

January

Wed 6

Hard on the heels of a New Year party, on a Durban beach, mainly attended by black revellers, one who observed the event Penny Sparrow used social the social media to compare their behaviour to that of monkeys. On her face book page, the Democratic Alliance supporting estate agent noted "I see cute little wild monkeys do the same pick and drop litter.

Deeming her a racist the Alliance made the decision to suspend her as "racists are not welcome in the Alliance." Further actions has seen the dentists comments refereed to the political organisations federal legal commission. There is the possibility of a criminal charge; *crima injuria*, a felony that punishes those who infringe the dignity of all South Africans and de humanising black South Africans.

Thus the whole gambit of race relations, an issue that has not been really confronted throughout the existence of the multi racial racial government of 1994.

A recent 12/15 survey, by the nations Institute for Justice and Reconciliation noted that 61.4% of the countries population felt that relations between different ethnic groups had even remained the same or deteriorated since the end of white minority rule.

Tues 12

Oscar Pistorius and his legal team, led by Andrew Fawcett, will make an appeal to the countries constitutional court following the Pretoria high court upgrading his conviction over the death of his then girl friend.

Sun 24

Deemed by some as the forgotten heroes of the apartheid struggle; Andrew Mlangeni, Ahmed Kathrada and Denis Goldberg, are to be publicly honoured within the next 24 hours in London. They, along with those who acted as their legal advisers during the Rivoena trial, Lord Joel Joffe and George Bizos SC have been invited to Downing Street to witness the prime minister naming the tree as Global Citizens. Shortly after this gale evening they will be made freemen of the city of London.

February

Thurs 4

Days away from the constitutional court ruling on the financial returns that president Zuma must repay for the improvements to his family home in 2014 (qv 20/3) the president has offered to allow an impartial body to set the amount that initially came from the public purse for the upgrade of his Nkandla in KwaZulu Natal home.

The 2014 ruling came from Thalu Madonsela the nations ombudsman and comes after an overspending charge from both the Democratic Alliance and the Economic Freedom fighters opposition parties.

Fri 19

Released, under the 30 year rule; covering the release of government papers from 1986, details have become known as to what pressure the then prime minister M Thatcher was to change her stance on her support for the non introduction of economic sanctions against South Africa.

Despite the verbal concerns, expressed by G Howe; the foreign secretary, at such a stance would endanger the future of the Commonwealth Games due to be held in Edinburgh that year. Already, by this date, 16/7, a number of black African and Caribbean states had said they would boycott the Games.

The whole future of the games were in doubt because of the lack of financial sponsors; fearful of giving cash to to an event that caused such anger among so many nations. There was also the fear of loss of overseas business opportunities. In the end the 'games were saved' when the publishing mogul Robert Maxwell persuaded the Japanese ship building Ryoicchi Sasakwa to stump up £1.3m from his ship building industry foundation.

Fri 26

Justice for a 1983 victim of the of the apartheid era security forces has begun. in the country. The family of Nokuthula Simelane aged 23, at the time a courier for the banned African National Congress, after she was abducted and tortured by four members of the systems 'special squad' whose purpose was to hunt out those that opposed the government of the time.

This trial has come at a bad time for the now ANC government as its popularity and promises of improvement of the people fall far short of the peoples expectations. Of the four accused three have applied to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (qv) for her kidnapping but not her murder. The fourth will be charged with kidnapping and murder said Luvuyo Mfaku, a prosecution spokesman.

Continuing university protests, which have occurred in many of the nations cities; Johannesburg and Cape Town in recent times, have now broken out on the University North West Campus in the town of Mahikeng. Such was the damage; caused by an arson attack on the administration and science building on 24/2. Such damaged has forced the University to close its doors and send students home.

March

Fri 11

With the 1994 election, that would bring in South Africa 's first multi racial government, the death of Chris Hani; the head of the African National Congress;' s military wing as Unkhonto we Sizwe well as the head of the countries Communist Party,was assassinated by Jan Walluz on 11/4

After serving 23 years of his given life sentence a judge in Pretoria has recently overruled the decision of the justice ministry and him granted parole. Chris Hanis widow, Limpho, criticised the judges decision noting that the female judge was “racist ... to her blacks don't matter ... the judiciary wants to rule the country through the back door because they undermine executive decisions.”

Mon 14

The hunting of the Big Five, the most select of the animal kingdom, sought as hunting trophies by the hunter, has been suspended for the whole of 2016 in all the government managed game reserves. A recommendation, from the countries National Biodiversity Institute on the grounds of falling numbers of the leopard was recommended to the authorities in Pretoria.

The 12 month ban, is imposed after studying the data which has been, almost all, collected from the government run game parks. Thus the governing body of the privately owned game parks; the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa [Phasa] dispute the need to stop the hunting fraternity's pleasure.

Chief executive of the Association, Tharia Unwin, indicates that the numbers of leopards in South Africa are not falling. To back his statement; with the country suffering a severe drought conditions excess use of game park watering holes brings the the prospect of a meal close for the big cat. This state of affairs then encourages breeding.

With the cost of a hunters 'license to kill' £14, 000/ \$20, 000' some Phasa members will have to be reimbursed for this years expected 'kills'. The sale of hunting permits bring R6.2bn /£280m into the national exchequer.

Thurs 17

The recent moves by president Zuma to improve the value of the countries currency, badly affected when attempts to change the nations finance minister (qv 11/15) has taken an unusual turn. According to a senior politician, the then deputy finance minister Mcebisi Jonas, he himself was offered the promotion by the president. However the head of the notable Indian business orientated Gupta family made the recommendation.

