and world politics after he stood down from front line politics.

This second volume, which is being edited by Verne Harris, research and archivist at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, will touch on the former presidents thoughts on the appointment of Thabo Mbeki as his successor; he was against and would have been in favour of Cyril Ramaphosa as president. The efforts of the country to minimalise the effects of the HIV/Aids crisis that was sweeping the continent. Also the issues raised by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are all to be digested by the writer.

As to his first LWTF; its sales in the UK since 1998, 367, 500 which has brought in in excess of £4m from the nations bookshops.

Allegations of historic sex crimes have caught up with Bob Hewit, a former grand slam doubles

champion. The charges;two of rape and one of sexual assault circa 1980 and 190's. The trial judge B Bam noted that despite the his accusers being gullible young girls flattered by the attention from their tennis coach their evidence had striking similarities. The convicted 75 year old was bailed for a surety of R10, 000 /£560 until 4/'15.

Thurs 26

The trial of Angolon journalist R Marques de Morais aged 43 (qv 25/3) has been stopped as the prosecution announce that he is to face a total of 15 more libel charges. The trial resumes on 23/4.

Tues 31

News report, After much consultation, with students, academics and other city notables it has been decided that the statue of Cecil Rhodes that stand on the central campus of Cape Town University, is to be removed.

According to the universities vice chancellor and the majority of those consulted that the depiction of 19th century colonialist is no longer a person who should be honoured in these times and in this way.

APRIL

Thurs 9

News report, following a vote of the senate of Cape Town University, it has been confirmed that the statue of Cecil Rhodes will be removed from the campus of the university.

Despite the age, 91, Africa 's oldest leader tells a good tale and keeps his audience; members of the South African media and their president, well entertained as he crosses his southern border on a state visit to Zimbabwe 's former enemy.

Chief up for criticism from Robert Mugabe, and well away from the apartheid conflict, was former British prime minister Tony Blair who he blames for his countries troubles over land reform after refusing to pay compensation to white farmers for land seized by the Harare government on behalf of the nations black farming community.

During the 35 minute monologue monologue where the disagreement between the two governments was likened to that between a lion and baboon “We want peace and peace dose not means you must have the lions share and others have a baboons share. No you are all together and lets be equal OK its your money, keep it, its our land , we will take it. Balance”

In words of thanks to his host the president noted that once the South African military apartheid regime “were guilty of bombing our people in a callous way and throwing bodies into disused mines that is the anger you have when waging a struggle. But then freedom comes and the time to urge racial recognition is here.

Fri 10

As the statue of Cecil Rhodes was lifted from its place on Cape Town 's University campus its next resting place had still not been decided. A spokesman for the nations arts and culture ministry, Sandile Memela, noted “It marks a significant ... shift where the country deals with its ugly past.”

Sat 11

With the going of the Cecil Rhodes statue, erected on the campus of Cape Town university in 1934, (qv 10/4) it could be said that the whole issue of 'colonial era remembrances have brought the whole nation to the fore.

In recent times other statues of that ilk have been desecrated. The latest; honouring Queen Victoria in the centre of the Indian Ocean town of Port Elizabeth, in place for 134 years, has been daubed in green paint. Others recently reported have included a monument depicting King George the Sixth which stood in the grounds of KwaZulu Natal university. There then followed a paint job on statues of P Kruger and L Botha in Pretoria and Cape Town; actions that were supported by the Economic Freedom Party.

Not to let these protests go unchallenged various white led groups have mounted protests near by the wanton destruction. One such group, AfriForum, a civil rights group, warned that such actions polarising the white Afrikaner community and gave a historical view that they are still criminals and land thieves. .

Speaking on these acts of vandalism the minister of art and culture, N Mthethwa, noted “For far to

long our heritage landscape has been viewed through the prism of our colonisers and we have got to challenge that.”

Mon 13

Long has gone the fatwa against the writings of controversial author Salman Rushdie. However there are still those that feel a deep hurt against the author that anyone who expresses admiration for his work may suffer for this admiration.

One such, Zainub Priya Dala a resident of Durban, who works as psychologist and physiotherapist and part time author has taken up residence in Life St Joseph 's; a mental healthcare facility as a means of protecting herself against a second violent attack. The first occurred on a Durban street. The tale was told at a recently held literary festival held in the coastal town.

The attack was carried out by three persons who leapt from their own vehicle after forcing the author 's own vehicle to the side of the road. A brick was smashed into here face, breaking a cheek bone, and a knife held to her throat. The attack on, in the attackers own words, “Rushdie 's bitch” was only halted when another care owner intervened.

Tues 14

Hard times are noted for former South African Defence Force fighters who combated, and ultimately lost out, at the end of the apartheid era. Notable now being aged 50 to 60 years of age, and especially from the Kovert battalion, some hire themselves out to those who are fighting the evils of this era in countries such as Nigeria.

All told there are told, by former SADF soldier Leon Lotz, about 300 ex Kovert members fighting Boko Haram in the north of the country. Their main incentive seems to be cash to be earned and the fact that they have no other skills other than soldiering. They also face arrest and imprisonment under South African laws foe being mercenaries.

Thurs 16

Retail outlets in Johannesburg and Durban were said to be the target of angry Zulu people “who were coming to town” with the implied intention of looting and killing “every foreigner on the road.”

Through the use of text messages the owners of commercial premises on Jeppe Street at the centre of the business capital the shutters went up and the street cleared of shop and office workers. It would seem that the warnings were given after unrest in the Indian Ocean coastal city in which three foreigners and one South African were killed aged 14 who died on 13/4 after a spell of looting in the city.

