

JANUARY 2013

Sat 5

Following in the steps of the apartheid era comic, P Uys, who spent much of the years prior to 1994, lampooning the efforts of the Pretoria government, a new breed of comedian, and satirical television programmes keep the nation amused.

Comedian Trevor Nash spearheads the new generation of stand up comedians who not only provide escapism but a different perspective on the nations problems. Not afraid to delve into the critical world of the nations recent disasters; the Marikana mine deaths is another of the present generation of mickey takers is T Noah aged 29. On the back of a sell out of his present show; 'Thats Racist' which sold out in 9 cities will have a run at the Edinburgh Festival.

As to television, something that was probably not open to the apartheid era comics, a whole channel; the Comedy Channel which has been operating for just over twelve months, has seen audiences rise by 35% for such material that is shown from Montecasino in Johannesburg and Late Nite News is avidly consumed.

Mon 7

Medics have declared that former president, Nelson Mandela, is free from any lung infection and the gall stone surgery that kept him in hospital for just short of three weeks.

With the barbarity of the Sharpville Massacre of 1960 still fresh in his mind the criminal lawyer J Nichol has offered his services, without a fee, to the legal team working for the families affected by the killings at the Lonmin mine (qv 15/8).

The Newcastle born and now London living lawyer takes issue with the police evidence (qv 17/8) that the striking miners were advancing towards their lines with evil intent. It is his contention that their moves were in an effort to escape being trapped by on site razor wire.

There is also, as part of the events that led to the 34 miners deaths, the part the management played in setting the scene for the tragedy. They knew that the share value of the company was falling daily; the drillers were demanding a wage rise and continue to do so as the share price fell. Far better to end the dispute with a show of force from the police. Film footage has shown that all the service vehicles; fire ambulance and medical facilities were all in place.

Sun 13

After the success of hosting the World Cup the country is to play host to a major international competition; the African Cup of nations.

Using five of the venues used in 2010 the South African team will play Cape Verde in the National Stadium in Johannesburg on 19/1. However ticket sales for the tournament seem not to be selling as well as in previous times. For other matches, played in Rustenburg; which hosts Ivory Coast, Tunisia, Algeria and Togo tickets are only a quarter sold.

Reasons put forward are that the tickets were sold through a supermarket chain which is some place, because of its expense, that local people were not able to use. The organisers have now dispatched caravans to take 'take the sales to the people.'

Wed 16

An off shoot of the Anglo American Corporation; Anglo American Platinum, affected by the recent mine disruption (qv 24/8), has announced a massive reduction in staff and the mothballing of two mines outside Rustenburg the centre of the 2012 miners strike.

The plan, which Amplat management say was agreed with the government; denied by the minister of mines Susan Shabangu, is to cut 14, 000 jobs and close two mine shafts. The Unions are in uproar and promise if the company does sack its employees the whole mining sector work force will be called out on strike.

Thurs 17

Hard on the heels of the announcement by Anglo American Platinum (qv 16/1) workers at the Rustenburg downed tools and walked off site. Already the mines minister S Shabangu had said that the employers had not consulted with the government about their plans when the company said they had and offered to assist any of the 14, 000 ex miners in setting up in alternative employment.

Talks between the National Union of Mineworkers and Amplat 's union stewards would take place; the point being made that an unofficial strike would likely see management sack those that refused to return to work without any compensation.

The parent company Anglo American is hoping to consolidate its on site operations into three mines and sell its Union Mines operation and therefore deliver R3.8bn /£270m of benefits within 2 years.

Thurs 24

Scheduled to perform, in a tribute concert to Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, is a one town township resident Viscus Visser and his brother.

The rise to 'stardom' for the then 10 year old; living in Heidedal outside Bloemfontein in the Free State; to a groundsman father and a cashier mother whose marriage ended in divorce, was a long one.

It was at that time, some time later, that an image of his performing with his guitar in his

bedroom, of the parents five bedroom house in the mixed race township, became an internet sensation after appearing on You Tube. Such was the response that a music industry scouts from Sony music company set out to find him.

The trail was difficult; however with an appeal, through Face Book, local TV and radio that the 'singing sensation' was revealed in 2011 as still a school age teenager. Now 19 year old, and stuck at his education, so as to gain good exam results, he along with his brother can travel to America and perform.

There are those that liken him to the US teenage singer Justin Bieber, the now Johannesburg resident, says of the comparison “I want Vicus Viser to shine not in the shadow of Justin Bieber.

Fri 25

Heavy rain in the region bordering neighbouring Botswana has seen the Limpopo River rise to near flood level; in some cases flooding has occurred. One such place is the Rakwena crocodile farm which was home to 15, 000 of the reptiles. As of this time only a few have been recaptured. As for the provinces human residents, as of this time 10 people; including three children have died.

It would seem that the working conditions, outlined in the recent report, Human Rights Conditions in South Africa 's Fruit and Wine Industry (qv 23/8) the workers of the Western Cape are still being exploited.

Such is the anger that during a recent strike, which appeared to have been settled, employers were driving into the townships and dumping the possessions of their sacked employees. Workers demands were for a daily wage of R150 /£10. 50.

This, just ended 2 week strike, called by the Confederation of South African Trade Unions, may see a second attempt to influence employers; in a £850m the year fruit and wine industry, to call a second stoppage.

One tactic that the black workers agricultural sector union may employ is to call on overseas businesses not to purchase the regions wines. A re run of the tactic employed by the international shopping public when it came to, or not to, buy goods from the apartheid regime.

It is long known that the South African farm/vineyard owners look on their employees with a paternalistic attitude, pay them low wages and control all elements of their lives and then pay them the daily minimum wage of R69. 4.

According to Agrig SA, the employers organisation, the strike has cost R300m since 11/ '12 and the unions have misrepresented the situation. The owners indicate that those driven off the farm are seasonal workers with no contracts “and have not been sacked.”

Sat 26

Using a Polaroid camera, adjusted to operate as it would have done for the apartheid regime; an increased flash adaptation when police took photographs for the passes that the majority population had to carry throughout the era.

London based artists, A Broonberg and Oliver Charin, spent a month spent four weeks taking 'boosted' pictures of the countries flora and fauna found on the Garden Route and in the Karoo. Their aim was to turn something that ultimately was a demeaning effect into a thing of beauty.

The artists pose the question is “the notion that prejudice might be inherent in the medium of photography itself.

The daughter of the Angolan president dos Santos is fast becoming a wealthy woman in her own right. Forbes Magazine, an American publication, that concentrates on the rich and famous, notes that Princes Isabel; the woman who married a Congolese art collector in 2003, is worth \$1bn.

The daughter of the president's first wife, who was born in Azerbaijan, and partly educated at a state school in the Angolan capital then in 1991 at St Paul's School in London followed a degree in engineering in Business management at Kings College in the city.

Back in Luanda, at the age of 24, her businesses have touched on a failed re-sterilise a garbage collection; both of which were not a wholehearted success. As of now her main concern is a joint enterprise, with Portugal, a media empire in which she holds a 28.8% stake worth \$385m. Also 19.5% of the Portuguese bank BPI worth \$465. along with 25% of the state bank BIC valued at \$160m. There are also interests in the state owned Telecom company; 25%. Deemed successful the state owned newspaper Jornal de Angola named her entrepreneur of the year 2012.

The anti corruption organisation, Transparency International, notes that the country is ranked 168th out of 178 countries on its corruption perception index.

Sun 27

News item, as the judicial inquiry into the deaths of striking miners in Marikana new evidence has been produced that throw doubts on the evidence already given by the police. According to just discovered mobile phone video evidence most of the deaths occurred not as the police advanced towards the strikers; where only one or two died. Rather the majority of the deaths happened some distance away as those fleeing the site tried to hide, from the advancing security forces, who could be heard boasting at the number of bullets had been fired during the 'man hunt.'

Tues 29

With an adult career that has entailed being installed, in 1996 as Vice Chancellor of the

University of Cape Town, managing director of the World Bank, boards of companies and chairman of the mining company Gold Fields, the field of politics beckons for Doctor Mamphela Ramphele.

Not being averse to the world of politics; in the 1970 's at the dawn of the struggle to overthrow the apartheid regime there was a close association, a son was born, with Steve Biko the founder of the Black Consciousness Movement who died at the hands of the police.

Bringing political weight to this present time it is rumoured that the recent re election of Jacob Zuma as head of the African National Congress has decided the one; seen as the conscience of the nation - as is Desmond Tutu – to start a new political party. This is what the 'all rounder' is said to an audience in America recently.

Her thoughts are that the fledgling government, of 1994, went wrong when it stuck with all those who had been part of the long campaign to end white rule. What should have occurred was give a large pension and a good house to all then build a democratic government dispensation. Doctor Ramphele said in 2012,

According to one who comments on events, political analyst Justice Malala, notes that she has all the right qualifications, high education, grounded in struggle, well spoken and a broad understanding of post apartheid South Africa.

The 'little minow' football team of Cape Verde has progressed to the quarter finals of the African Nations Cup. The match, in Port Elizabeth, beat the giants of Angola. The 15 small islands, off the west coast of the continent only joined Fifa in 1986 and World Cup qualifiers in 2000; were ranked 182 in ability to play 10 years ago and entered the top 50 in 2012.

Thurs 31

Extracted from the in house magazine of the security firm G4S, the firm that assist in the expulsion of foreign nationals; J Mbenga in 2011 (qv 17/3), are details of the firms involvement in South Africa.

The glossy 'International' magazine detailed the companies involvement in providing security at on of the countries mining facilities. It companies 'response forces', based at the Aquarius Platinum's Krooddal mine outside Pretoria, was briefly closed down after the Marikana mine killings in 2011.

FEBRUARY 2013

Fri 8

Notwithstanding the initiative of C Viver of the Zululand rhino reserve (qv 26/12) to provide aerial protection from poachers one of the world 's leading animal charity; the World Wildlife Fund will finance 'eyes in the sky' in a country in Africa or Asia by 30/12. This would be followed by the deployment of a second drone in 2013. The cost, £3.18m / \$5m.

Out of the 668 rhino 's that succumbed to the bullets of the poacher in 2012 sixty one died within the boundaries of Kruger National Park by the hand of mainly foreign poachers.

Sat 9

As of this time the 'little minnow' of the African Cup of Nations (qv 29/1) was beaten two nil in the tournaments quarter final by the team from Ghana who were themselves beaten by the Burkina Faso team in one of the the semi finals.

The well documented life of Nelson Mandela has been added to after it became knowledge that the former president was a fan of reality television; in particular a US import 'Toddlers and Tiaras.