Fri 18

News item, there are elements of the emerging non white, university educated, generation that are changing their opinion of the efforts of Nelson Mandela; and by association the government of the African National Congress since the majority elections of 1994.

Nowhere is this more apparent that on the campus of Stellenbosch University. Here, in this now multi racial educational centre, there is much evidence of a divided society. Seemingly such is the

hostility between the students of different ethnicities that whites and non whites do not socialise together. According to the universities principal, in order to try and improve conditions one of the founding tenants of post 1994 South Africa; the equality of the Afrikaans language with the English language has been dropped. Classes will now be taught in English.

Despite the denials of the Gupta Family, as well president Zuma, concerning the allegations made on 17/3, a second; although at this time an ex MP has made similar claims. Following the PM 's denial, made as he spoke in parliament, Vyjie Mentor had posted on Facebook details of her approach by a member of the Gupta family in their own home with Jacob Zuma in the next room. The former ANC member was offered the position of public entertainment.

Those in the know have long feared that South Africa is being run on the basis that the country is administered as an 'private Mafia' for the benefit of top party officials. Such evidence, according to the ANC 's secretary general, Gwede Mantashe shows “The fact that we are now talking about this so boldly now shows that things are going to change.”

Sun 20

News story “Since the announcement on Wednesday of South Africa 's impending departure from the Commonwealth, the Home Office says it has been 'inundated' with inquiries from South Africans who have been applying for citizenship of the United Kingdom.

April

Fri 1

The controversy, of who should pay for the enhanced facilities at the home of president Zuma in KwaZulu Natal (qv 4/2) both security and personnel, has finally been settled by the nations constitutional court. The courts 11 members ruled unanimously that the president would have to refund the national treasury an amount which itself would determine within the next 60 days. The president would then have a further 30 days to make the agreed refund.

The 2014 overspending claim concerned the governments financing of Nkanla 's new swimming pool, costing £131, 000, alongside financing for a visitors centre and £56. 000 for a cattle run.

Not only will the refurbishing of his new holiday home cost him financially. There is the possibility that political opponents of the ANC leader will call for parliament to press for his impeachment; sacking.

Outside the court the Democratic Alliance leader, Mmusi Maimane, noted that the president should be removed from office as his actions “amount to a serious violation of the constitution.”

News item, President Zuma, appearing on nationwide television apologised over the excessive state spending during the refurbishment of his Nkanla home; the outcome of the constitutional court ruling. He will pay back whatever amount the treasury so decides.

As to the the call for his impeachment he thought it unlikely.

Sat 2

Book extract, “Nelson Mandela oversaw South Africa 's peaceful transmission to democracy but had a personal chaotic life, accepted favours from the wealthy, and did a deal with the Afrikaner establishment that many of those who idolised him hated. We need these people 's sacrifice. And after that? Perhaps the awkward fact is that we need them to die before they can expose to much of their human frailty.” - **The Lady and the Generals by Peter Phophan published by Rider -**

Sun 3

A letter, written by Ahmed Katrada;an ANC notable, and one who stood in the dock with Nelson Mandela at the Rivoena trial, has urged president Zuma 'to do the decent thing' and resign from his post as the calls for him to do so are at the forefront of the minds of the South African people.

Although the president is still of the belief that as the governing party holds 249 of the 400 seat strong parliament there is little hope that the massed opposition could muster the required number of votes to force impeachment.

In Angola human rights activists, giving support to the 17 members of the Luanda Book Club who have been jailed for various periods because of their choice of reading material, are disappointed at the non criticism of the former colonial power.

Portugal's parliament has not condemned the jailing of the club members after they studied 'From Dictatorship to Democracy authored by G Sharp.

Fri 8

The birth home; and the final resting place of former president Nelson Mandela, in the Eastern Cape village of Qunu, is to remain under the families control after his ex wife made a claim on ownership of the property.

In the provincial high court, and after a long legal battle the judge found against Madikizela Mandela legal team 's arguments that the rural home was purchased in 1989 while the two were still a married couple.

Tues 19

Citing the words of the Talmud, which contains the most holy writings of the Jewish faith, the Orthodox Jewish Board of Deputies will have to defend its ban of female singers performing at a sectarian ceremony. They fear the non appearance of Orthodox rabbi 's if such a ban is lifted.

Their legal argument, with the secular South African Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity [Sacred], who act on behalf of two Jewish citizens Gilard Stern and Sarah Goldstein. The historic facts; the JBD has banned female singers since 2005 because of the religions writings that say, in essence, that a women's singing voice is deemed lewd.

Sacred complains, after the complainants were banned from performing at the nations Holocaust Day memorial on 5/5. It is argued that in these modern times such a ban is an anathema and an insult to women. The case will be heard in Cape Town

Sat 23

Cost cutting, by the De Beers element of the Anglo American mining conglomerate, will see the closure of its London headquarters. The 300 staff employed within the building on Charterhouse Street into a building in Hatton Gardens; the centre of the jewellery manufacturing trade. It is thought that the vacated building, a building long associated with the empire built up by Cecil Rhodes from 1899, will go some way to to reduce Anglo American 's debts. Valued at \$4bn / £2.8bn.

Since first moving into its London HQ, in 1933, officials were of the opinion that costs could be reduced as, of this time commodity prices; the diamonds continue to fall in value. The companies market share has fallen around 33% because of the rise Russian firm Alrosa and new fields, not under the control of De Beers and trouble in its Australian mines. Long gone has the sorting of the precious stones to the Botswana capital Gaborone.