Police deployed 800 officers to the city where a spokesman said that 74 arrests had been made since the troubles began in 3/15. The commander condemned the spreading of hate speech and notes such actions had the potential to fuel the violence.

Fri 17

News item, looting continues in Durban city as more details of the causes of the growing unrest emerges. It would seem that the violence on the street was initiated by a tweet from the Zulu monarch denouncing the number of foreign workers who were taking South African jobs.

A Ghana national who had settled long term in the town of Benoin on the outskirts of Johannesburg who fears for his business; even though he has a South African passport and driving licence.

Sat 18

As in many countries a less well off person will travel elsewhere to try and better himself and his family; see the influx of Arab nationals who risk their lives to reach Italy. The same can be now said of those who arrived in South Africa from neighbouring, and not so near, countries.

Tales told of families, from Zimbabwe and Mozambique who, because of the anti immigrant attitudes of many South Africans, are prepared to leave and return home. Some leave businesses, a wife, passports and other possessions as a result of the unemployed of Durban who continue to foreign residents; a figure estimated at 5m nation wide.

Those who are not that lucky as to be able to flee the country have found themselves in a transit camp on the outskirts of the coastal city. By 16/4 there were 1, 200 people living in 8 tents in the Chatsworth suburb which was heavily protected by armed guards and a steel fence.

Sun 19

Swift has been the reaction, continent wide, to the attacks on foreign workers who have been accused of taking employment from natural born South Africans (qv 18/4). In these recent times reactions from nationals of border countries have seen 200 Mozambican nationals stone South African plated vehicles as they crossed back across the border.

State owned Sasol oil and chemical company company has evacuated 340 of its company workers back across the Lebombo border crossing. There were protest marches, outside Harare 's SA embassy by 100 people in protest at the attacks on fellow Africans. As far away as Nigeria anger at the violence in Johannesburg and Durban has led the new government to consider closing down South African businesses operating there.

Home grown responses have seen president Zuma remain in the country instead of making a state visit to Indonesia. His first action was to visit one of the camps for displaced persons set up in the Durban suburb of Chatsworth where 1, 000 foreign live in a tented city. Nationwide it is known that six people have died and there are as many as 5, 000 displaced foreign nationals; most of whom were refugees and asylum seekers who have fled the civil wars on the African continent.

Speaking to his audience the president told those living under police protection that those who wanted to be returned home would be assisted once the violence has been stopped. He also noted that "it is not every South African who says go away, not at all we want to live as sisters and brothers."

Mon 20

News item, following his earlier social media message the Zulu monarch has retracted his call for foreign workers to leave South Africa. Some members of his audience, at a rally in Durban, showed their displeasure by booing throughout the King's climbdown and a call to end the violence.

Tues 21

Acknowledging that he was responsible for the 'foreigners go home' speech King Goodwill Zwelotini also attacked the role of the media when speaking to about 10, 000 members of the Zulu

nation in Durban. His biased reporting claim was made in a letter written to the countries Human Rights Commission. "We believe the media in South Africa will also be willing to be investigated if there is nothing they have that they 're hiding."

In essence the ruler of Zulu Natal province is accusing the written media of of printing the parts of his speech taken out of context and hid his real message; a message of peace.

Wed 22

As a 'last resort measure' members of the South African military will deploy into one of the areas where there is much anti foreigner feeling among nationals. Although defence minister Nosiviwe Mapisa Nquakula, gave no numbers troops will be sent to Alexandria on the outskirts of Johannesburg and to the port city of Durban.

Thurs 23

Long has it been possible for the foreign tourist, or even one from the country, to visit Robben Island; one of South Africa 's top visitor attractions. From this date anyone in the world can walk in the steps of Nelson Mandela and other ANC prisoners of the apartheid regime.

Using a Trekker backpack mounted camera, taking 360 degree panoramic photos of the island electronic map makers have made it possible to follow Prisoner 446 's steps from outside his cell block, to the end of the corridor and into his five square metre prison cell.

MAY

Sun 10

News item, the opposition official party in the Cape Town parliament, the Democratic Alliance, has announced that it has appointed its first non white leader. With strong words of criticism, a member of the ethnic black majority, has words of warning for the incumbent ANC government.

Tues 12

Long known that the plight of the black rhino is of concern to the government the environment minister, Edna Molewa, notes that the number of rhino's killed in months 1/15 to 4/15 has risen 18% above the same period in 2014 to 393 with the majority of the deaths, 290, being killed inside the boundaries of the Kruger national park.

As to attempts to curb the criminal actions of the rhino poachers police sources note that 132 suspected poachers were detained by the parks game wardens. In comparison by 22/7/14 160 suspected poachers had been detained.

Once seen as the ideal living quarters for the city resident wishing to live in the centre of Johannesburg in the apartheid era the tallest residential building in the southern hemisphere; the Ponte, a 54 storey circular concrete edifice has seen some bad times.

By the end of the apartheid era the building was one big slum where, if so inclined a person could obtain drugs or illicit sex in any of the squatted rooms. However in 2001, now owned by the Kempton Group; and managed by Elma and Daniie Celliers, rehabilitation has begun.

As of now the refurbished flats, 3, 000, in number, house upwardly mobile working class, professional students from Nigeria, the Congo and Zimbabwe. A top floor flat? Costs one resident R5, 000 /£279.

Mon 18

News item, a former tennis playing sporting champion, who was accused of illegal sex acts against minors has been found guilty by a courts.