This quirk of the 94 year old came to light as his granddaughter Zaziwe D Manaway were promoting Being Mandela which will be broadcast in America by the Cozi TV.

Mon 11

With the state opening of parliament on 14/2 President Zuma will no doubt reflect on his, and the African National Congress 's achievements since the 2012. Known is his re election as head of the government party; with a majority of 75% up from 60% at the time of the last vote and the other Zuma inspired spending that has occurred since.

What has now been looked into, by the Mail and Guardian newspaper, is the success of the promises made by the president 12 months ago. In all fairness two promises had been kept with the same number being broken. Of the three remaining policies the jury of opinion is still out.

Why the popularity of the party is so high is, according to the commentator Julius Malala, is its ability to reinvent and adjust itself as new challenges show themselves over its 101 year history.

Their next challenge, somewhat stymied by a recent announcement the National Union of Mineworkers, that one that is so deeply involved in the mining industry; as chair of the mining company Gold Fields M Raaphle and may form a new political party to challenge the present administration "over her contradictions and dishonesty."

Exhibited in the Rooke Gallery in Johannesburg is the latest work of the photographer F Marshall and his depictions of peoples who live in the desert regions of neighbouring country of Botswana.

Not for them the style of the Bushmen of the Kalahari more in the style of the heavy metal music fans that has been found in South Africa since its 'import' from overseas around 1998.

Music band members from groups with names such as TXB of the Gaborone based Skinflint, or Metal Orizon, formed in the early 1990's were ahead of the trend that was to come. Dressed in their leather and chains some would say their apparel makes them look 'rough creatures' "but metal teaches us to be free with expression, to do things on our own," says the vocalist for the band the Overtones.

Thurs 14

News item, the Para Olympic athlete, Oscar Pistorius has been arrested on suspicion of murdering his girlfriend at his home in Pretoria.

Fri 15

It has been confirmed that 'Blade Runner' has been arrested for the murder of his girlfriend; model law graduate and face of Avon Reeva Steekamp, at the runners home in the 'gated' housing complex of Silverwoods Country Estate in the countries administrative capital.

Police evidence, which will be heard in the towns magistrate court within the next 24 hours, will tell of recent arguments being heard coming from Pistoriois 's home prior to the shooting of the Port Elizabeth born woman aged 29. In recent times there has also been allegations of the ill treatment of females associated with him and visits from the police. All which came to nothing.

While the number of firearms swirling around in the country; as many as 12 per 100 citizens the country is placed 17th in a world league of gun ownership the number of women killed by their partners has dropped fro four per day in 1999 to 3 per day in 2009 so says a spokesman for Gun Free South Africa.

Noted and adulated throughout the country Pistorious has somehow spread the Olympic magic throughout the nation his story had inspired the nation until this time. Billboards are now being pulled down and within a morning he has gone from being a figure of sympathy to being accused of murder.

"Worse, he is not just one of us. When our Olympic team was in the doldrums ... Pistorious would redeem us. He ran his guts out. Now he is fallen, and we are lost.

The attractiveness, to the international tourist to the coastal area of Mozambique, is being damaged by the local residents over fishing of the hammerhead shark. The main

incentive for the locals, as typified by the residents of Inhambane, is that to them the inedible fins can be sold on to the many Chinese that have come to the country to work.

Even the authorities in Maputo frown on such activities local fishermen, such as Fernando Nhamussa aged 33, can earn 5, 000meticals/ £104 when sold to a local Chinese buyer. For him and his family there is the fish meat to supplement a poor diet. For the purchaser there is addition money to be earned as the fin is sold on as an ingredient in shark fin soup.

Sat 16

As Oscar Leonard Pistorious aged 26, having spent the night in a cell in Boschkop police station in the east of the city, appeared in court in central Pretoria, appeared before chief magistrate Desmond Nair. Unconfirmed evidence, by the local media noted that Reeva Steenkamp had been shot four times; in the head, chest pelvis, and hand. Police have charged the alleged killer with pre meditated murder; a crime that carries the penalty of life imprisonment.

More than 100 people, local and international press, were in the court to hear his legal representative, Kenny Oldwage, indicate that the athlete and his team would fight the allegations and that his client was in an “extremely traumatised state of mind” at this time. The magistrate set a bail hearing for 19/3.

Despite seeing great hope for the future this writer, who lived through 23 years of the apartheid regime saw great hope in the young Paralympion noted in interviews something that unsettled him. - **D McRae** -

There has been much thought about the effect on the nations sporting prowess and disability rights. This writer also feels that the tragedy of the dead women have not been sufficiently debated. - **M Hyde** -

Sun 17

The family of O Pistorious mounted a vehement denial that the Olympic gold medal winner was guilty of culpable homicide as an uncle of the athlete claims that the forensic evidence shows that his nephew did not knowingly kill his girlfriend.

Also swirling around is a wide condemnation of broadcasters who have criticised the showing of the reality TV programme Tropika Island of Pleasure in which Reeva Steenkamp, filmed in Jamaica had recently been voted off. The national broadcaster, the SABC, deemed the showing of the pre recorded programme “completely sick and exploitive” in light of the tragedy.

This alleged murder has provoked a nation wide debate about the countries deep rooted attitudes to women, race and gun ownership in a country where, police report, that there was 16, 766 robberies at residential premises in 2012.

The national murder rate, with an average of 43 lives taken each day is on the decline. Even so 15, 609 people died and 64, 500 rapes were reported 2011 – 12.

When it is said that the athlete was the nations hero generally this would be of the 9% of the white population; where gun ownership is highest. To show 'manliness' ethnic blacks would expected to have a number of girl friends where as his white counterpart would rely on his gun ownership.

Mon 18

With the full media spotlight on the alleged murder of Ms Steenkamp details, not necessary correct say the police, have emerged about the events surrounding her death at the Pretoria home of Oscar Pistorious.

One such newspaper, City Press, note the finding of a blood stained cricket bat at the home and notes that the victims skull was crushed. The body was, which was still breathing at 3.20am 14th was carried by the athlete to the lobby where his father, Henke, was after a phone call request to attend the house. It was only the summons of the medics that brought the police to the scene and all agreed that it was not likely that the 'face of the nation' had been mistaken as an intruder.

Tues 19

The sixty five year old Mamphela Ramphela a former academic at Cape Town University (qv) has made good her promise and launched the Agang; "Let us build" in the Sesotho language political platform to possibly challenge the African National Congress at the next elections.

Her main aims is to return the system where by those elected to parliament are accountable to those who elected them, to keep them accountable and monitor their performance in relation to the promises they made when asking for peoples votes.

Responding an ANC spokesman, K Khoza, noted that any government elected would have the same challenges that itself had, non of which itself created whether it be housing, education or social or health ect.

There was some thought that such a small initiative, only five staff and little funding, would only take votes away from the Democratic Alliance who itself have made inroads to wards the black middle class.

On the eve of Oscar Pistorious 's application for bail anger, coming from the family, has been shown towards the media and its reports, words and pictures, of the alleged police evidence which goes before a Pretoria magistrate.

Trouble has once again broken out at the Amplat owned mine (qv 16/1) in Rustenburg. A number of members of rival mining unions; the NUM and the newly formed Association of Mineworkers and Construction union clashed at the site east of Johannesburg. In the confrontation, over which would union would represent the workers, nine were injured along with a number of police and mine security officials.

Wed 20

As evidence is placed before the magistrate, hearing the bail application of O Pistorious, the accused is overcome with emotion; such that the application hearing is extended. Of the evidence heard, from prosecutor G Neil, told the court that the athlete had got out of bed put his prosthetic on walked to the bathroom and fired four shots through the bathroom door. His thoughts, and those of the police were, even if he had thought Ms Steenkamp was an intruder the charge; the most severe in the South African legal system the charge of pre meditated murder was still applicable.

Meanwhile, in Port Elizabeth, the murder victim was cremated, at a private ceremony after a one hour funeral service.

Thurs 21

News item, it has now come to light that the senior police investigator, into the death of Ms Steenkamp, Hilton Botha is himself facing a charge of attempted murder. It is said that two years ago, along with a number of fellow policemen that he fired upon a taxi and injured its occupants.

As well as the above problem the chief police investigator H Botha has other problems. After a day diving evidence in the Pretoria court and being questioned by Oscar Pistorious 's defence lawyer, Barry Roux, was able to discredit much of the evidence and have the policeman admit that errors had been made in the gathering of evidence.

The ability of the defence team to run rings round the police evidence was made easier by the ultimate admission by Hilton Botha that the police had not found anything at the home of the athlete inconsistent with the accused 's version of events.

Fri 22

With the senior policeman Hilton Botha now charged with seven counts of attempted murder (qv 21/2) the national police commissioner, General Riah Phyege, has moved swiftly to sure up the team that is investigating the events of the morning of 14/2 in a suburb of Pretoria.

News item, the magistrate in charge of the bail hearing of Oscar Pretorius, D Nair, has granted the athlete bail on the grounds that he does not believe he will be a flight risk.

Police deaths; 265 in 1994, 178 in 2000 178 2001 and in the 12 months to 3/ '12 92 officers died in the line of duty. Deaths in police custody, Institute of Security Studies; in the four years to 2010; 869 '09 – '10. Whereas the average for the years 2003 – 2008 was 695.

Sat 23

Despite the magistrate D Nair 's belief that the gold medal winning athlete Oscar Pretorius is not a flight risk it could be said that the bail conditions, set by the court in

Pretoria will imping a great deal on his life until the full trial begins in 6/'13.

As well as a surety of R1000, 000 /£73, 000 there are ten other conditions that must be adhered to if Blade Runner wants to stay out of jail till 4/6. These include handing in his passport, refrain from going to airports, gives up his firearms, does not imbibe alcohol or drugs, stays away from his home, report to a probation officer and face no other police charges of violence against women.

Speaking on behalf of the ANC 's Women 's league, Troy Martens, indicates that the courts decision 'sends the wrong message' to the women of South Africa as to how they are regarded by their men folk. With gender violence rife throughout the country it is noted that there were 56, 272 cases of female rape in 2012.

Detailing the reasons why cases such as the speculative murder of an apparently happy couple has , like other such cases, caught the imagination of the masses. The question to be asked, in this particular case, is whether Oscar Pretorious is a man of absolute integrity when dealing with women. Does he believe they are of equal value as they are?