Sat 30

Notwithstanding president Zuma 's recent telling off for his overspending on his new residence (qv 1.4) a judge in the Pretoria high court is considering whether to press ahead with 783 corruption charges that were dropped.

First questioned in 2008 (qv 5/8) before he became head of state over payments to a French armaments manufacturer the charges were dropped in 2009 (qv 30/3). At this latest hearing Justice Aubrey Ledwaba said that the decision to drop the charges was 'irrational'.

May

Fri 20

As a passenger jet, owned by King Mswati the Third, stands on the runway at Montreal airport in Canada; impounded by the Ontario courts because of the monarch's debts his people suffer the worst rates of HIV infection in the world. In recent times, 2010, the rate of infection stood at 26.1% (qv 11/9). The latest figures available indicate that 42% of the population are HIV +

His McDonnell Douglas DC 9 is at the centre of a legal row with his former business partner, Shanmuga Retheman who had the passenger jet; in which the king's many wives would go overseas to shop, is demanding the monarch repay £5.5m / \$8m.

Sat 21

A diamond, with the given name of the Oppenheimer Blue, *which this diarist was mined in Botswana in 2015 (qv 20/11)*, has been sold at auction for £21.6m / \$58.2m. At the same auction a diamond, named the Unique Pink, sold for \$58.2m / £39.8m.

Sun 22

Nearly all of the southern African nations, that are members of the SADC organisation, face the near future without the means to feed their people because of the effects of the ongoing drought conditions. The region has been badly affected by the climate changing effects of the El Niño climate phenomenon

Latest figures show that across the region 31.6m people across are deemed food insecure and 4 : 10 children in the Southern African Development Community are stunted by malnutrition and unable to achieve their mental and physical potential

Wed 25

The daughter of the former Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu; best known for his taking a major role in the power struggle that brought the first black president to South Africa, has herself given up in the clerical position in the nation's Anglican Church.

The reason; The Reverend Canon Mpho's practising licence was withdrawn by her local bishop because "the canon law of the South African Church states that marriage is between one man and one woman." The defrocked lesbian cleric has recently married Marceline van Furth, who is employed as a paediatric disease at Vrije University in Amsterdam.

Commenting on the decision the 1984 Nobel Prize winner said "I would not worship a God who is homophobic."

Fri 27

News item, The African National Congress government have passed through parliament, after a long and arduous process, a land distribution act. This legislation will go some way to make good a promise to grant land to black farmers that was underused by their white counterparts.

June

Sat 4

Angola, a nation, that depends on its off shore oil industry to provide ninety percent of its foreign exchange, has; after a presidential decree sacked all the state appointed board members of the state governing Sonangol board. The new chief executive will be Isabel dos Santos the 41 year old daughter of president who has run the west African nation for the last 36 years.

There are two schools of thought as to why President dos Santos has given the job to his daughter, who Forbes magazine note is the richest female in Africa. With family members closely involved with the financing in Angola; his son heads the nations sovereign wealth fund, the financial future of the nation is secure.

An overview, from an oil industry source notes that in the distant past the Sonangol board was efficiently performing in its overseeing of the oil industry. It is only recently the inefficiencies have appeared as a more political manoeuvring became apparent; influencing decisions that may have not benefited those that it should have.

Sat 11

One who thought the correct action to take, when observing revellers antics on a beach outside Durban (qv 6/1) has herself been criticised. In a ruling by the equality court; sitting in KwaZulu Natal province dentist Penny Sparrow was fined R150,000 / £7, 000 for her comments made on her Facebook page.

This special sitting, set up to hear discrimination, harassment and hate speech cases heard the courts chairman claim that the words used by this women were words, and opinions that the court thought had stopped being used at least 20 years ago.

The defendant was not in court to hear the verdict as she feared for her safety. The court chairman said that the monetary value of the fine would be donated to charity.

Sun 12

Plans for the extraction of titanium ore, from a sand dune rich area around the village of Xolobeni, south of the port city of Durban, has divided its residents. The Australian company, Mineral Commodities [MRC] have let it be known that extraction of this valuable mineral will only occupy 3, 000 hectares of land that the 10, 000 hectares that the Amadiba community who live in and around the coastal, sand dune rich region.

Those who oppose granting of a mining licence see the incursion onto their lands as being a danger to the coastal ecology and the wildlife that inhabit the miles and miles of environmentally important coastal region.

As the government offer their support to the scheme questions are being tabled as to how important the mining industry is to the future of the South African economy. Most recent figures indicate that the industry only provided 13% of the nations foreign exchange whereas at its height, in the mid 1990's its contribution was 50%. Heavy industry is out of favour at this time with the financial sector providing the greater amount of foreign exchange.

Historic note 1986 "Two views have emerged of what will happen if Britain continues to hold out

against sanctions on South Africa. One possibility is that Zambia and other African countries may leave the Commonwealth. Another view is that Britain should be expelled from the Commonwealth since it is out of step with the other member states.” **Shyan Bhatia on the Commonwealth 's attitude to Britain resisting South African sanctions**

Mon 13

Bailed, after jail time and then house arrest, Oscar Pistorius returns to the Pretoria high court to once again face Judge Thokozile Masipa as she oversees his re sentencing hearing after an appeal for such by state prosecutors.

While the previous trial judge was swayed by the athletes assurances that he did not intend to kill his girl friend, Reeva Steenkamp. Thus Blade Runner was sentenced on a charge of culpable homicide. The state made its case that it was most possible that to fire four shots through the wooden door into his bathroom would result in the death of whoever was hidden within the small room.

If convicted of murder Pistorius will likely serve a term of fifteen years in jail.