Tues 19

With time passing since, the report compiled by retired judge Ian Farlam; the notable who was examining the circumstances of the deaths of 34 Marikana miners in 2012 (qv 16/12) landed on president Zuma's desk, little has been heard.

One fact that has emerged, after the 293 days of evidence taking, was that media investigations have revealed the name of a rebel/ striking miner who died trying to negotiate a peaceful end to the strike for better wages at the British owned platinum mine. Named as Mgcineni Noki or more readily Manbush.

Family tales of his 34 year old 's life as a rock driller who travelled with his family from the Eastern Cape. It would seem that the deaths occurred because, even as a return to work by the striking miners was being negotiated the police, under the command of Lieutenant General Mbombo demanded that the strikers handed in their weapons. They refused. The officer then noted "if that

did not work: then there is blood.”

News item, tale told by Congo nationals, now residing in a migrant workers camp in Durban, of the harassment from unemployed South Africans who in recent times went on the rampage in this city and others as they accused foreigners of stealing their jobs.

Also there was reaction to the governments plans to close these camps after informing their residents that if they must either return to their homes from which they fled or to the land of their birth.

Thurs 21

Despite the acknowledged growing rarity of the black rhino throughout southern Africa one more death has come to light. This was an 'official kill' by an Texan Cory Knowlton aged 36 at a location in Namibia.

In the mind of the nations wildlife authorities the cost, to the American of £225, 000, goes some way towards the costs of preserving the rhino through conservation projects and funds anti poaching patrols. Since 2012 there has been 5 game hunters who have won the right, through an open auction, fulfil his need.

Tues 26

Working at the African Centre for Health and Population Studies in the town of Mtubatuba in KwaZulu Natal province is Deenan Pillay a virology Professor seconded from the University College London. The centre, which can be said to be cited in 'the HIV capital of the world' was founded in 1998.

The sleek modern buildings are at the centre of research into how to reduce new cases. Funding comes from the Wellcome Trust at the tune of £3.5m to £4m per year. Twice this funding comes from the EU, French and German health agencies, the USA and the South African Medical Council and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Centre 's main work, for the past 12 years, has been the household surveillance of 100, 000 individuals to determine if their lifestyles and the environment has any influence on whether anyone becomes infected with the HIV virus. This is then compared with data from 17 primary care clinics and the nearby Hlabisa hospital.

As of now randomised trials, involving 25, 000 persons, where testing whether to the virus is present and if so treatment begins right away rather than waiting till their immune system is damaged, is of any benefit in cutting the number of new infections. The funding for this has come from the French agency for Aids Research and the Gates Foundation.

Wed 27

Parallel with the good works that the Gates Foundation is involved with (qv 26/5) other of its finances / investments can be seen a fifteen minuet drive south from Durban. Here \$5.5m of the Foundation 's investment fund has gone into the Shell and BP South African Petroleum Refineries project. Protesters note that in 2007 a University of KwaZulu Natal study in this location found that the incidence of cancer was so high the region became known as 'cancer valley.'

Still there is good work still being done, through other investment grants to those who would

improve the health of the people of Natal and throughout the impoverished world. The latest project, launched in 2011, and about to have its first trials, are the winners of the Reinvent the Toilet Challenge channelled through the University of Kwazulu Natal University and funded to the tune of \$1.6m by the BMGF. Its aim to provide a clean method of sanitation for the estimated 2.5bn people who need sustainable sanitation.

Figures cited, by Cyril Ramaphosa the nations vice president, reveal that diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid and other deadly diseases kill a child every 20 seconds; more than four thousand per day worldwide.

Thurs 28

During a police raid, on a Chinese residents home in Maputo, in a country where the rhino's no longer exist in the wild, found 1.3 tonnes of ivory which originally was attached to 65 rhino and 170 elephants. The illegal haul was taken to a police strongroom.

Days later the haul, worth millions of pounds, had gone missing. by 22/5. Suspecting collusion, between the criminals and police security guards, police arrested the guards. They appeared in a Maputo court on 27/5.

Fri 29

With conclusion, on 23/4, of the trial of Rafael Marques de Moralis (qv 26/3), the campaigning journalist and anti corruption activist has received a suspended six monthly jail term on the charge of defaming army generals in a publication that revealed killings and torture in Angola 's diamond fields.

The freed man described the sentence, which was suspended for two years, as a blow to freedom of expression.

JUNE

Mon 1

Details from a non noted investigation into international football financing, it has emerged that there is some concern, in South Africa, that an amount of \$20m was paid to officials of the Fifa organising committee for the 2010 World Cup which took place at stadia throughout the nation.

News report, tourist chiefs in South Africa are concerned at a new government rule introduced recently which aims to stop the trafficking of children. The tourism industry note that all overseas visitors, travelling with children, must show the child's birth certificate at the point of entry.

Tues 2

Remembered, on Cliff beach; according to the nations tourists in the Cape Town area, will be the wrecking of the Portuguese slave ship Soa Jose Paquete de Africa in 1794. The ship was on its way from that nations colony of Mozambique to Brazil; another colony, in South America.

It would seem, from modern day researchers, that this ship is the only wrecked vessel that can be identified and known to have carried slaves. As the ship battled against the turbulent waves the captain ordered the 200 + strong human cargo to be thrown overboard to die. An estimated 212 died and 300 survivors were sold at the Cape Town slave market.

Of this event Albi Sachs aged 80, the veteran anti apartheid campaigner noted, "It's profound and terrible to feel that one of the most beautiful beaches in the whole world and within such a short distance lie the bodies of 200 slaves who died there still in their shackles."