In the writes opinion “men will be distrusted by women and women will be in mortal danger from men.” - **D Orr** -

Mon 25

Another side to the relationship between Oscar Pretorious and Ms Steenkamp came from Cyril Myers known as her 'Joburg father.' Talking to the media outlet City Press newspaper he said that at first the relationship between the two, was on of respect shown to the 'father'; coming in when arriving, and dropping off at the end. However over time it was noted that excuses would be made and the athlete would make just drop. This was enough to deem him a moody person.

It has also been revealed, as in the case of the ousted chief police investigator Hilton Botha (qv 21/2) that another member of the Pistorious family is to be charged with, and appear in court in 3/3, on a murder charged that has previously been seen as not fit to place before the court.. The crime dates back to 2008 when it is said that Carl, aged 26, was guilty of culpable homicide of a female motor cyclist. He denies being under the influence of alcohol at the time.

Tues 26

MARCH 2013

Fri 1

Filmed evidence, in the town of Davyton east of Johannesburg, brought to the fore mass street protests from members of the black community over the actions of the police as they arrested Mido Macia aged 27 and a taxi driver from neighbouring Mozambique.

The detail of his arrest show that when detained the man was handcuffed to the bumper of the police vehicle and driven some way along the street. He was found dead in his cell at a later time.

Evidence, put forward by the police, to the Independent Police Investigative Department; after the president ordered an investigation, was that the Mozambiquan national was arrested for allegedly assaulting a police officer as the offer asked him to move his vehicle as it was causing a traffic obstruction. Other sources, South Africa 's Daily Sun, disputes this by saying there was no struggle as he was restrained by the police.

News item, eight members of the South African Police have been charged with murder after the death of a detained person in the town of Davyton.

Photographs, taken by J Naughten, showing images of the Hero peoples of Namibia in present day costumes that have been heavily influenced by those worn by the 19th century missionaries and traders sent out to this west coast of Africa that was at the time the colonial responsibility of Germany.

Further examples of the dress code can be found in Conflict and Costume published by Merrel.

Sat 2

As member countries of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meets in Thailand 's capitol Bangkok it is known that the numbers of elephants on the African continent, in 1979 was 1.3m. The numbers now is said to be only 400, 000. In 2012 it is estimated that 25, 000 were poached mainly for their ivory which is smuggled to countries like China.

The writer seems to imply that the South African police, who number 190, 000 at the last count, have only been following the hopes of president Zuma as he called, in 2009 to “act tough alleged law breakers” and in his state of the nation speech to parliament of 14/2,; lost in the media overkill of the actions of Oscar Pistorious (qv), the president promised an “iron fist” against protesters.

A plea is made for the international media to to keep a watchful eye on the activities of the nations police force in an effort to enable the nations people to live a fulfilled life.

Mon 4

Letter, **Patricia Lucas University of Cape Town** detailing the concerns of students to the growing national concerns over violent crime. Only recently, on 20/2, five thousand staff and students mounted an on campus protest about this growing phenomenon.

Wed 6

The filming of the movie Mad Max : Fury Road, in the environmentally important Dorob National Park along the south west coast of Namibia, has angered those trying to protect a region that is thought to be between 50 and 80 million years old.

While the authorities in the countries capital, Windhoek, would welcome the benefits, financial; 370m Namibian dollars/ £27m, tax benefits of N\$150m and employment for 900 locals, the science world led by the independent ecologist John Henschel was not.

In his leaked report issues of film crew damage of sensitive areas meant to protect endangered reptiles and rare cacti. The report also noted that there was not enough public consultation prior to the filming began.

In reply the countries head of its Film Commission 's, F Haifene, noted that all their concerns were addressed prior to the beginning of the film that starred American star Charlie Theron and detailed life in a post apocalypse world; the fourth in the series as well as the adverse publicity of the draft leaked report

Fri 8

At the end of the Cities meeting (qv 2/3) delegates failed in their attempt to stop the sales of seized elephant ivory and the leakage of horns from trophy hunted rhinos into illegal markets.

The officer, Hilton Botha, dropped as the lead investigator into the death of Oscar Pistorius 's partner (qv 21/2) has resigned as a member of the South African Police Force.

Sun 10

News item, Former president Nelson Mandela has returned home after a 48 hour stay in a Pretoria hospital. Hospital authorities indicated that the tests he undertook were relevant for a person of his age.

Mon 11

A 'friend' of the alleged killer Oscar Pistorious has noted that there are family worries about the athletes mental health. Describing him as a “broken man” M Azzi and there is fear that 'Uncle Mike' may take his own life as he struggles to accept the death of his girlfriend.

Fri 15

With the 'education value' of the Island prison of the country's first president elected under universal suffrage deemed inadequate for today's times Robben Island is to have an update.

Working without the input of Nelson Mandela, although with help from the Mandela Foundation, will aim to draw on the cultural links between South Africa during the racial apartheid era. One of the most striking elements of the Mandela 27 Project will be a replica, in plywood, of the cell that the leader of the ANC occupied during his 18 years of residence on the 518 hectares; 3.7km north to south span of land six miles from Cape Town.

Launching the project, which will highlight some of the events; the Rock against Racism campaign, the Wembley Stadium celebration of Nelson Mandela's 70 birthday, both highlights of the Anti Apartheid Movements campaign to oust the Pretoria regime, the principal backers spokesman D Powell of the Swedish education partner noted, of the wooden cells "they can be made by anyone with basic carpentry."

Also the life and times of Robben Island prisoners has been turned into a video game in a collaboration between South African students and the British Serious Games Institute based at Coventry University's technology park. A second initiative from South Africa's North West University, through its Serious Games Institute, said the target age group 16 – 25 years were well versed in this type of long distance learning.

Part of the funding will come from the European Union.

Sat 16

Despite members of the police force, based in Davyton, being charged with murder (qv 1/3); all refused bail by the courts, the Independent Police Investigative Department's attention has been brought to a second force indiscretion.

In this latest case, which took place in Setlopo village outside the North West Province town of Mafikeng was fastened to the bumper of a police car and driven 100 metres down the road. His crime: advising a youth who appeared to be being harassed by police.

Such incidents, and one reported by the Soweton newspaper on 15/3, adds ammunition to the call by the Democratic Alliance that there should be a "concrete action plan to deal with systemic police brutality."

Latest figures indicate that approximately 932 people died in police custody 2011 – 2012.

The stalwart of the ANC's early government policy of black empowerment, the brewer SABMiller, in an earlier life South African Breweries, has announced a policy of supporting political parties in the 2014 general election. A fund of R9m / £650, 000 will be split between the six most popular parties in proportion to the number of votes gained in the 2009 contest. Such a move is not welcomed by some shareholders who feel the gesture could give rise to the perception of corruption. Vice president Cyril Ramaphosa is also on a Board of the company. Previously, during the last three national polls, R5m was

donated across Party lines.

Mon 18

Even as the ANC became a 'branding' tool in 2012 (qv 25/1) it would seem that the under 30 's across the border in Zimbabwe have found their own fashion icon; Robert Mugabe.

Discovered by the Mail and Guardian journalist, Jason Moyo, the signature emblazoned items manufactured by by the House of Gushungo are all the rage for the young business man who, after 33 years of rule are doing 'just fine.'

Not to be outdone the ruling Zanu PF are now interested enough to muscle in on the brand. They plan to patent the presidents signature that appears on the items that range from T shirts, priced at \$10 / £6.50 and baseball caps that have all been popular in the three years that the company has been in production.

Fri 22

Deep in the heart of KwaZulu Natal province a deal done during the apartheid era, by the Shell Oil company is seen as an unfair deal in this mainly rural province where there is much poverty as there has been since time immemorial.

The conglomerates crime; to rent on land, the seaside resort of Umbadgada on the Indian Ocean for as little as R192/ £13.75 a year. This is also the amount that has been paid since the site was first occupied in 1988 and will be ever thus till the lease expires in 50 years; 2038. This 'crime' is more notable as the centenary of the 1913 Natives Land Act came into being and allowed the dispossessed; black landowners to be evicted.

The whole issue of such deals is now being investigated by the parliamentary oversight committee throughout the country. In KwaZulu Natal alone such deals may involve in excess of 2.8m hectares of land.

As is well known the life of the lesbian in the country, a persons sexuality is enshrined in the constitution, does not run smoothly- note the number of 'corrective' rape crimes and the murders of those who are seen as outside the norm, an award winning photographer has brought their world into the forefront of peoples consciousness.

At a ceremony to honour freedom and expression the Index of Censorship awarded Zanele Muholi one of its prizes for her 10 years of endeavour to create a visual archive of black lesbian life in South Africa..

Mon 25

As the port city of Durban hosts a meeting of the 'big five' nations of the developing world; Brazil China Russia India and South Africa, questions are being asked as to whether the nation is 'punching above its weight' in an effort to show that South Africa can keep up its appearance despite the nation being the smallest nation in the club.

Deemed one of the Bric group the country has a population of 50m; China 1bn. Places 28th in the world ranking of national GDP 's. The country also only accounts for 2.5% GDP of the club. Views of not belonging to this club have been expressed, 12 months ago, by the global chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, J O' Neil, who himself termed the acronym Bric.

Despite being termed “a declining economic power in Africa.” by the economist D Clarke of the Johannesburg based Global Pacific Partners, the continent as a whole can expect 60% of its trade to be done with China by 2015.

Tues 26

Speaking at the ongoing international meeting of the members of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species environmental affairs, minister E Molewa, seems to justify in the cause of supply and demand the sale of rhino horn to the markets of south east Asia.

Outlined to the nations Mail and Guardian newspaper the minister the plan is modelled on the stated economic principal that the poached, and therefore dead endangered species, 668 killed during 2012, would bring cash to the exchequer.

It is likely that such thoughts will anger the many conservation bodies working to preserve the rhino in its natural habitat.

Wed 27

News item, as the five members Bric nations gather in the city of Durban (qv 25/3) one of the items on the agenda will be the formation of a Bric Development Bank; one to rival the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank.

Up for discussion is the amount each of the nations puts in as start up financing. Whether to go for a fixed amount, a suggestion of \$50m has been muted or a straight percentage of each countries Gross National Product is still open to discussion.

Thurs 28

The elder brother of Oscar Pistorius, Carl, charges with murder (qv 25/2) appeared in court and pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide of 36 year old Maria Barnard in 2008 who died in hospital six days later. The trial was delayed while the defence lawyer, K Oldwage, worked on a challenge to the bail conditions of his elder brother.

News item, the legal team working for Oscar Pistorius have succeeded in challenging the travel restrictions of his bail conditions set by the magistrate on 22/2.

Rumours abound that the actor R Gosling is being touted to play O Pistorius in a movie about Reeva Steenkamp 's death. Some may such intrusion can be summed up in two words: too soon.