Tues 14

Giving evidence, at Blade Runner 's sentencing hearing, the psychologist J Scholtz says that if the athlete was his patient he would say that in his opinion treatment for post traumatic stress in hospital would be a real possibility for Oscar Pistorius and not a lengthy jail term as demanded by the state.

In his evidence he cites a number of happenings while the gold medal winner at the 2012 Olympic Games in London was held in prison before his release on bail. When state prosecutor Gerrie Nel questioned the medic he said of such incidents had either not happened; the suicide of a prisoner in an adjacent cell or the claim that Pistorius himself had been beaten up.

Wed 15

Day 2 of the sentencing hearing sees evidence of the 'good chap' Pistorius was given by chef Ebba Guomundsdottir, flew in from Iceland to regale the court with a tale. When he found out that his son had the same condition as Pistorius he became a family friend making numerous visits to the family home. Also his 2011 Paralympic World Cup gold medal was gifted to the boy directly after the South African had won it.

Also giving evidence was the father of Reeva Stenkamp who described the pain of losing his daughter, and himself needing insulin injections, would stab himself with these needles to try and understand the pain that his daughter must have gone through at the time of her death.

There has always, since the first trial, been rumours that there would be a meeting between Barry Stenkamp and his daughters killer. During his testimony this was referred to when directly speaking to the athlete “ ... time will come. ... but not now not here.

There were no questions from the state prosecutor Gerry Nel.

Thurs 16

Tales told, on the anniversary of the death of Soweto resident Hector Pieterse, one of the pinnacle

moments of the black majority population beginnings of the African National Congress 's mass movement that brought the countries first multi racial government in 1994. As for those that still live in the town on the outskirts of Johannesburg, and run the museum dedicated to the 12 year old school boy, it is felt that those who come know or care who Pieterse was or what he represented.

As in 1976, and at this present time, the masses have lost faith in their government but this time it is the African National Congress who may feel the wrath of the people.

Day 3 of the Pistorius sentencing hearing sees the disgraced athlete remove his prosthetic limbs while attending the hearing. It is an attempt to show him he is not a strong ambitious man as the state would have you believe.

Geri Nel said such a parade across the courtroom does not mitigate the fact that Oscar fired 4 shots into a confined space knowing that such actions most probably would cause the death of anyone inside the room. Calling for the judge to impose at least a 15 year jail sentence Nel indicated that the sentence should send a strong message; "Society demands that appropriate sentences be imposed. We argue for a long term imprisonment."

British based retailer Poundland has been targeted for a take over by the South African based retail conglomerate Steinhilber which already owns 17% of Bedford based firm Bensons for Beds. Thus the share value of Poundland rose 200p up 2% on its 15/6 value making the company valued at £530m.

Sun 19

The changes in management structure, of Angola 's state owned oil company; Sonagol (qv 4/6), has been declared an illegal act by the human rights activist Rafael Marques. He has called upon the nations attorney general to reverse the presidential order that put his daughter in charge of developing the oil industry.

Mon 20

A judge in, a court in South Africa, has agreed that lawyers for current and former gold miners can bring a class action against their former employers. Their grievance; that some 20 of the nations mining companies did not provide workers with adequate health and safety protection while working underground.

Since pre and post apartheid years underground workers have been exposed to fine dust particles that occurred after gold bearing rock was blasted so the gold ore can be taken for processing. This dust settled in the miners lungs and over the years many thousands of miners were diagnosed with the killer lung disease of silicosis.

The numbers now affected is in excess of 500, 000 not counting those who have already died because of the disease for which little compensation was paid to the relatives of the deceased miner. On example of compensation paid; Gertrude Ludziya aged 66, whose husband died in 2002 after being diagnosed 6 years previously received in 2004 the equivalent of £3, 000 in compensation. Since that time nothing. This meant that the widower had to support not only herself but her 14 year old disabled grand daughter after her dad, also a miner, died of silicosis which in itself manifests as tuberculosis.

Thurs 23

In a yet to be broadcast television interview Oscar Pistorius shows, according to state prosecutor

Gerri Nell, no respect to the court; refuses to take the stand during his current sentencing court appearance. However he will display for the foreign media.

Sat 25

Well known for his disregard for the courts; overspending on home improvements the president has lost his latest clash with the legal system. The decision of the Pretoria high court (qv 30/4) over corruption charges concerning historic happenings before he came to take the role of president cannot be appealed.

July

Wed 6

The plagiarism of a quote by the late Nelson Mandela by the Democratic Alliance in an election leaflet, has angered the family of the first African National Congress president. With high hopes of electoral gains, due too widespread unpopularity of the present government and the antics of president Zuma the parliamentary opposition were hoping to make sweeping gains at the municipal elections set for 3/8.

The Mandela family object to the television advert that shows a female voter hesitating to place her cross on he ballot paper. Her vote is cast for the DA when she recalls the then president speaking the words “let there be justice for all, let there be peace, let there be work, let there be bread for all.”

Mandla Mandela; a grandson, speaking for the family called the DA 's use of this advert a 'desperate measure' for a political party.

News item, Oscar Pistorius will have to serve six years in jail for the killing of his girl friend. The trial judge was not minded to impose the 15 years that the state had called for, as the former athlete had showed much remorse and a willingness to speak with the Steenkamp family.

Sun 17

Continually battling against the scourge of the HIV infection, with approximately 7m of the nations population infected with the virus, new ways of dispensing the antiretroviral drugs are about to be trialled in Alexandria township before being located elsewhere.