Wed 3

The seller of all things endowed with precious minerals, Tiffany has backed the claims of the campaigning Angolan journalist R M de Moraes (qv 29/5), and called on the Luanda authorities to lift the threat of jail that hangs over the author who accused military generals of being involved in human rights abuses as they mined for diamonds.

Sat 6

Examining the work of the South Africans Missing Persons Task Team which was set up at the behest of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The team is now led, by a former United Democratic Front activist Madiline Fullard whose role is one of special investigator. Other members of the team include Kundisal Dembetmbe Claudia Bisso, forensic anthropologists, Billy Motsileng, special investigator, John Maailane, Ambrose Ndhlovu, Brian Ndhlovu investigators.

Since the release of Eugene de Koch (qv 31/1) the team have had the assistance of this former police man 'who knows where the bodies are' His first cooperation even came before his release. In 2014 Dr Death was brought from his prison cell after agreeing to indicate where the body of Phemelo Ntehelang was buried. In 7/'89 the ANC activist had been killed accidentally during questioning by police. He was then brought to farmland, on the countries border with Botswana to be forgotten

Since his release de Koch has kept a quiet life and was in hiding until 4/'15, because of threats against his life, when a judge ordered him to appear at the Pretoria high court. Satisfied the

apartheid killer once again left the scene.

Tues 9

Oscar Pistorius, resident of Kgosi Mampuru Prison in Pretoria, since his conviction of the culpable homicide of Reeva Steenkamp in 2014 (qv 14/10) may soon be released 'on licence' – much to the horror of her parents – Such a release from will only result, initially, with one hour outside his home. Good behaviour will ensure more time out of his house until his sentence of is completed.

More of concern is the date for for the prosecution 's appeal, 11/'15, against judge Thokozile Masipa misinterpretation of the law which should have found the athlete guilty of murder. If the appeal his upheld a possible 15 year jail sentence could occur.

Sun 14

News report, remembered happenings, by the then South African sports minister Steve Tshwete when bidding for the 2010 Fifa World Cup; the 'gifting' of \$7m to be used by football administrators for advancement of the sport in the Caribbean region.

Mon 15

The president of Sudan O al Bashir, attending a summit of the African Union in Johannesburg, and called to defend charges by the International Criminal Court of war crimes, was stopped from leaving the country, by a Pretoria court ruling until a higher court has decided the merits of case.

The international court awaits the outcome of the South African Litigation Centre 's plea to to the local judiciary. From the view of the African National Congress government, who view the usefulness of the ICC as 'passed its sell by date' because it seems only to indict African leaders, there seems little chance that any hand over will occur.

Leader Comment, **The order against O Bashir makes this a test case for SA human rights** and for the other nations of the continent. “If the Pretoria Court gives permission to detain him Mr Bashir must be arrested and must face the indictment.”

News item, with complete disregard of the outcome of the pending judges decision after the request by the South African Litigation Centre's demand, see above, the government authorities have allowed the President of Sudan fly home to Khartoum.

Responding an official of the ICC, speaking from The Hague, noted that the Zuma government had left the ANC government open to sanction for not detaining the alleged criminal.

Fri 26

Since 19/5 the judicial inquiry report into the Marikana massacre of striking miners has sitting on the desk of the nations prime minister. Only now have the results been mad public. The main conclusion of the examining commission, under the chairman; retired judge Ian Farlam, was that the police were in the main responsible for the deaths of 34 striking miners who were demanding a pay increase.

One of the reports main demands was that there should be a criminal investigation of the actions of a number of police officers deployed at the site. The nations vice president, C Ramaphosa was criticised for siding with the police who were under orders to end the strike.....

JULY

Wed 22

Re discovered, in a London dwelling, is an artwork linked to the defence of Nelson Mandela and other members of the African National Congress who in the late 1950's were on trial for treason in South Africa.

The work; The Arab in Black, dates from 1939 and was painted by Irma Stern who was at the time deemed as one of the then apartheid states leading artists. Painted in her Cape Town studio/home which is now a museum, it was given by the artist to Betty Suzman a relative of the anti apartheid activist and politician Helen Suzman in the 1950 's who sold, in a charity auction, to boost the defence fund of those accused of treason.

The painting, valued by experts from Bonham 's auction house South African art department at one million pounds or there about was now being used as a notice board in a house holds kitchen. The painting will go under the hammer in London on 9/9.

Sat 25

One of the countries main earners of foreign exchange, the mining of precious metals, gold and platinum has been forced by economic circumstances to reconsider its position as to the as to the number of workers it can offer to keep on its payroll.

Already deemed to be a troubled industry, note the long running strike and its aftermath at the Marikana workings outside Rustenburg. The mines British owners, Lonmin, have decided mothball a number of mine shafts. Thus putting the jobs of 6, 000 miners at risk.. The decision was made as the share value fell 17% to a record low of 62. 4p.

Another large employer, in the mining industry, Anglo American has also said that 6, 000 jobs will go at the companies gold mines. Mine management blamed the job losses on over production in the past /"commodity price rout. Company financial data; 1 – 6/15 as management reported losses of \$1. 9bn /£1.2bn despite a profit of \$2.9bn twelve months ago. Company share price fell 3.5% to 778p the lowest in 13 years.

AUGUST

Thurs 13

One of the teaching unions, the South African Democratic Teachers Association, is up in arms at the prospect of having to teach Mandarin lessons to students at 9 years old from the beginning of the next academic year; 1/16 if they so choose. Other languages offered, to that year group; German, Serbian, Spanish, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu lay alongside English and any other of the 11 official languages used in the daily political or business community.