News item, South Africa is in the praying mode after the countries former president

Nelson Mandela was whisked into hospital after a middle of the night drive through the streets of Johannesburg.

After visiting the former leader of the African National Congress the present head of state, Jacob Zuma, asked for the nation to keep calm. This urgent need for hospitalisation, was for treatment for the ongoing tuberculosis condition that has seen Mr Mandela receive medical care in recent times.

Fri 29

The relaxed bail conditions pertaining to Oscar Pistorius (qv 28/3) now allow the alleged killer to leave the country so long as he informs the authorities of his travel plans seven days before his departure and surrender his passport to the police when he returns to South Africa..

The case was heard by B Bam who also ruled there was no need for the probation service to monitor the amputees conduct also that he can return to his own home in a gated suburb of Pretoria. However he must refrain from alcohol and be prepared to be tested if it is suspected has done so.

Many of the worlds ruling bodies in athletics will be unlikely to 'invite'; the only way that the alleged killer could race on the international circuit, or be in fear of creating bad publicity for the event. It is known that he will not be invited to the London Anniversary Games 12 months after the end of the Olympic Games or the World Athletic Championships. Another great fear for the sport is that to defy the sports ruling body, the IAAF, would not be wise.

Deemed to be “responding positively” to treatment for tuberculosis Nelson Mandela is to stay in hospital, still the location is unknown a second night. President Zuma again called on the nation to keep Madiba and his family in their thoughts.

A mix up on captioning of a BBC World News programme, from the Bric conference in Durban, caused the renown broadcaster to make a screened apology to Rufus Lekela. The wronged man, who is a chief harbour master for the countries national transport company Traansnet. The on screen graphic, which could have been seen by 71m viewers, labelled the Durban resident 'Gay Marriage'. An apology was immediately offered from London and deemed a mistake.

Meanwhile the conference involving five of the emerging economies in the developing world have agreed to set up a development bank to rival the IMF and World Bank. Their hopes are to raise \$4.5tn / £3tn. As yet there is no agreement on each countries contributions.

Sat 30

Rumoured to being an in patient at the Number One Military Hospital in Pretoria Nelson Mandela is deemed to be in good spirits and the doctors report that he is making steady progress. The doyen of South African struggle out of the apartheid era will stay where he is for more treatment and observation.

President Zuma once again called on the nation to remember the former president and his family in their prayers and then told of a Zulu proverb concerning their elders and death. "In Zulu when someone passes away who is very old, people say he, or she has gone home. I think those are some of the things we should be thinking about."

News item, the medical staff, treating Nelson Mandela have now given out the information that he is 'responding well' to treatment for pneumonia; a diagnosis that has until now been kept from the general public.

Sun 31

Creeping into the thoughts of the South African people are the consequences for the country when Nelson Mandela's life expires. There those that believe that upon his demise South Africa will never be the same again. The very fact of Mandela's life is that his being is the 'glue that keeps the nation together.' The racial minority rights group, AfriForm hears rumours that the Afrikaner whites are stockpiling food as they mount a night of the long knives defence from the ethnic majority; seeking revenge for the sins of apartheid pre 1994.

Mbail Ntuli aged 25 the daughter of a taxi driver and a teacher brought up in rural then suburban KwaZulu Natal province notes the importance of the 94 year old 'father of the nation', but as the leader of the youth wing of the Democratic Alliance has moved away from the ANC; a party more akin to the politics of her parents generation.

The coming general election, in 2014, will see some two million first time; and born after the end of the apartheid regime voters go to the polls. This 'born free' generation has now specific allegiance to Congress or its past glories as they note mounting frustration over the lack of employment and continuing inequality.

Viewed, by Allister Sparks, journalist is of the opinion that Nelson Mandela now transcends national politics; one who is revered by all the political groups. He views his appearance on an ANC stage prior to the 2009 general election as an 'exploitation.' In the opinion of the one time scourge of the repressive regime; eventually a banned person the African National Congress has a fight on its hands in 2014.

APRIL 2013

Tues 2

News item, after spending a fifth night in hospital the doctors treating Nelson Mandela for pneumonia indicate that he had a peaceful night after all the excess fluid was drained from around his lungs.

Revealed for the first time, to the South African media, by the son of Yusuf and Amina Cachalia is an 1990 proposal of marriage; a few years before the then recently released Nelson Mandela married Graca Machel. The reason for the rebuff from Amina was the legacy of honour the distinguished anti apartheid campaigning women felt for her Gandhi inspired husband.

Thurs 4

The John Templeton Foundation, based in Pennsylvania USA, has awarded the former Archbishop of Cape Town Desmond Tutu scourge of the anti apartheid regime prior to 1994 £1. 1m for advancing “spiritual liberation” throughout the world.

Deemed as the world 's largest monetary prize the former Nobel Prize winner the honour is not his alone as any show of exemplifying good deeds are done for the benefit of other people and not for himself.

The Templeton Prize will be awarded at a ceremony in London on 21/5.

Fri 5

Despite the unlikely opportunity arising that Oscar Pistorius being invited to any overseas athletic meetings he was spotted, wearing his 'blades' on the track at the University of Pretoria on 24/3. The deed was unmasked by by pupils from Voortreker High school in KwaZulu Natal province who were attending a hockey competition in the city.

Although unlikely to be used in the countries largest game reserve, the Kruger National Park game rangers at the Sabi Sand Wildtuin Association a group of private land owners in Mpumalana province have implemented a means that should deter the poaching of rhino horn for the Far Eastern market.

Resident rhino's will have a mix of a parasitical compound, used to kill the tic that normally infest cattle and horses and a purple die inserted via a drilled hole into the horn of the endangered species. There will also be some purple die added to turn the whole horn purple as a warning to any poachers.

The end user of this adulterated 'medicine' while not likely to die because of the chemical addition, will suffer nausea, stomach ache and diarrhoea. Such symptoms it is hoped will reduce the number of rhino killed.

Those opposed to such a scheme include Traffic the wildlife trade monitoring network

and the larger game parks indicate that despite the schemes publicity by the Sabi Sand game reserve; an area that is fenced off, in the larger free roaming game parks the scheme would be impractical in stopping the expected 1000 animals that are expected to die after being de horned illegally.

Sat 6

News item, Nelson Mandela has been released from the Number One Heart hospital in Pretoria. He made the short journey to his Johannesburg home where he will be under continuous medical supervision by his own team of medics.

Tues 9

Reflections on Margaret Thatcher by those who were involved in the struggle, that ended in 1994, to see a black majority led government elected by the people of South Africa. The British Prime Minister died within the last 24 hours.

F W De Klerk; She consistently, and correctly, believed that much more could be achieved through constructive engagement with the South African government than through draconian sanctions and isolation.

Robin Renwick, former ambassador to Pretoria at the height of the struggle to end apartheid; despite her 'not for turning' mantra and her calling the ANC a "typical terrorist organisation"... "Anyone who thinks it's going to run South Africa is living in cloud cuckoo land." the then prime minister told him to cosy up with the ANC in 1987.

After the release of the leader of the African National Congress there was the meeting in Downing Street in which she fell under the spell of his courtesy and nobility. What has been omitted, from the written account; A Journey with Margaret Thatcher was the fact that the really changed her mind was that in 1986 the US Congress imposed sweeping sanctions against apartheid.

Thurs 11

Moves are afoot to remove two close friends of Nelson Mandela from boards of governors of two companies that look after the finances of the first president of a multi racial South Africa.

It is stated, in legal papers filed with the courts, by daughters Makaziwe Mandela and Zenani Mandela Dlamini, that the eminent lawyer G Bizos, Tokyo Sexwale and the president's former lawyer B Chune had forced themselves into positions of power; as directors of Harmonieux Investment Holdings and Magifique Investment Holdings.

The two daughters, one; the founder of the the House of Mandela wine label, the other, Pretoria 'a ambassador to Argentina are seeking the right to remove the three from positions that is said to earn themselves R15m / £1. 1m.

All three men deny any wrongdoing. According to the two women a detailed search through the paperwork pertaining to the two companies has not discovered any written

evidence that the assistant speech writer of the 1962 Rivoena text of the leader of the ANC leader or the post 1994 cabinet minister were voted onto the board of the companies that look after the investments of the 94 year old.

The idea for the two companies stemmed from the notorious hand prints of the now released; 1992 from prison and negotiation hard in the dying days of apartheid, Nelson Mandela.

Sun 14

It has already written into the manuscript of the 2009 of the book Cry Havoc; the story behind the Wonga coup attempt in the east African state written by the British mercenary Simon Man (qv).

What has just been revealed, now that British prime minister has passed away is that the countries first women prime minister approved of the action that the mercenaries, with financial backing from her son Mark Thatcher (qv) was supportive of the attempt to overthrow that countries leader as with the encouraging words “we have to look after our own” even the outcome was a disaster for her older child.

Mon 15

News item, The latest craze among among the youth of the 'satellite towns' adjacent to the larger conurbations such as Johannesburg or Pretoria is the sport of spinning. What happens is that the driver, of a high powered vehicle, will perform a number of vicious vehicular turns and then, while it is motion, climb out onto the bonnet of the car.

It is said that the sport is derived from the time when there was a death of one of the township criminals. Gang members would congregate at the funeral and then observe a gang member perform similar turns with this stolen vehicle which then was abandoned and then burnt out.

Fri 26

Having lost the battle to prevent legislation, the Protection of State Information Bill introduced in parliament in 2012 being passed into law. With the ANC fully in support MP 's voted 189 : 74 in favour of bill that according to those opposed to its contents will have a “chilling effect” on those seeking to expose official corruption. In the mind of the government the new law, according to the state security minister S Cwele, will “strengthen democracy while balancing transparency and protecting our national security and national interest.”

Those opposed to the Act will challenge its legality in the highest court of the land at the first opportunity.

Tues 30

On a visit to the Johannesburg home of Nelson Mandela, recently discharged from

hospital, president Zuma gave an upbeat response when asked by the reporters from the countries broadcasters.

However there is some difficulty to believe this when a video, shot by the same team; SABC that filmed the Mandela/Zuma encounter. During the visit, in which there was no conversation between the two men, the former president slumped in his chair, with his lower body covered by a blanket. The former leader of the ANC looked pale and stared straight ahead as his successor jokes with the Mandela family members present and his medical team. Even a hand shake gesture, by the South African president, was not responded to by Nelson Mandela.

It is thought that when the video is viewed by the nations public the worries for the nations well being will once again be brought to the surface and to how long Nelson Mandela, 95 in 7/13, can act as a unifying force in South Africa.