Using a similar system that allows people to access the banking 'hole in the wall' to withdraw a persons cash those suffering this life debilitating disease will be able to obtain their medical supplies without travelling miles to see a doctor thus facing the possibility of loosing their job because they needed to fill their prescription from a source outside their environs.

This new method of using this type of machines developed by the Right to Care project working out of the Helen Joseph Hospital in Johannesburg. The robotics machine, which cost £63, 000 to develop will be shown at the 2016 International Aids conference which opens within the next 24 hours.

Mon 18

Not withstanding the efforts that the medical profession are making to ensure that antiretroviral drugs are more freely available (qv 17/7) the opening day International Aids 2016 conference in Durban will be confronted with disturbing statistics.

36. 7m people in Africa living with HIV while only 17m are receiving the necessary drugs to keep the infection at a manageable level. Throughout the continent 2m more people become infected with the virus. In 2015 the United Kingdom provided only 13% of the finance required by the World Health Organisation to mount its prevention campaign. The USA provided 66.4%.

Tues 19

With South African athletes banned from all international sporting events at the time of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles Zola Budd although a resident of the apartheid state claimed the right, in that year (qv 31/7) to be a member of the British Olympic team.

In the 3,000 metre final the pseudo British runner caused her American rival, Mary Decker, to fall and thus end her chances of a medal on home turf. Despite the field now clear for the 'adopted' British athlete cross the finish line in a medal winning position. This did not happen.

Zola Budd gave up her chance of an Olympic medal as the mainly American crowd were showing signs, and sounds of their anger as Decker was brought to the ground after an alleged trip by a member of the British team.

The two 'principals' will now meet for the first time as the period is remembered in a Sky media programme *The Fall* that hits the cinema on 29/7.

Sun 24

Revelations from the international conference of HIV recently concluded in the city of Durban has identified more details of the progression of the Aids virus is spreading through the highest 'at risk' group, those aged 15 – 19 years of age where the distinction between male and females is 8 x's greater than that of a male.

Females are targeted by an older male, given the name 'blessers'; usually married who offer these school age youths presents and a richer lifestyle than their current position; rural village life with struggling parents who have no possibility of ever enriching their young life above that of their life. In return these men demand sex; with the added fear that the school age child will become HIV positive.

To combat such occurrences, in such villages as Tembalo 100km outside Johannesburg one of a number of the 1000 Rise clubs that are located throughout South Africa and founded by Phinah Kosisang take a number of teenage school girls through a act of role play to highlight the tactics of the 'older man' or even a school teacher may employ which will leave the youth with a life time of problems.

An academic, Professor S A Karim the director of the Centre for Aids Research informed the conference delegates that such intergenerational sex was driving up the rates of HIV infections to such rates that in excess of 3 out of 5 young women from a man in his 30's in KwaZulu province.

Tues 26

The businessman behind the South African end of an intention to advance the use of the internet throughout the continent is Mteto Nyati who took on the task in 7/15 who at the time was at one time the head of MTV SA; which at one time was the country's second largest telecommunications provider. Previously he was employed at the MTN Group and Microsoft.

Wed 27

The battle to have the president repay part of the costs of improvements made to his home in KwaZulu Natal (qv1.4) is nearing conclusion. Having accepted the valuation, of the upgrades made when he married a new wife; Nkandla, Jacob Zuma will return R7, 814, 155 to the South African treasury.

Further words from the court note that the cash will have to be paid back within 45 days.

Thurs 28

Political events, in the UK, this nations decision to withdraw from the EEC, has seen the board of SAB Miller take a new look at the 2015 decision (14/10) already agreed merge with AB InBev; the worlds largest brewing company.

The board were now aware that because of the referendum vote to leave the European trading body valued the company worth more than it was when the deal was first discussed. With the unsettled financial markets the company is now valued at £79bn; a rise of £8bn on its initial worth when the take over process began. An agreed extra, and final offer, of a £1 rise per share to £45 per share was made by ABInV.

Life and times of Gillian Slovo, daughter of the anti apartheid activist Ruth First, who made the UK her home while mother worked in Mozambique during the African National Congress 's liberation struggle.

August

Mon 1

As the time of election nears, for a new set of city councillors and mayors on 3/8, the leadership of the African National Congress 's in cities such as Johannesburg and Pretoria face the rising challenge of the Democratic Party and the growing disdain that the of those previously loyal to the ANC since the time of the end of apartheid.

There are fears that this time around, mainly as a warning to the present government, that the their votes of support may fall below the 60% + that the government has obtained at every election, local and national, since 1994.

Further to the Durban 2016 Aids conference evidence is growing HIV infections is rising throughout the African continent; especially South Africa. In the rural areas, of KwaZulu Natal, medically trained personnel travel from village to village to test residents for the infection. Those found HIV+, two out of three males, are then given letters of introduction to a clinic where the two pill prescription; down from a price of \$10, 000 per years ten years ago to \$100 / £76 per year can be collected. It is not unusual for only one person to collect the medicine from the clinic.

Such is the seriousness, of this rise in the HIV rates of infection, that the health authorities have lowered the level at which an infected can receive helpful medicines. Guidelines, that have been in place from the beginning of this crisis; where a persons CD 4 count- a measure of the strength of their immune system – falls below 500, have now been revised down to 350.

Tues 2

News item, as the nations people prepare to vote in new council members and mayors, usually dominated by those that are politically allied to the ruling ANC, a groundswell of opposition inclined to support other political parties; the DA or the Economic Freedom Fighters the party founded by Julius Malema may have other ideas.

Fri 5

With 80% of the votes counted, in the recent council member renewal elections, it would seem that the African National Council loyalist voters have deserted the party that has been the government continually since 1994.