The general secretary of the Sadtu, M Maluleke, likened this edict as one sent down from on high during the nations period of colonisation. Its just someone deciding to sell our people soul to the highest bidder. "This we are going to oppose tonight we, ll send a SMS to our teachers to say you must reject it."

This government initiative had been signalled in the near past, when the president had returned from visiting Beijing where the two governments signed trade agreements between the two nations. With the whole continent benefiting from working with China in many ways there was encouragement for the policy from the countries Institute of Race Relations. Chief executive, Frans Cronjie agreed with the move noting that with much of Africa in thrall with China "it is interests of the African child to understand the Chinese language and way of business. It will serve them well in the future."

Tues 18

Plans are afoot, if the authorities in Pretoria are in agreement, for the defining symbol of a pre colonial civilisation artefact, to be brought from its present location to the British Museum in 2016.

The Golden Rhino of Mapungubwe was fashioned in gold in the 13th century, thus disproving the apartheid era teaching that South African history began in 1652 when the first Dutch settlers landed at Cape Town.

Since 1932, when archaeologists from the University of Pretoria discovered the gold foil figurine it has been housed close to its burial site far to the north. It is planned to place it in a new museum to be built of the provincial university campus.

Likened, by experts to Tutankhamen 's mask, the sending of the Golden Rhino to the London exhibition of South African art will be in the hands of the government.

News item, prosecution authorities have been granted permission to appeal the sentence handed down to Oscar Pistorius after being found guilty of the manslaughter of his girl friend.

Thurs 20

Hard on the heels of the nations prosecution service' s decision to to appeal the sentence handed down to Blade Runner in 2014 the parole board have decided that an early release 'on license/ home confinement' should be stopped.

The former athlete 's sentence of five years, with only one sixth being served in jail if the parole board saw fit to release him on 21/8 was deemed wrong as the parole board sat on 5/6; a time when he was premature. No new date for the board to sit and consider his release has been fixed.

Thurs 27

Obituary Sir Bob Hepple 11. 8. 1934 – 21. 8 2015 Johannesburg born to radical parents Josephine nee Zwarenstein and Alex, Educated at the cities Jeppe boys high school and then at the Witwatersrand University where he became a lawyer.

His links with the apartheid movement, and later in life with Nelson Mandela, came about through his unionist fathers position as leader of the nations Labour Party. By 1956 with the Labour Party raising funds to help pay for the ANC members who were on trial for treason. He was found not guilty.

At the 1963 treason trial, and now with his law degree and new wife Shirley Goldsmith, Mandela arrested and the rest of the ANC detained by police at the Rivoena farm along with the lawyer. Despite his being at the farm the charge of treason was quashed because of 'lack of particularity'. However his freedom was only assured if he turned states witness.

Unwilling to do so he fled across the countries border into Botswana with his wife but not the children. Their escape was managed with the help of the African national Congress. Arriving document less at Heathrow Airport. With a granting of a seven day visa and the help of Cannon Collins the Anglican cleric with strong anti apartheid sympathies he and his family; his children Brenda and Paul months later settled down to an academic life at Cambridge University.

After the end of apartheid there was a meeting with the now President Mandela at a Buckingham Palace reception.

Fri 28

Admitting their miscalculation of the exact date that Oscar Pistorius could be released from his prison cell and serve the rest of his sentence wearing an electronic tag (qv 20/8) the head of the parole board, guided by justice minister M Masutha, has determined that Blade Runner 's case will be heard on 18/9. Even then the Board 's findings may not be released until much later. Meanwhile the applicant will stay behind bars.

SEPTEMBER

Tues 1

Deemed, by the G8 leaders at their summit in 2005, Angel Siyaavuya Swartbooi (qv 21/6) is now 10 years old and mad keen on football as well as maths. There are at least 40 children in his school class and he is taught in Xhosa but no English, which is needed if he is to move into the world of business or politics in later life. Its a long walk to the school from the shack he, his mother, his dad and new born sister; Akhanyile in 8/10 live beginning at 6.30am.

Now their home, the satellite town of Khayelitsha, outside of Cape Town, has had another room added to the 3 rooms that he was born into such as the families circumstances have changed in the last 10 years. Father Benson Ntsimango now employed in a city bar earning R1, 200 / £60 per week. Mum, Nonzuzo aged 28, has a leaving; in 2013 her casino job, and with the aid of a bursary is coming to the end of her study for a teaching diploma. When finished, in 2016 more study will hopefully ensure an education degree. This will be financed by working as a part time waitress.

Their dwelling space has increased from 12 to 18 square metres with the addition of a new lounge and an additional bedroom of 9 sq metres. Their financial commitments now include a satellite decoder and DVD player costing R 200 per month.

It is the intention of dad to move the family to Gauteng province, seen as the economic heartland of South Africa where he feels his family will prosper.

Fri 11

Long known, since 2011, that early man has inhabited the region of the Cape (qv 14/10) researchers from the University of the Witwatersrand have located the remains of a new species of humans located in a Rising Star cave 30 miles outside Johannesburg. This new genus of humans, given the name Homo naledi; which means star in the local Sesotho language and were found 40 meters underground.

The findings of the expedition, which was funded by the National Geographic, have not dated the bone fragments. Therefore, in the minds of other anthropologists, these finds may not be of a new species of human. Rather they may be the remains of Homo erectus which were known to have wandered southern Africa 1.5m years ago.