MAY 2013

Wed 1

Much to the anger of the South African government, voiced by C Monela of the countries international relations department, the British government has decided to end direct aid to the Pretoria regime as of 2015.

In the normal run of things the aid, worth £19m which which would be normally be spent on business support and reducing female mortality during child birth, would have been talked through bilaterally between respective government ministers.

Responding further the ministry spokesman noted that London 's unilateral action could, in fact, redefine the relationship of the regime in Pretoria and London.

Thurs 2

The high handedness of the axing of Britain to end direct aid the South Africa (qv 1/5) has once again been shown at time, despite the ending of apartheid and the 50 odd years when quasi apartheid was practised by the colonial power pre 1948, may come back to haunt Britain.

As of now the loss of £19m in aid will be most felt by persons deemed to be on 'middle income' salaries; 7 million people according to the World Bank who live on \$1.25 per day or the 15m people living on \$2 per day.

A thought, from Pretoria; Being a member of the emerging economic nations, the Brics, the country is in a position to find new outlets for our exports, away from European markets. South Africa is the gateway for trade with the rest of the continent and has influence to steer countries in whatever direction it wants.

In the end this writer believes that minister Justine Greyling 's real intention was to pander to the right wing politician, from his own party, and the outcome of elections in which council seats are at stake and the fear of a successful advance of a new political movement the United Kingdom Independence Party.

Fri 3

A comment, by the vice president of Zambia Guy Scott, that South Africans are less knowledgeable about their own historical development and the trouble that they have caused to the world in the recent past.

Even as the comments have forced the media to debate how the country is seen by the rest of the continent, The Zambian high con=missioner to Pretoria will be called in to explain the vice presidents remarks.

Wed 29

Long known, for its non business like approach to certain tasks G4S, the same company blamed for the death of an Angolan national deported from Britain, has now been accused of using prison practices in a South African jail not seen since the days of the apartheid regime.

According to a former inmate, O Mabalane, speaking to researchers from the Wits Justice Project, and one of 62 inmates of Mangaung prison who was held alone in a cell from 23.11.06 to 7. 11. 09. All this time he was, along with other prisoners, denied his basic human rights of medical attention and access to rehabilitation.

As of this time such treatment of prisoners is illegal. There is no segregation of prisoners for punishment purposes and then is only allowed under strict conditions such as prisoner safety. All disciplinary matters must be reported to the prison inspectorate and the culprit visited daily by a medic.

Replying to the accusations a spokesman for the privately run prison replied that it was not company policy to deny inmates medical treatments or that there was any cells with 'sparse lighting' as had been claimed.

JUNE 2013

Mon 3

On the eve of Oscar Pistorius 's reappearance in a Pretoria court for the murder of his then girlfriend details have emerged about his life on bail, since 2/'13. Still resident in South Africa 's business capital, and living with his aunt and uncle his life seems to be one of going to church and reading out of the limelight of the press and the media.

His lawyers are angry that the blooded bathroom photographs, presumably belonging to the police, found their way onto the screens of Sky TV in Britain. They demand an explanation.

There are calls, from members of the Democratic Party for the arrest of Bashir Saleh, as well as the government in Libya of the man who has become known as the man who controls the fortune of the now deceased North African leader who was deposed in a violent coup.

Known to have been resident in South Africa for at least two years, he was seen at the centenary celebrations of the African national Congress and the Brics Durban gathering in 3/'13.

It is thought that as much as £168m /\$1bn of looted assets; including gold and diamonds are hidden in four banks and two security companies. Officials in Tripoli regard the missing assets as belonging to the state and recovery of this amount would go some way towards recovering the \$80bn illegally hidden away during the Gaddhafi 's rule in Libya.

Wed 5

As Oscar Pistorius appeared in a Pretoria court, as a preliminary to his full trial over the alleged murder of his girlfriend in 2/ '13 (qv) the magistrate issued a warning to attending press.

The presiding court official, D Thurl, lambasted both local and international media that an aggressive style of reporting “threatened the fountains of justice” and sanctity of the South African legal system. Such was his anger at the release of pictures of the bloodied bathroom; site of the death of the victim that he called on the countries police national prosecution department to investigate whether publication of pictures was 'scandalous conduct towards the court' or more seriously contempt of court.

The case against the para Olympic medal winner was postponed till 19/8.

With the Marikana mine shootings of 2012 (qv 15/8) still in the minds of the employers and employees fears of disruption in the mining sector are much in evidence. So serious do the authorities take the situation that they will deploy a peace keeping force during what has become to be called the striking season.

There already signs that unrest in the mining areas, centred on Rustenburg east of

Johannesburg, is already occurring. Just recently a union official, from Association of Mineworkers and Construction union [Amcu]; the very union that was usurped National Union of Mineworkers that heralded the deaths at the Lonmin owned mine with the resultant massacre of striking workers by the police.

The present situation; Anglo American face workers disruption as it plans to sack 6, 000 employees and the Marikana mine was recently closed as workers walked out after a Amcu official was shot dead.

Figures released in 2/12 have tried to dispel the myth that the mining industry is in crisis. Mines minister S Shabangu notes from the 993 mines of 2004 there were nearly 1, 600 by 2011. Revenue £6.6bn /R98bn to R370 by the end of 2011. Employment, over the same period has risen from 449, 000 to 530, 000 by 6/12.

To forestall any mine disputes president Zuma requires his deputy to broker a peace deal between the two mining unions although both sides of the industry are ready to apportion blame for the troubles in the usual places.

An alternative view to the shrinking of the mining industry has been forwarded by political economist Moeletsi Mbeki, brother of the former president Thabo. He relies on history; The great days of the wealth coming out of the countries gold mines was then down to the migrant cheap labour of 140 to 150 years ago. Times change and expectations of workers also change. “Workers are voters.”

Sat 8

News item, with what is deemed an escalation of the ongoing lung infection; that has seen the former president Nelson Mandela spend time in hospital, a return to being an in patient has been ordered by the medics.

Sun 9

More details have emerged, about the why 's and wherefores of the return of Nelson Mandela to a Pretoria hospital, have emerged. According the the long time associate of the former president, Mac Maharaji, detailed that he had been taken from his Houghton home in the middle of the night.

So concerned were members of the family that his wife, Graca Machel, stayed away from a long time engagement; speaking in London at a hunger summit, and spent the night at the side of her husbands bed. It was also noted, By his spokesman; “Lets face it, he 's been through this many times and he 's been through worse issues. He 's survived.

This week **1964** “Many people feel impelled to protest against the sentence of life imprisonment passed on Nelson Mandela and seven others in Pretoria; and certainly these heroic men deserve all sympathy. but a future government may congratulating themselves now that they have seen the last of him. But a future government may well be thankful that he is still there, to provide some chance of settlement and continuity.”

Mon 10

As Nelson Mandela spends a second night in the care of the medics at a Pretoria hospital friend, A Mlangni voices the question that all South Africans fear the answer. "Is it time to let him go" was the quote used in the Sunday Times newspaper.

The Rivoena trialist and Robben Island veteran noted that the former president was 94 years old. Was it not time that his body was allowed to rest and allow to take its natural course. Put his life in the hands of God and if he is released from this earth than the family and the people of the nation will "thank you ... you have given us this man and we will release him too."

Meanwhile Mandela family members continue to visit the patient who, according to his daughter Zindi, "seen my father and he 's well. He is a fighter.

Tues 11

Despite the condition of Nelson Mandela, being deemed serious and stable the former South African president resided in the intensive care unit [Radio 2 news 16. 00] president Zuma reiterated an earlier call for all South Africans to pray for Madiba and the family at this time.

An unknown senior government official has been quoted in the Star newspaper as saying "It 's scary. He 's still holding onto his life, but it 's bad."

Wed 12

With the former president Nelson Mandela housed in the Mediclinic Heart Hospital in Pretoria receiving intensive care treatment outside the ICU security around the hospital has been increased. Police are now stopping vehicles and searching them as they enter hospital grounds.

In an interview, with the state television broadcaster, president Zuma let it be known that Madiba 's doctors had briefed him on the 92 year old 's medical condition and was confident they knew what they were doing.

Another Rivoena trialist and Robben Island resident, Denis Goldberg, has entered the debate; as to whether there is a time to let a man of his age "accept that each of us plays our role and then moves on. Let him go, let him go with our love ... admiration and our wish to emulate him."

New item, Speaking in parliament president Zuma noted that the condition of Nelson Mandela has significantly improved.

Fri 14

Estimated population for Angola, by 2100, is set to rise according to the latest projection

from the United Nations to, 97m by 2025; a rise of 76m on its last projection.

Sat 15

As former president Mandela spends his seventh day in hospital the nation awaits the release of two films that deal with the Mandela legacy. First to emerge will be an adaptation, from 2011 (qv 11/11) of The Long Walk to Freedom. Cast as Nelson Mandela is Idris Elba and Naomi Harris as Winnie M. The film will concentrate on the period 1924 to 1994. The film is due out in 11/'13.

The much delayed film depicting a similar time period centres on struggles of Winnie Mandela over this same period. Already having been seen, and panned by the critics, at a festival in 2011 the film was recalled for an overhaul.

Sun 16

Speaking to the press, after visiting his Grandfather in his Pretoria hospital, Mandla Mandela, along with with the former presidents his daughters Zindi Makaziwe and Zenani Dlamini, were able to say “we say an improvement in his health. We would like to extend our appreciation to all the doctors and the nurses who took care of him.

Tues 18

A statement from the wife of Nelson Mandela in which Graca Machel thanked the public; who had “lightened the burden of anxiety” with all their messages of goodwill delivered to the family.

Some of her words””What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made in the lives of others” are words that the former president has used in better times.

Sun 23

News item, after 10 days in hospital Nelson Mandela 's medical condition, treatment for a long standing ling complaint, has now been deemed critical. On speaking to the press one of many his visitors, Jacob Zuma, asked the nation to pray for the former South African president.

Mon 24

Noted attacks on the complacency of the African National Congress governments since 1994 are well documented. Here the writer, who who was active in the during the struggle for majority rule and a government minister in Mandela 's first administration.

Seemingly the new government was 'persuaded' to accept a financial loan from the International Monetary Fund even before it had won the countries first multi racial election. The deal was done late in 1993 at the home of Harry Oppenheimer when fledgling ANC economists, mineral and energy business leaders from the USA and

Britain.

Once the deal was done, after 4/94 the new government was tied to the business ethos of the developed world. Thus on the eve of the first elections the leadership made a first fatal error. The second, in the eyes of the former cabinet minister, was not to follow a wealth generating policy; the taxing of the white business elite with which to finance the vast expectations of the people that were the main supporters of the internal struggle.