The latest figures indicate that the ANC have lost control of two of the councils in Pretoria and Johannesburg. In the ward of Mandela Bay in the Eastern Cape the Democratic Alliance claim to have won the majority of the council seats. However to control the council the DA would have to become part of a coalition. Party leader, Mmisi Maime, indicated that the party would not go into a coalition with the African National Congress.

Sat 6

With 92% of votes counted, R4 22. 00 5/8, the 'kicking' that the voters gave the African National Congress was not as severe as was implied 24 hours earlier. Both the Democratic Alliance and the Julius Malema led Economic Freedom Front 's gains continued to highlight the dissatisfaction that the nation feels at the conduct of the nations president and the seemingly rampant corruption within the government.

Leader Comment, **Nelson Mandela 's democratic legacy comes of age** as “the local election results reveal to which its electoral base in the cities has been eroded after a generation in power voters are loosing confidence in its capacity to deliver.”

This may be due to the international wide circumstances; the worldwide economic crisis or the perceived corruption endemic within the Zuma government.

“The ANC 's belief that its mandate was somehow god given needed challenging. Now the voters have said that they will hold it to account as they would any other ruling party in a free country. That is a sign of a democracy coming of age; something Mandela would have surely welcomed.”!

Sun 7

Much confidence is felt, by the leader of the EFF about the future prospects of the party, to challenge the right of governance of the African National Congress after the 2019 parliamentary elections. Even more so party leader J Malema expects that Jacob Zuma will not be the party leader when the vote is called. At this recent poll the party gained 10% of the electors support.

It has been said that when president Zuma was questioned over his overspending on his new home improvements in KwaZulu Natal whether the black majority minded his spending of public cash for them he noted that 'only clever and bright people' who were concerned. Now it can be seen that not only they were concerned; and to what effect.

For the first time in in the years since the end of apartheid the ANC 's proportion of the votes cast fell to below 60% to 54% while the Democratic Alliance collected 27%

Mon 8

Long known that there has been the human settlement; see 2011 14/10 within the region that is now South Africa, even though throughout the apartheid era the authorities in Pretoria played up the theory that when the white man came the land was an empty area but artefacts uncovered from the Blombos cave system also show how they were surely the first people to appreciate beautiful objects.

One such find, a pearl necklace from 77, 000 years in the past is among examples of the regional peoples art; some of which has never left the country, that will be on display in London from 27/10 to 26/2.

While chiefly showing examples of this early art, dated from the Mapungubwe era 1220 to 1290 including a gold covered rhinoceros; thus showing that from this early date there was vivid trade of precious items from China, India and Egypt, there will be examples on show of art produced by the non white community during the apartheid years.

Tues 16

A case of 'baby snatching' from a Cape Town hospital in 1997 has finally been settled in that town high court. At that time three day old Zephany Nurse was taken from her mothers bedside by a 52 year old female dressmaker.

For 17 years the kidnapped child was raised in her Cape Town home; which was only mile away from the birth mothers family home. It was while a second child of Celeste Nurse noticed similarities of herself with a classmate that officials became involved. Genetic identification was confirmed. Subsequent time has been spent through legal argument.

While Zephny was involved with the cities social services she let it be known her intention to move back to her non natural mother as she did not, our could not form any kind of bond with her birth mother.

Sentencing the unnamed mother to 10 years in jail Judge Hlophe noted how serious the crime was and the unblemished record of the kidnapper along with her unblemished record. It would seem that baby snatching was not an unheard occurrence in South Africa.

Wed 17

Emulating the success of Oscar Pistorius in the 2012 Olympic Games (qv 3/8) the one time 200m junior athlete; who was switched to the 400m race for this years meeting in Rio de Janeiro, W van de Niekerk aged 24, has won a gold medal. In doing so he broke the 17 year long standing Michel Johnsons race time.

A mass vaccination programme, against the highly infectious yellow fever virus, has been instigated by the World Health Organisation; centred on the Democratic Republic of the Congo where the confirmed cases, up to 13/6 number 68.

Cases in Angola, from 12/ '15 to 28/7, number 879. Of this number 487 are located in Luanda with four of the countries having 116,127, 33 and 26 respectively.

Mon 22

Hard on the heels of the office of the public prosecutor forcing President Zuma to repay the state, for alterations and extensions, to his his home in KwaZulu Natal province the departments head Thuli Mandonsele will soon have to relinquish her post after seven years in the job.

There is no chance of her being reappointed; the South African Constitution only allows one seven year term for each lawyer that is appointed Respected throughout the judicial and academic world the question being asked is what next for the outgoing top legal brain; one who brought a change of heart by the president.

Born in Soweto in a home without electricity or a water supply at the height of the struggle to oust the National Party office. Her sleeping arrangements were on the kitchen floor along with six siblings. Her schooling was due to bursaries and defied her dad to study law ant one of the nations universities. At the time of the nations first multi ethnic elections, 1994, an opportunity to study at Harvard University was rejected. Instead Mandonsele opted to help write a new constitution. Following time served in the justice department she set up her own legal firm; one that focussed on human rights gender and constitutional law.

Away from the high profile cases much of her time was spent fighting for the 'little man' against the monolith of the state.

Wed 28

Newly revealed documents, from 1984, note that the antics of those who would see Zola Budd run for Great Britain in that years Los Angeles Olympic Games caused a split in the Thatcher cabinet.

From within the Thatcher cabinet two high ranking ministers, Geoffrey Howe and Leon Brittan made made known their views. The foreign secretary spoke in cabinet of it being wrong for London to become involved in the 'political minefield' that is sport is in the apartheid state.