Thurs 17

The brewing conglomerate SAB Miller, which as South African Breweries, during the apartheid era limited its business to brewing the continents best known beer, and then moved on to greater financial success and acquisitions of smaller brewing firms s facing a take over itself.

The Anheuser – Busch InBev company joint venture would then be a greater challenge to the world 's largest brewing firms of Budweiser and Stella Artois with a value of \$275bn.

As of 26/8 the programme manager of the Halo Trust declared that the last landmine had been found and deactivated in Mozambique. With royal patronage, the late Diane Princess of Wales, the de mining charity began its work after the end of the civic war in Mozambique in 1993. During the intervening years removed from beneath the surface of the land has been 171, 076 mines which were planted in 1, 120 minefields that covered 17.48 sq kn.

OCTOBER

Fri 2

Still the murder rate in South Africa, where 49 people are murdered every day. This equates to 33 persons per 100, 000 population which is more than the five times the 2013 average worldwide figure of 6.2. Daily reported 207 street robberies a increase of 9.7% in a year. House robberies have risen 5.2% to reach a figure in excess of 20, 000; the highest ever annual recorded total.

A club, founded by colonialist Cecil Rhodes. 128 years ago is to have a refurbishment which will see it close, officials only indicate on a temporary measure; three months and the hope of more members joining its ranks.

Wed 7

Oscar Pistorius, denied release into home detention (qv 20/8) by the parole board, was further sanctioned by the review body at that time. Board members thought that it was appropriate that the athlete, jailed for the culpable homicide of a girl friend, should undertake sessions of psychotherapy “in order to address criminological factors of the crime he committed” in 2013.

Thus the Pretoria Central Prison resident will most likely still be behind bars at the time, on 3/11, of the states to appeal the supreme court over the leniency of the sentence handed down at the end of the trial.

Mon 12

Following the hurried departure of the president of Sudan, from Johannesburg Airport (qv 15/8) after the International Criminal Court calls for him to be sent for trial the African National Congress government is planning a debate in Parliament.

Earlier comments by the Pretoria authorities, that the ICC 'is not fit for purpose' chime with the recent remarks from a deputy minister Obed Bapela noted that the Court had 'lost its direction' and the ruling ANC wanted to withdraw the country from it.

Tues 13

It would seem that the home, in the Silverwood country estate outside Pretoria, sold to finance the defence of Oscar Pistorius is now 'on view' to those who want to observe the site of the death of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkemp.

Initially sold to a mining engineer, and now rented out to a David Scott aged 33 and Kagiso Mokape 23, viewers of You Tube are taken on a pictorial view of the former athlete rooms. High up on the tour is the bathroom where the woman died.

Wed 14

Within the last 24 hours, when the share value of SAB Miller stood at £42. 50 the take over of company (qv 17/9) was uncertain. However since then AB In Bev raised its offer, by 100p, which valued the apartheid era company at £68bn / \$104bn.

This places their joint beer market share; world wide, taking on 2014 data, at 32% way above the

9% of the now third largest brewer; Heineken. In that same year the global profits for each company were SAB Miller 17.9% with AB In Bev were 39.9%. The South African founded company will see top managers share a potential \$2. 1bn in shares and options, thus rewarding chief executive , Alan Clarke, receiving £80m.

The decision, by the take over panel in London, whether to allow the proposed takeover, has been extended to 28/10

Fri 16

The department of correctional services has set the date that Oscar Pistorius would leave his residence of the last 12 months, Pretoria 's Central Prison, From 20/10, with little detail of restrictions released, other than being electronically tagged and continue receiving psychotherapy he will live under curfew under house arrest. He will not be allowed to own a firearm.

Sun 18

Such are the growing intentions of the authorities in the Kruger National Park, and like minded game reserves, the use of torches used by those who stay inside the parks during darkness that they have been banned. The reason; game wardens might think they they have located those who are about to poach rhino horn and shoot them dead.

As of late 8/15 authorities note that 749 white rhinos have been killed nationally with the majority of the deaths, 544, occurring within the boundaries of the Park. On the other hand those that go out to poach rhino horn, which is worth £42, 00 / \$65, 000 when on sale on the black market in the cities of Vietnam.

Outside the game park, as countries economy is not in the best of health, there are many who are willing to take the risk of entering the park illegally; shoot the endangered animal; a dangerous occupation even in daylight and pocketing R100, 000 / £5, 000. Their motive to feed their families hit by poor South African economy.

Many are prepared to take the risk especially from across the Mozambican border where 500 poachers have been shot dead, over the last five years, while working this illegal trade. A six month total of deaths by being shot inside the national park, 1 – 6 '14, death has reached 82.

One solution, offered by thee countries former President Chissano is to tackle the nations poverty issues.

Fri 23

Throughout the land university students are up in arms after an announcement, on 13/10, that student fees will rise by 11. 5% for both black and non whites. More recently, on 21/10, the finance minister Nhlanhla Nene, has promised that monies from other skills development funds will be diverted to fund student education.

Student protest has been widespread and involving 15 South African universities; Wits and Johannesburg University students marched the commercial centre and protested outside the headquarters building of the ANC; Luthul House. Student demands were then passed to party secretary Gwede Mantashe who later told the media that free education would be offered without any explanation of how it would be financed.

Sat 24

A crowd, estimated to be 10, 000 in number; probably the largest gathering of students to assemble in on place since the Uprising of 1976, assembled on the lawns of the Union Building in Pretoria. They were there to continue their protest ant an impending rise of 11.5% in university student fees from 2016.