It would seem that the policies of the Mandela government were too inclined to the communist elements. Fears of armed conflict unsettled the administration. However fears of a white led uprising were groundless; there were too many factions involved. - **R Kasrils**

Fri 28

Spending his twenty first day as a patient of the Mediclinic Hospital, Park St Pretoria the condition of Nelson Mandela was deemed by president Zuma "critical but now stable."

However the main concern of the extended Mandela family, who continued to make visits throughout the day, were the actions of the overseas press who were gathered outside the hospital. Chief spokesman, for the family daughter, Makaziwe accuse the press pack of "crossing boundaries" and acting like vultures over any little bit of information.

Sat 29

Away from outside the Pretoria hospital, where Madiba resides, connected activity is noted in the village of Qunu where Nelson Mandela spent a number of years before he moved to Johannesburg.

Although it is frowned upon, in the Xhosa tribal tradition to talk about someone's death while they are still alive, such is happening just off the N2 road in South Africa's Eastern Cape. Roads are being widened and residents of the nearby village of Mthana residents tell tales of their memories of the time then recently released Robben Island prisoner made visits.

The writer believes that Nelson Mandela is the ultimate example of moral authority which is defined as a being given to one who has suffered and then has the presence of mind to forgive those who caused his suffering. His response to the brutality he has endured and his lack of revenge establishes him as one who has moral authority. - **J Freedland** -

News item, The president of the United States has arrived on his South African leg of his African tour. His first engagement, at the Soweto campus of Johannesburg University, where he attended a student question and answer session. Outside the building there was a small anti American demonstration. Soon under control by the police the crowd dispersed after they fired a number of rubber bullets.

As to whether Barrack Obama would visit Nelson Mandela in hospital the decision would be left to the family.

Sun 30

Praised by Jacob Zuma, for being out of the same mould as Nelson Mandela; the first black person to rule their respective governments the American president stayed away from the bedside of the 94 year old former president before having trade and cooperation talks with the countries present leader.

A feud, that has engulfed the extended Mandela family and the choice of the former presidents favoured burial site has occupied the Eastern Cape. It was always his intention to be laid to rest alongside the bodies of his three dead children born to the first two of his wives.

As the family considered who would become head of the clan, a position of great authority in Xhosa tradition, it emerged that grandson Mandla Mandela had moved the three siblings remains from their original sit; where the then president named as his last resting place, to a more fitting site in Mveso 15 miles distant from Qunu.

After the court ruled that the coffins must be removed and returned to their original resting place Mandla's assured place as clan chief 'in waiting' was revoked. This status position will now be held by Makaziwe Mandela aged 60.

Profile Graca Machel born in Gaza province of Mozambique 1945. Educated Methodist Mission schools until transfer to University of Lisbon to study German philosophy. Married in 1975 to Mozambique president untimely death, rumoured t be at the hands of the Pretoria government. Second marriage in 1998.

JULY 2013

Mon 1

News item, the former wife of Nelson Mandela details her current feelings about her former husband, his third wife and the time when the ANC government had her charged with kidnap.

Tues 2

As the South African authorities continue their attempt to have Shreen Dewani extradition back to Cape Town over the murder of his wife Anni London barrister H Kieth QC made Pretoria's arguments for his return at Westminster magistrates court.

Since the last court appearance in 2012 (qv 14/11) the businessman, who was acknowledged to have been suffering from depression and post traumatic stress disorder has made enough of a recovery to be sent back.

The court was told that since his last appearance in court his depression had lifted slightly and his PTSD was now graded as moderate by psychiatrists. Whilst the accused has a poor memory of events connected with the woman's death and may not be ready to stand trial but the prospect of a full recovery was sufficient for the movement order to be made.

Wed 3

The South African high court, sitting in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, has heard the case that brought to its head the row over who; rather than Mandla Mandela would become clan chief once Nelson Mandela was no longer around (qv 30/6).

With 16 members of the Mandela family, with out the errant grandson, in attendance the judge listened to the arguments put forward by the lawyers as to whether the children of the former president should be re interred at the site chosen rather than the village of Mvezo where the grandson had moved the coffins in 2011.

News item, the courts in South Africa have ordered that the deceased children of Nelson Mandela must be returned to the site they were originally buried.

Thurs 4

Hard on the heels of the high court order (qv 3/7) for the late children of Nelson Mandela to be returned for burial site in Qunu the police are to investigate the actions of the grandson Mandla. For tampering with the grave.

Nationwide the family dispute is raising concerns as to the long term view of the man himself. Nelson Mandela was a unifier and this family row is turning their concerns into a soap opera; Dallas.

Fri 5

Tales told by Nelson Mandela 's grandson Mandla in defence of his actions that resulted in the high court ruling of 4/7. As to the condition of the former president, now in hospital for about 25 days, another grandson Zondwa notes that although he is uncomfortable and wearing an oxygen mask at all times he understands the spoken word even though he cannot speak.

Wed 10

An end to a eight week inquest into the death, of Angolan national Jimmy Mubenga; facing deportation from Britain in 20011 (qv 17/3) the coroner has said that the cause of death was due to the actions of the three G4S security personal accompanying him on the flight back to Luanda.

Such a verdict has prompted the Crown Prosecution Service to look again at the possibility of charging the company, and its three employees, with corporate manslaughter charges.

Cartoon Jimmy Mubengo RIP

Fri 12

In an attempt to improve the feel good factor of the city of Johannesburg the city council went on the advertising trail and painted its economy in a better light than the facts really were. Such was the anger of resident S Haywood that he complained to the countries advertising standards authority.

The authorities ruled that the wording of the advert makes one believe that the electrification of homes is “ongoing saving the environment through different environment through different environmental interventions continues to create new jobs despite the economic downturn. “ In fact the unemployment rate in the city in 2012 was 24.5%.

The ruling from the advertising authority was that the advert “in its present form” should be with drawn immediately ... “in its current form communicates a misleading message about the well being of the respondent.” The council will appeal the decision.

Programme notes, discussion of the role of crime fiction in South Africa. **Foreign Bodies**

Sat 13

Souring relationships, with the government of Zimbabwe, have led to the unearthing of an alleged plan to assassinate president Zuma. The almost illiterately written two page report written on 2/7 indicates that six Lebanese nationals were targeted with his killing and presidential advisor Lindiwi Zulu.

While this incident may be dismissed as rubbish and hogwash as the Zanu PF spokesman Rugare Gumbo did “we had a disagreement with Lindwi Zulu but it would not go to that

extent. There has been other tales to tell of members of the Zimbabwe secret service targeting dissidents on home turf. The latest incident E C Chininga the chair of a parliamentary commission that issued a highly critical report on the diamond industry.

Tues 16

On the eve of Nelsons Mandela 's birthday the South African artist John Adams puts the finishing touches to an acrylic on canvas painting of the former president that adorns the side of the driveway of his residence in the Houghton suburb of Johannesburg.

The thinking behind the picture was the artists way of thanking the countries first black president for creating the educational opportunities that enabled him to become an artist. The picture will auctioned for charity at a later date.

Thurs 18

News item, on former president birthday a health report, given by president Zuma, notes that although he is still in a critical condition he is improving.

As Nelson Mandela celebrates his 95th birthday two of his grand daughters, S Dlamini and Z D Manaway launch the latest of the Mandela fashion range; T shirts @ R 299/ £20. They bear on of two slogans “Revolutionary” or “Long Walk to Freedom.”

For the birthday boy 40 members of his family were expected to gather at his Pretoria Hospital bedside. Instead of one cake the family would be taking 95 cup cakes and cards made by the Mandela children.

Fri 19

As the family did what a family does on their relatives birthday so the Mandela family did. Those who were not so lucky were still able to follow his wish that one minuet of good works should be done for every year that the African National Congress fought to bring about the end of the apartheid regime.

Thus many people spent sixty seven minuets doing good works such as planting trees painting orphanages or speaking about the legacy that Mandela inspires in this generation of South Africans;”makes us walk tall ... and reminds us that we have the capacity of being a great nation” as Desmond Tutu noted.

Sat 20

“Who are your political hero 's Mandela he 's a human hero that day he came out of Robben Island and stood their and forgave everybody, I just thought this man was Jesus. I don 't regard him as a political hero T think he s on a higher plane than that.” - N Farage
United Kingdom Independence Party -

Mon 22

The boy Harry Sindane who divided a nation in 2003 (qv 23/5) an update; DNA testing

deemed that the boy, who was the result of a liaison, perhaps, between a German immigrant named Henry Nick and the housekeeper Rina Mzayiya.

The country's population, still emerging from the horrors of the apartheid era, had no more use for white on black transgressions; too busy living down the horrors of the last 60 years. The commercial world, a paint company, however tried to use the colour issue as an advertising slogan. They failed and had to pay

The boy who would be white used his court settlement, firstly, to put up a grand headstone to his stepmother Betty Sindane. Other monies were then used to purchase new clothes and expensive sunglasses. Money was also spent on alcohol.

After time employed in the towns of the Reef he returned to Tweefontain and drinking in the JZ bar with a fondness to lying in the road when drunk; such antics caught up with him in 4/13 and he was run over and died as a result of his injuries.

All aspects of the funeral were covered by donations, from the paint company who started off his wealth, and public donations ended with disputes between the Sindane's and the family of his mother R Mzayiya.

Tues 23

Much in the same way that the cartoonist Zapiro defended his actions in 2012 (qv 18/5) in his depiction of the president so does the director of the controversial film A Good Report; which would have been shown at the Durban film festival until the film censors decided that to do so breached the 1996 Film and Publication Act.

Just as the cartoonists work depicted the president's attitude to women the film brought back memories of the apartheid era as the film's subject matter was sex/love across the racial divide.

Wed 24

News item, the magistrate at the Westminster court has sanctioned the extradition of S Dweni accused by the South African police for the murder of his wife Annie. His lawyers are to appeal the decision.

Fri 26

With health enhancing properties; caffeine free rich, rich in minerals antioxidants, and a product that has brought brought much wealth to the country the Roodipos trade name is coming under attack from a French manufacturer who wants to trademark the name.

The naturally growing red bush, its Afrikaans name, is wanted by Compagnie de Truncy for its own tea like product with health giving properties. Thus the South African Roodibos Council fear that if its granted Paris would not allow the African product to be sold in Europe. The rush is now on to challenge the 'exclusive ownership clause' in the trade mark application. The rush is now on to have all the appeal documents, written in

French, and before the relevant committee within four days.