The chancellor of the exchequer Leon Brittain was more circumspect over the issue. In a letter to a former minister, D Howell in the Conservative government, the chancellor indicated that “its not for me or the government to judge Miss Budd's actual athletic talent compared to that of other women athletes. That is for the sporting authorities.”

Others criticised the role of the Daily Mail who instigated the move to bring the apartheid state 3, 000 meter runner to London as a British citizen and thus eligible to compete in the USA.

Sun 28

With the son of the countries first president; Seretse Khama now the head of state in Botswana, the former army officer Ian Khama now leads the government in its policy of encouraging the world of eco tourism that threatens the existence of the native Sans peoples.

In an unusual collaboration, the ethnic art of the KwaNdebele people of the country and western popular music espoused by Lady Gaga; the vodka brand; Belvedere, who have come together to generate additional funds for the HIV global fund that finances HIV clinic's in remote areas of the veld.

The artist in question is the 82 year old female artist Esther Mahlangu an artist who is well known as a painter who tries to preserve the ethnic art of her people. Such traditional arts are dying as

young Ndebele 's move into the countries larger cities and loose the tribal lore of their parents. One such rural clinic, the Weltevreden which monitors the health of 9, 000 people, in the artists home village of Mabhoko, the work of ending the scourge of the Aids virus has affected any of the babies born with HIV since the clinic opened in 2008. With a plentiful supply of anti retroviral drugs available only 1 : 10 are HIV + and the hospital is 15km distant.

Examples of the artists wok will be shown in London 's British Museum from 27/10 to 26/2.

Not withstanding the troubles of athlete Caster Semeyna [see DVD 13 22. 2 2011] at the Rio Olympic her 800m time ; deemed the world 's fastest of 2016 so far saw. Despite claims of 'unfair advantage' she, who suffers from hyperandrogenism won a gold medal.

Thus at the end of the international athletic gathering South Africa came away with 2 Golds 6 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.

Tues 30

News report, tales told of the effects that foetal alcohol syndrome, a condition passed on from a alcohol, drinking mother, to her new born child. Highlighted was a named village in the Western Cape close to Cape Town.

An issue; alleged racism, over the styling of the hair worn by students at the Pretoria High School for Girls, has been hijacked by the leadership of the Economic Freedom Party. A leading member of the party has accused the school authorities of trying to suppress the blackness and culture of their students.

School authorities have demanded that female students chemically straighten their frizzy hair as the school governors believe that their Afro style hair is untidy. A protest poll organised by those affected by the ban, has since it firs appeared on 30/8 collected 20, 000 signatures of protest.

September

Thurs 1

Concerns over the decreasing numbers of elephants thought to be roaming the African continent, due to the ever increasing illegal trade in poached ivory, has seen concerned groups of conservationists conduct an elephant survey lasting three years.

The Great Elephant Census was funded by the Microsoft billionaire Paul Allen in 2013. The methodology; counting the African savannah roaming animals, from numerous small aircraft along with many volunteers and a cost of £7m

With the results in; Botswana 130, 451, Zimbabwe 82, 304, South Africa 17, 433 and Mozambique 9, 605, a final report will be presented to the next Cities conference to be held in Johannesburg where a debate will be held on which of three proposals to adopt to to combat the ongoing trade in ivory.

Tues 13

Having agreed to recompense the government for his overspend of the nations finances (qv 27/7) president Zuma handed over the sum of \$16m / £12m to the treasury. Despite bring a highly paid

politician the return of the overspend was only managed after the president obtained a home loan from the private VBS Mutual Bank to repay R7.8m / £400, 000 at a reasonable cost.

Sun 25

With the coming to Johannesburg of delegates to the Cites international conference each, country of interest, to this diarist, brings proposals for the better conservation of endangered animal species on the African continent.

As it stands, at this time where the African elephant; threatened with extinction across the whole continent is listed on the organisations Append 1 except South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia are listed in Appendix 2. With the rampant exploitation of the animals for their ivory tusks Namibia and Zimbabwe seek to have the elephants within their borders moved up to Appendix 1. Such a move would it is hoped bring them under greater protection.

The kingdom of Swaziland officials will plead to be allowed to sell its stockpile of 330kg of stockpiled rhino horn; sourced from deceased white rhino's. The cash raised, from this once in a lifetime sale, it is hoped, raise in excess of \$10m, money that would be spent on improving the kingdoms three national parks.

Mon 26

Leader Comment **Elephants will become extinct unless tusk trade gets teeth** if the killing of elephants continues at the rate observed between 2007 and 2014; almost one third of Africa 's savannah roamers. Despite a number of nation pleading for actions that will seem to lessen the animals death or bring advantages to that nation. "It is a seductive argument. Unfortunately, in the case of endangered species, this does not work."

Tues 27

The delegates to the Cities conference in Johannesburg were told that that the price paid of smuggled one kilo of ivory, to those that had sourced the ivory tusks from killed elephants, was US\$ 150. By the time this weight had passed up the smuggle chain to the main user; usually in Beijing the price had risen to US\$ 2, 025.

In the case of of a pair of whit rhino horn; a pair of horns, with an average weight of 6kg, would be sold, in Vietnam for US\$ 33, 000 / kg. In China the price would be \$66, 139 / kg.

October

Sun 2

As in other major cities off the world the poorest elements of that nations society are seen to suffer the most as city authorities attempt to bring the poorer streets / buildings into a more prosperous environment. Such is the case in Johannesburg.