The masses were expecting to be addressed by president Zuma to confirm that the fees for the next intake of students would not be enforced. This did not happen; instead the announcement of their cancellation was made to the gathered media inside the Union Buildings press room.

Reacting to the climbdown political commentator, S Grootes, noted the South African youth have brought to the fore the “the ANC 's inability to deal with a multiracial, multi class and multi party group of people who refuse to buy into the old political narrative.”

Sun 25

The 'rushed out findings' of a new intermediary species of humans located in a cave outside Johannesburg (qv 11/9) has outraged the academic palaeontologists that usually publish their findings after years of study scientific study inside their universities.

However the writing up, by academic Professor Lee Burger base in the institute of anthropology at the University of Witwatersrand had had the bones of *Homo naledi* examined and classified and the results written up in an online journal rather than in one of the respected journals all within the two years since the cave was located and excavated.

Tues 27

News item, tales told, by owner of South Africa's privately owned game parks, of the inventive ways that he and his staff are using to make the killing of the parks rhino 's; for their horn unattractive.

NOVEMBER

Wed 4

Mr Justice Eric Leach, sitting in the Bloemfontein appeal court, heard the prosecution and the defence case why, and why not the jail term served to be served by Oscar Pistorius should be lengthened after an earlier court found him guilty of the culpable homicide of Reva Steenkamp.

The appeal court judge has to consider whether the mind set of the athlete when he discharged a number of bullets in through the bathroom door, knowing that the small space of the room would not possibly hide an intruder; who would surely be severely injured if not killed as his then girlfriend was.

His case was not helped when an aside comment, from Barry Roux lead defence council to the state prosecutor Gerrie Neil, he voiced the opinion that he was going to loose this appeal. His comment was picked up by a still switched on microphone from the nations news site News 24.

The judge is expected to give his ruling on 11/12.

Tues 12

Highlighting the photo journalism of Peter Magubane who worked, and suffered for his determination to show all aspects of the apartheid regime, while working at the Johannesburg based Rand Daily Mail.

Knowing that if the police were about his camera had to be hidden from view. His 'props' ranged from a scooped out loaf of bread to a milk carton; anything to hide the tools of his trade from the prying security authorities.

Not immune fro police bearings; he suffered many a fractured nose. He was arrested in 1974 and detained in solitary confinement for 586 days. Released in the last few months of 1975 on condition that he took no photos for 5 years; his every move outside his home monitored by the police. Not one to abide by the rules and determined to carry on producing images for the RDM and the world's press his pictures of the Soweto Uprising of 1976 his pictures went round the world.

The CV. Born 1932 in Johannesburg. Study options were limited, no official training courses for black people on a college training course. "I learnt while working, as a driver, for Drum magazine." His influences J Morris, the Capa brothers. Recognition of his work acknowledged came when he became the first black photographer in South Africa to have his own exhibition. His lowest point was done during the Soweto riots. A top tip; not to ask people to pose while he works rather "just take photos of everything that catches your eye.

Tues 17

State prosecutors, in Angola, whose president Jose Eduardo dos Santos has; since independence from Portugal and winning the 2002 war runs the nation as an autocracy, have charged 17 persons with crimes after the group began studying G Sharps 1993 published From Dictator to Democracy: A Conceptual Frame work for Liberation.

The books main point is that there can be a campaign of non violent resistance to a repressive regime which will lead to regime change. In the Luanda court room the prosecution lawyer noted

their alleged crime; acts of rebellion, planning mass acts of civil disobedience in the countries capital and producing fake passports. Their defence council noted that Angola 's constitution respected the right of a peoples free speech.

In the recent past those who have spoken out about the actions of the president and his attempts to use the legal system to clamp down have seen themselves imprisoned.

Wed 18

As the developed world notes the scourge of obesity so the countries on the African continent are beginning to take note of its increase among their citizens. According to the World Health Organisation 12.7% of the continents children will be overweight / obese by 2020. The figure in 2010 was just 8.5%.

With South Africa being the most developed country in Africa has launched the South African Centre for Obesity Prevention based in Johannesburg. The country, deemed in 2014 by the media as “the fattest nation in Sub Saharan Africa”, stands ahead of the Seychelles, Botswana, Namibia and Mauritius as having the highest rate of obesity on the continent. Figures at that time showed that 26.8% of its 55m population were in danger of falling victim the type 2 Diabetes.

According to the new director, Shane Norris, some of the causes of the prevalence of the overweight citizen is cultural; in past times to have a heavy body is to let it be known that all is well I'm healthy. Another cause is the move away from the traditional diet of people. Once nutritional foods; maize or vegetables were the preferred diet. Now the young people are inclined to high calorie fast food staples; fried food served in fast food shops.

“When a black South African student threw a bucket of excrement over a statue of Cecil Rhodes, it kicked of a protest movement that is shattering the way the country sees its past.” Detailing the experiences of Chumani Maxwele's. rise from a village in the Eastern Cape just prior to the elections that brought Nelson Mandela to power right through to living in Khayelitsha then attending University of Cape Town where a his shit throwing protest brought him to national prominence.

Fri 20

The Canadian mining company, Lucara, has unearthed at a site in Botswana the largest uncut diamond ever discovered. The 1, 111 carat stone was pulled from an open pit mine using an x ray processing equipment in order not to damage large stones when they are being recovered.

Its vital statistics; 6.5 cm x 5.5 x 4cm makes it the second largest, behind the 3, 106 carat Cullinan stone mined in neighbouring South Africa in 1909.