To lose the exclusive production rights would cost the South African economy R600m /£40m.

AUGUST 2013

Mon 5

Ended has the inquest of Jimmy Mbenga (qv 10/7) the names of the 3 G4S officers; S Tribelnig, T Hughes and C Kaler are now known. The coroner Karon Monaghan has delivered a 30 page to the Home Office. With seven main points raised in the 'rule 43' report it is hoped that more deaths can be averted.

Wed 7

Pretoria is to pay the white owner of a 32, 500 acre /13, 300 hectares Game Park; land that was seized from the Mhlanganisweni people during the apartheid era. At their first attempt to regain possession, through the national land claims court they failed. This next attempt will be through the constitutional court.

The cash offered to owner M Rattay for the MalaMala land is, according to the media R1bn / £66m. One of the high profile backers of the claim by the 15, 000 community is the expelled ANC youth league president Julius Malema who now leads The Economic Freedom Fighters Party, a new political party.

Commenting on the deal the party leader noted with the already stated complaint of the community that to compensate the white owner would be a second reward “as he would then benefit twice from apartheid.”

Thurs 8

The head of the recently formed Agang SA political party, Mamphela Ramphele and Julius Malema have been exchanging near insults. The former BCM anti apartheid activist and the former ANC youth league leader turned political party leader (qv 7/8) have clashed over his political party; Economic Freedom Fighters style of canvassing ahead of the 2014 elections. The former academic has likened his approach to that of Hitler or Mussolini who make dangerous promises on policy. In this case to beat the African National Congress at the election.

However before that time there is the matter of being on R10, 000 bail over 2012 corruption charges (qv 22/9) involving R4m/£260, 500. Other charges; fraud, money laundering and racketeering. Also there will have to be a repayment, to the countries Tax service of R16m /£1m as homes and farms owned by him have been sold of to settle the debt in recent times.

Fri 9

Born and schooled in in KwaMashu outside the port city of Durban in the 1990 's and always frightened of large people and crowds the diminutive S 'manga Khulamo has achieved a breakthrough into the sport of horse racing.

With the help of being spotted by a talent scout for the Durban Jockey Academy in 2000

and after the five year apprenticeship he has won the countries most prestigious horse race. Entered in the Vodacom Durban July derby for the first time the R3.5m/ £232, 729 prize was his to collect. The race has a history of of all white winners for 116 years.

Sat 10

With an apology from the German people in 2004 (qv 6/9) the Namibian authorities have moved to rename the Caprivi Strip, the 450square Km strip of land that juts into Angola, as the Zambezi region. Its old origins; named after Count Leo von was not thought appropriate more than 100 years after his death.

The most affected ethnic people by the German colonial rule, the Nama, are still sold short on their treatment at the hands of European Nation. The book What Dawid Knew by Patricia Grey details the concentration camps that the ethnic clans were forced into at the height of early protests at the German rule.

Fri 16

News report, 12 months on from the worst massacre killings of black South Africans the judicial inquiry into the miners deaths at the Marikans mine is no further forward in apportioning blame. Non of the police, who killed 34 of the Lonmin owned mine have been charged with any crime. It would seem that the police themselves are claiming that they were the ones attacked.

Other reports note that the mining industry in the country is still run in the same style as it was during the days of apartheid; cheap wages and an expendable workforce.

Sat 17

A locally organised commemoration, by the Marikana support group, of the miners that died 12 months ago was not blessed by the attendance of any African National Congress cabinet ministers. Defending the politicians stance the premier of North West province, Kenny Morlonga, noted that there would be notables present as the MSG was a group that the ANC does not recognise.

As to the organising committee, which met in Johannesburg, days before the premiers stinging rebuke was heard other not so reticent 'notables' offered their organising skills. The ensuing committee included bishop J Seoka, president of the South African Council of Churches, Bali Mpofo one of the lawyers representing the miners who survived the police bullets and J Mathunjwa the president of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union.

One notable who did attend the gathering, and received a hero 's welcome was Julius Malema. His address to the assembled miners and their families; "I'm a politician and I'm here to talk politics. Lomin and Jacob Zuma 's government have blood on their hands ...Zunma sent police to kill innocent people, yet he still has his job. We cannot talk peace.

Fri 23

The countries Institute of Security Studies report on Police brutality covering the period 2001 to 2012 notes a 313% rise in reported incidents. In the 2001/2 period there were 416 cases reported. In its latest report; 2011/12 1, 722 incidents were noted by the ISS.

A spokesman, G Newnham, noted that in the latest report 11, 880 cases were thought severe enough to have the Independent Police Investigation Directorate open a case file on the reported incident. Even then there were only 2, 576 prosecutions which led to 129 convictions. As of this time there has been no prosecution of any police officer attending the 2012 Marikana mine tragedy.

As to the reported incidents; 720 deaths in police custody. Disciplinary hearings, that led to the officers sacking fell from 12.2% - 9.6% between '09/'10 to 2011/'12 when more than one third brought no sanction against any officer. Cases withdrawn or a not guilty verdict handed down; 2, 049.

Police and civilians working for the force who already had criminal convictions on entering employment numbered 1, 448.

Sat 24

With the country ever in the need for more energy sources the Pretoria regime has seen fit to allow fracking; the extraction of shale gas from deep underground below the Karoo region.

In this semi desert land mass of 154, 000 square miles there are one hundred towns and one million people. The decision to allow the process, that some deem dangerous to the environment, was made by the vice president K Motlanthe after advice from the governments scientific advisory team.

According to R Davis, trade and industry minister, the soon to be developed area holds multiples of 100m cubic metres of gas from the northern Mozambique gas field.

Opposed to the governments plan is the Treasured Karoo Action Group whose chairman J Deal, notes that the minister is only after a short term fix and not thinking about the environmental damage noted in other countries; the USA where such fuel extractions are already in place.

Sun 25

The latest health update on the condition of Nelson Mandela notes that while he is in a critical condition the “doctors indicate that the former president has demonstrated great resilience and his condition tends to stabilise as a result of medical interventions.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Mon 2

After twelve weeks in the Mediclinic Hospital 31 miles away, from his Houghton suburb home, in Pretoria Nelson Mandela has returned. A spokesman for the president, Mark Maharaj noted that his friends condition was deemed by the medics as critical and unstable.

In essence South Africa 's first black president has left one intensive care unit for a second ICU.

Wed 4

Wishing the get under the skin of the township culture the white Hewitt family; Julian, Ena both aged 34 and children Julia aged 4 and Jessica aged two have experienced a month living in the town of Mamalodi on the outskirts of Pretoria.

From living in a four bedroom house with a swimming pool their new home was a one room tin shack. With no mains electricity, communal water tap and pit toilet the four existed for one month on the average of a black family of R3, 000/ £189. Their experiences were written up for both township and suburb dwellers to comment on.

Barely one year on from the massacre of mine workers in Rustenburg the main Mine employees union, the National Union of Mineworkers Union has called its members out on strike after the employers refused a claim for a wage rise of 60%.The Chamber of Mines offered 6.5% R300 /£18. 68 increase.

It is said that the daily cost of the industrial action, involving 64% of the workforce will cost the economy £22m per day.

The more radical mining union; the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union is pushing for a wage increase of 150%.

Fri 6

As firsts go the appointment of the first non white artistic director of the Market Street Theatre on the centre of Johannesburg is well noted after the 2010 position gained by R Naidoo (qv 2/9) at the Cape Town National Gallery.

A long time association with the theatre saw James Ngcobo, in the dark days of the apartheid era, too frightened to walk the city streets and return to the township where he lived.

During his time with the theatre his directing career has included sitcoms and big budget 14 European city tour festival. Most prestigious was the orchestration of the centenary celebrations of the African National Congress.

The new man was born 44 years ago in the KwaMashu township 44 years ago the 10th of twelve children to a factory working father and a house maid mother. Lots of happy times despite the rigours of the apartheid regime; separate beaches for whites and blacks.

Within days of arriving back to the Johannesburg suburb of Houghton the recently released Nelson Mandela and many of the other homes suffered a power cut from 8am to 23. 16 so said The Star newspaper. With the use of a portable generator the hospital conditions of his upstairs sterilised room was not affected and thus his medical treatment continued unabated.

In recent times a mistake by the electricity supply company wrongly claimed that the Mandela household had used R6468. 48 / £430 worth of electricity and not paid the bill. Soon rectified as the company apologised and indicated the court summons had been sent to the wrong house.

Fri 13

With the vote in parliament, of the Protection of State Information Bill (qv 26/4) the natural assumption that it would be signed into law by president Zuma seemed the natural conclusion of any would be whistle blower or investigative journalist. However having thought long and hard the South African president has sent the bill back to parliament for revision.

Outlining his objections Zuma noted that the bill did “not pass constitutional muster.”

Sat 14

Following the daughters of Nelson Mandela and their moves to isolate those 'friends' of the first black president of South Africa (qv 11/4) another close friend and his lifetime lawyer Ayob Ismail is at the heart of a scandal that has seen the police mount an investigation.

This special police unit, the serious economic offences unit; the Hawks, have called on officials of the NM Children 's Fund, Mandela Trust and the NM Foundation to provide the unit with financial records and bank statements of family members, trustees and employees. It is alleged that R15m /£1m has gone missing.

The inclusion of Ayob Ismail is thought to relate to the time that the art work by Nelson Mandela, lithographs and paintings, were being sold and exhibited around the world in aid of his then recently set up Children 's Foundation

Thurs 19

Radio report, an independent expert 's investigation of the South African police evidence that the husband of Annie Dewani was in any way involved involved in her murder, has been condemned. It is his opinion that if such evidence was produced for use in a British court the case would be thrown out.

OCTOBER 2013

Tues 8

A vaccine, developed by the British based pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline and part funded to the tune of \$200m by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, under the auspices of the Global Alliance of Vaccination Alliance, has been trialed for the last 24 months at a hospital in Durban South Africa.

Initial reading , of the one million pages of test data, has shown that the best results were obtained when the injection was given to the patient at the age of five months or at the latest 7 months of age. Immunised by the RTS vaccine results showed cut the number of cases in babies aged 6 – 12 weeks by one quarter and lasted for 18 months. Although such survival rates were down on the expectation rates were down on the norm for the developed nations such rates in malaria infected regions any life saving measures would be welcomed.

The developing company, GKS, says the vaccine will be not for profit. However in the future 5%, for additional research into new vaccines, will be added. As of this time the company has spent £218m/ \$350 in developing the vaccine and expects to invest another \$260m extra before 2015, the expected date of the child immunisations to begin.