Such is the case in the commercial capitals centre; 54 Sopper Road is now the centre of a gentrification plan that affects as many as 100 residents who have used the building as their homes for the last 20 years. At that time the area was a crime 'hot spot' and illegal squats were a common sight in the area.

With the ending of the apartheid regime events were quiet. However three years ago the city council, then controlled by the ruling ANC, sent out eviction notices to those living in the areas illegal squats.

Despite control of the city council changing hands changing hands to the Democratic Alliance the new mayor Herman Mashaba; a business tycoon, has indicated that the present conditions in Sopper Road are an abuse of their human rights just as the city has a responsibility to help the destitute.

Tues 4

An attempt, by the governments of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe have failed in their attempt, (qv 25/9) to have Cities protection increased on elephant populations that roam their lands. All of the 182 nations delegated at the Johannesburg conference voted down the proposed plan to allow legal sales of ivory tusks proposed by four governments.

Wed 5

Outbreaks of student protest, at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, who were angry at the government raising tuition fees, was met by police fired stun grenades and tear gas into the crowds who were intent on attacking and overturning police vehicles as well as setting them on fire.

This, a second bout of student protest; which began at the beginning of the academic year in 2015, returned to the nations university campuses after the government 's education commission reported that fees must rise by a maximum of 8% at the beginning of the 2017 academic year.

Fri 7

News item, views from those who come at the problem of financing student education, from both sides of the argument.

Sat 8

News item, some talk of the treatment of mercenaries

Sat 22

News item, panel debate over the future of the present African National Congress government which, those unhappy at the government is performing say, is run by old men with old ideas and riddled with corruption.

Those that are concerned for the future of the country, and its economy, detail that the countries finances are still based on the elements of the previous apartheid governments; mining of coal diamonds and gold. They ask where are the new industries / companies that are making wealth for other nations.?

Mon 24

News item, *with this diarists failure to report in 2016, following a legal ruling in 2015 (qv 15/6)* by the authorities, to withdraw from the International Criminal Court th governments decision has, in the view of the United Nations brought disfavour on the whole of the African continent in terms of a countries governance seen to be 'open and fair' and upholding the democratic ideals of much of the western world.

November

Wed 2

Officials of the Nelson Mandela Foundation have made unfavourable comment about the recent actions of the president and the influence that the members believe that 'big business' has on the actions of president Zuma.

Within the last 24 hours the courts have refused to release a report over the president's actions when appointing a new finance minister (qv 17/3). At that time there was speculation that the wealthy Gupta family, with various business interests in the country, had influenced the president.

Thurs 3

Within the 355 pages of the critical report on the recent actions of president (qv 2/11) there is much for the people of South Africa as they confront a scandal that, in the thoughts of some, questions whether the African national Congress government runs the country for the benefit of the people or for the benefit of themselves.

With rumours that the Indian business family had gifted a huge amount of money to the president for favourable attention when appointing government ministers the masses took to the streets in protest. One protest, in Pretoria, brought masses of people onto the streets calling for Zuma to leave the political field.

In recent times the chair of Anglo Gold Ashanti, Siphosiso Pityana, when speaking to the press the country had to "come to terms with the fact that for as long as we have President Zuma as president it is not possible to turn the country around. At the same time the country also faces a strike by 235, 000 members National Education Health and Allied Workers Union as it calls for the president to resign.

Leader Comment **Jacob Zuma 's failings and his countries successes** "whatever the president's future, there is cause for optimism as well as concern. He apparent endless controversies surrounding him are testimony to what South Africa has got right as well as what Mr Zuma and his friends have got wrong."

Sun 6

Speaking in Kwa Zulu Natal province prime minister Jacob Zuma, who faces further allegations of corruption after the recent findings of a report linking him, and members of his government, too closely with the business magnate Gupta family.

Such an investigation, by the National Prosecution Authority, could lead to his being sent to jail; a possibility that does not worry the former nationalist guerilla leader who in the past has spent time in prison.

Mon 28

Working from Aids research data from 2009 (qv 25/9) the country is to trial a new anti HIV. Based on the past research, a collaboration with the USA in Thailand, the new test; deemed HVTN702 seeks 5, 400 men and women aged 18 – 35. The aspiration of both the nations Medical Research Council along with co sponsors the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious diseases, is to push the effectiveness up from the 33% to anything between 50 – 60%.

Tues 29

As dissent grows, against Jacob Zuma remaining as the nations president; recently shown by a parliamentary vote by members of the Democratic Alliance opposition party in which they were defeated, renewed calls have come from within the ANC for the former guerilla leader to stand down.

As of this time only Derek Hanekom the minister of tourism as one of three government ministers, as members of the 104 seat African National Congress national executive committee, has openly called for the president to stand down. Such importance led to policy forming committee to go into extended session.

December

Mon 26

Long has been the fight, by the Hero and Nama indigenous peoples of the country now named Namibia, for the enforced slavery type conditions that they lived in at a time when this region of south west Africa became a colony of Germany in the mid 19th century.

In past times many of the tribal ancestors of the present day people who populate this independent country have been subjected to acts of genocide. Although, in past years, the Berlin government has moves some way towards an official apology for their past treatment of the two ethnic groups there has been little support for a belated financial settlement from the former colonial power.

With an final decision on outstanding issues, in 7. '17, caution of any money passing from Berlin to the Namibian people seems unlikely. The reason; according to Jurgen Zimmerman a historian based at Hamburg University, to pay would open the flood gates of claims from the peoples of other African former colonies – Belgium/ Congo France / Algeria and much of the rest of the continent settled by the British