Fri 27

The rush to save the life of the endangered white and black rhino has has, since 2009, entailed a ban on the selling of the animals horn. This ban has now been declared illegal after a challenge by two game breeders; John Hume and John Kruger, in the Pretoria courts.

Such is the loss of of these animals; 1215 in 2014 has caused the authorities to contemplate new ways to end the endemic poaching of the horn for sale into the herbal medicine trade. It might be possible for the authorities, in the Kruger national Park and elsewhere to de horn a sedated rhino and sell on the powdered horn to those who want to purchase the powder.

DECEMBER

Thurs 3

Fears grow that the tranquillity of one of Botswana 's tourist attractions, the Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park, will be destroyed for ever if a recent agreement between the government and a UK listed company called Nodding Donkey is brought into fruition. The agreement, signed in 9/'14 granted a license for the company; now named Karoo Energy, to search for shale gas deep below the surface of the 14, 000 square mile/36, 000 sq km TFNP.

The chief worry for those who have lived and worked in the park, which also crosses into the neighbouring South Africa, is the welfare of the animals that freely roam the grasslands. Academics, who have lived and worked in country are most concerned about perceived threat to the parks water supply, when and if the chemicals; used as part of the process to flush out the gas located deep underground. Fears are that the natural water supply will become contaminated with a detrimental effect on the health of the wildlife

The other concern, for the people of Botswana, is the effect that adverse conditions, on the number of wild animals within the park, will effect the number of overseas tourists that holiday in the country. Latest figures show, from the World travel and Tourism Council, show that 32, 000 nationals are employed in the tourism industry which is second only to the diamond industry in foreign income earner for the country.

Fri 4

An appeal, to South Africa 's supreme court, over the leniency of the sentence handed down to Blade Runner, has resulted in the culpable homicide charge, for which he is now serving a period of house detention, being upgraded to one of murder.

Sitting in Bloemfontein, Justice Leach, himself used much descriptive wording to describe the challenges the former athlete had to face to reach the heights of his achievements before those fateful events of 2/'13. Despite the judges words he noted that the upgraded charge was due to the fact that when Pistotius discharged four bullets through the door of his bathroom he would certainly know that anyone hiding within would more than likely die as a result of his actions.

The usual jail term, for one convicted of culpable homicide, is fifteen years. However the judge, who has referred the sentencing procedure back to the Pretoria court, notes that 'time served and his physical disability not being conducive to a long incarceration, could act in his favour.

The British based retail firm Littlewoods 's Shop Direct that supplies goods over the internet and for which specialist company Webhelp employees man a number of call centres throughout the country is to face a loss of 700 jobs. These will be transferred to Website South Africa. The reason; at the closing sites, Aintree outside Liverpool and a second in Bolton pay is £6. 70 per hour. In South Africa the company employees are paid £2. 39 per hour.

Mon 7

Forewarned of 2016 documentary based on the 2012 published London Recruits: The Secret War Against Apartheid which tells the tale of the anti apartheid activists from London who, while purporting to be tourists visiting the country were in fact there to explode bucket bombs filled with anti apartheid pamphlets. The group were trained by Ronnie Kasrils (qv)

Wed 9

At his re sentencing bail hearing, before deputy judge president A Ledwaba sitting in the North Gauteng high court in Pretoria, Blade Runner got lucky twice. Firstly he was not sent back to prison but could remain on house arrest until his next court appearance on 18/4. Secondly as his financial circumstances have changes since his days of freedom ended his bail, due to be paid by 11/12, has been set at R10, 000 /£460.

Fri 11

The sudden action of president Zuma, the sacking of the countries finance minister, Nhlanhla Nene, after only two years in office had a massive effect on the countries economic outlooks for the London listed FTS 100 financial services group Old Mutual which say its share value fall near 11%. A second investor company, Investec stockbrokers fell 11% on the FTSE 250 in London.

The new finance minister, a former mayor and now a member of parliament, was named David van Rooyen, was sworn in at the Pretoria parliament building.

It is the opinion, of the Democratic Alliance, that the change was made because Zuma was unhappy at the clampdown on spending that Nene was all for encouraging throughout the government. Also he thought in not prudent for the state airline should be purchasing new planes when it was in financial troubles. Of largest concern was excessive spending on a deal with an international energy company over the building of new nuclear power stations.

Questions are being asked, by other economists, as to the new minister being able to steer the country through its economic difficulties; brought about by the fall in the international market for the precious stones and minerals that the countries economy relies upon for much of its foreign exchange. The mining conglomerate Anglo American only recently announced 85, 000 job losses world wide; of which 50% 135, 000 employees are employed in South Africa. Its share price has fallen 13. 5% since its restructuring.

Leader Comment, **President Zuma 's imprudence threatens the countries future** as a relative 'unknown' takes control of the countries economy at a time when the world is in financial torment.

“As long ago as 2011 the National Planning Commission established, by Mr Zuma, concluded in its report that there was a danger that the progress made since the ANC took over could be reversed. Unfortunately that danger seems closer today.”

Tues 15

President Zuma has backtracked from his, as yet unexplained, sacking of his finance minister on 11/12 and replaced him with Pravin Gordhan who had previously held the post fro 2009 to 2014.

Following the unexpected announcement the nations finances somewhat improved. The Johannesburg stock exchange rose 370 points and the value of the Rand strengthened to R15.26 :US\$ 1.

Such a fluffing of the economy, even for such a short time, made it more likely that, according to the SACP and Cosatu that they would no longer be able to protect the government from internal rebellion.