Throughout the African continent it is known that, going on 2010 estimates, that 596, 000 people suffer from malaria.

Thurs 10

As in The UK the private security firm G4S, condemned at the inquest of an Angolon nation that died in their care (qv), officers in the Free State have had trouble controlling the activities of the prison inmates of Mangaung correctional centre outside the town of Bloemfontein.

Such are the problems, 30 incidents since 2004, that the Department of Correctional Services in Pretoria has sacked the management. The running of the prison will now be taken 'in house' until such time as as “the situation has normalised and the safety ans security of the inmates and warders can be ensured” in the words of Zach Modise a regional DSC commissioner.

As of this time a management team of ten officials from the department will run this maximum security facility that caters for 3, 000 prisoners. Only then will the world wide security company once again take charge of the day to day running.

Sat 12

Angola, historical note see “The Slave Trade, the history of the Atlantic Slave trade 1440 to 1870 by H Thomas, pages 364 and 365.

Tues 22

News item, the former guerilla army, then fighting the government that took control of the Portuguese colony of Mozambique in 1975, is near to making a decision as to whether to renege of its cease fire agreement that ended the civil war in the 1990's.

According to a spokesman for the London based think tank Chatem House the MNR was always a

military force and had no experience of being thrust into the position of a political organisation. Thus they were ill equipped to take on the role to counter the actions of the Frelimo government as the rebuilding of the war torn state began.

Seen throughout the continent as a country that has a growing economy, as new sources; minerals of income are developed the Opposition MNR are ill equipped ensure a fair distribution of wealth throughout the population.

Fri 25

Programme notes, an understanding of the tactics, failures and the ultimate success of the terrorism organisation the African National Congress. Those taking part include 'notables' of the black population and their white oppressors.

Mon 28

A report, published by the media department of the Johannesburg based University of Witwatersrand University after 12 months of investigation, has found large scale management abuse of the inmates of Managung Correction Centre. This at the time that the British based G4S private security company were charge.

The report, accompanied by video evidence, gives numerous reports of inappropriate actions by the prisons emergency security team. Their methods; to quieten disruptive patients was the use of an electric shot followed up with an injection of one of a number of anti psychotic drugs Clopixol, Risperdal, Etetmine or Modecate.

As a result of this treatment numbers of former prisoners have engaged the London based law firm Leigh Day. There will also be an inquiry by the countries prison department.

Wed 30

The longest trial, on treason charges, in South African history, which began with the remand of ten persons in 2002 (qv 14/9), has seen those left alive saw the groups leader; Mick du Toit of the Boermag jailed for 32 years for the many attempts that the a right wing racist organisation planned to assassinate the then president Nelson Mandela. Overall the judge, Justice Eben Jordaan , sat through a trial that cost that cost £2.3m /R36m and heard 61, 000 pages of evidence.

Some of the more unusual methods of of ridding the country of blacks considered was to line the roads north to Zimbabwe with food parcels. Numerous plans were made to rid the state of its first black president included detonating a bomb on the roadside as he passed on the way to open a school in Limpopo province. However the president travelled north in a helicopter.

With the tacit approval of the countries national prosecution authority extra charges will be added to the charge sheet of Oscar Pistorius when he appears in court, in 3/14, These relate to the discharge of a weapon in a public place. These facts had already been aired at an earlier hearing in the Pretoria court.

NOVEMBER 2013

Sat 2

Long is known the early life of Nelson Mandela and his early commitment to the cause of the African National Congress and his out of Africa travels, in 1962, to receive military training among those liberation groups already well established.

One of his last stops, before returning to the apartheid state and ultimate long jail time, was in Ethiopia where he received military training in the handling of small arms. On leaving the country he was gifted the weapon, a Markov pistol, which until 2011 remained lost (qv 17/3).

With this background the eminent British film director J Irvin will weave this element of the early life of Nelson Mandela into a drama/ documentary which covers the early life of the man who eventually becomes the first black president of South Africa. Madiba will, for the first time ever, be portrayed by an actor born inside the country; Tumisho Masha.

Sun 3

As the first showing of the biopic of Nelson Mandela 's rise to the presidency of South Africa, Mandela; Long Walk to Freedom nears, the future of the African National Congress as the only style of government is debated as the country faces the 2019 general/presidential election.

There are those that say Mandela is still the greatest asset that the present government has as a rallying point for the voters. It is still trading on his legacy. The real issue, rival political parties; the Economic Freedom Fighters party and Agang SA led by Julius Malema and Mamphela Ramphele respectively are keen to point out to the electorate the deficiencies of the current president Jacob Zuma.

Sat 9

As is written elsewhere in this diatribe the hard fought battle of Solomon Linnda 's family to win the recognition he deserved for penning the music and words to the Lion Sleeps Tonight; the song used in the in the Disney classic of the same name. Unfortunately the author died died 40 years ago, in poverty and with no grave headstone.

In recent times the African National Congress government and the opposition Democratic Alliance have been pondering other items of a South African 'traditional knowledge; everything from the Zulu bead work and dolls down to the folk songs of the indigenous peoples of the country.

The government proposed an amendment to the current intellectual property laws. This did not go far enough said said the opposition spokesman for trade and industry Wilmot James. This was voted down by the government at the committee stage.

An example of to a heavy clamp down, on property rights, could affect collaborations with those that perform traditional music alongside more Westernised music. Think Paul Simon Graceland LP which gave a platform to the songsters Lady Smith Black Mbaza.

Also trapped within this diatribe are other details of the miss management of international property rights concerning, in on case Khoisan peoples use of the hoodia plant which was used to suppress their hunger and thirst by an international pharmaceutical company based in the UK who had plans

to market, the active ingredient as a weight loss product.

Tues 12

Born, out of the need to build new venues for the 2010 World Cup, in 2005 this writer and his organisation, S' bu Zokode [Residents of the Sheds], has 12, 000 members. Their aim is to fight, both legally and with violence if such is offered against those who are being evicted from their homes in the shanty towns that are numerous in and around Durban in the Eastern Cape.

It would seem that the regions police and its politicians are working in unison to exclude shanty dwellers from the every day life of the country. Gone are your rights if not supportive of the ANC government. Thrown off land you have occupied for a long time your family may be pushed into a home that is badly build without basic facilities. In such cases the movement makes illegal connections to these services. If disconnected group reconnection occurs.

Serious crime, the death of Nkululeko Gwala on 12/6, after being hit by twelve bullets said to have come from the weapons from a senior police officer. To date no investigation or charges have ensued. This is just one of a number of cases in the Cato Crest Camp outside Durban.

“We can 't wait in the mud, shit and fire for ever. We have no choice but to take our own place in the political life of the country.

Fri 15

Well known is the fear, of the suburban city dweller, of breaches of their personnel security which leads them to exist in gated communities. As of this time they have now to fear for their security beyond the grave.

It has been noted recently that at the Avalon and West Park cemeteries in Johannesburg at least 20 marble grave headstones have been stolen. To avoid the losses the company Memorial Alert will place a motion censor within the body of the headstone that, when movement is detected, sends a signal to the company who then inform the deceased relatives and security patrols of the incident.

Mon 18

Well known for being ignored the Sans people of Botswana who live in and around the Kalahari Desert are once again having to fight for their rights. Ever since 2004 (qv 5/3) when their traditional lands were the subject of a court case.

As in South Africa (qv 24/8) the possibility of fracking, for methane, and other minerals, in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve; spanning 52, 800 square Km – an encroachment on the Sans traditional lands. The company hoping to exploit thee underground reserves Debswana, a joint venture between the countries government with De Beers mining conglomerate and Australia 's Tamboran Resources.

As in all cases of fracking the fear is of water pollution and a lowering of the water table. These lands are environmentally sensitive and all agree that the wildlife would suffer if the the water supply was tainted or disrupted in any way. Through these lands some 30, 000 to 60, 000 range as they travel north to the countries second National Park Chobe.

According to Richard Lee, the communications manager of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, such widespread disruptions to the environment should not be carried out in secrecy, lack of

consultation or disregard for the opinions of the local populations.

Tues 19

Still deemed to be in a 'stable condition' a bed bound Nelson Mandela received a visit from his second wife Winnie Madikizela Mandela. Speaking to the press the former first lady noted that the bedroom looks like an intensive care unit found in any hospital in the country.

The still quite ill former president is unable to speak, because of the tubes from his mouth into his lungs to clear the fluid collected therein. The former president uses facial expressions to express his wished to communicate with visitors and the 22 medical staff that are in constant attendance.

Thurs 21

As Oscar Pistorius, charged with the murder of his girl friend Reeva Steenkamp, faces court in 3/14 additional felonies will be added to the charge sheet. Namely the discharge of a weapon on two occasions in a public place.

Details; the first, reckless discharge of a weapon through the sun roof of a vehicle he was a passenger in, and the second charge relates to the Olympic athlete accidentally firing a friends weapon under table at a restaurant while he was examining a friends weapon.

Fri 22

Following the release of the biopic Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, which has received mixed reviews from audiences, the role of Winnie Mandela during the time that her then husband was a prisoner, has been brought into quiet focus once again.

The actor, who portrayed the wife of the jailed African National Congress leader, Naomie Harris, spoke from the stage after the films first showing. Having spoken to people of that era, who knew the women left on her own to bring up her husbands children, and continue against the apartheid regime noted how hard it was to judge her actions; condoning the 'necklacing' of alleged informers et al because they themselves were not in that position.

At the age of 77 Winnie Mandela has written a prison memoir; 491 Days detailing the brutality she suffered under the apartheid regime.

Sat 23

The death of Neil Aggett, the only white person, to die while in police custody during the apartheid era, occurred on 27. 11. 1982. He attracted the attention of the security police because he was a white medic working exclusively in the black townships. This anti apartheid activist died-committed suicide - according to the official inquest and reproduced in the book Peoples War: New Light on the Struggle for South Africa by A Jeffery pub 2009 page 54 "because he betrayed fellow activists"

The recent work of the countries Directorate of Priority Crime, Hawks, encouraged by sister J Burger, and 6, 000 pages of new evidence, will see their believed chief torturer police Lieutenant Steven Whitehead, face a civil prosecution of murder.

Although it is known that this security policeman has appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1998 he chose not to admit his culpability and therefore receive amnesty for this

crime.

In a country, that has eleven official languages, those school age children of rural dwellers; especially in the KwaZulu Natal province, are deemed to be at a disadvantage once the children pass into secondary school where most of the lessons are taught in English. With parents who have no understanding of how to assist with homework their child's potential employment prospects become limited.

However with the help of the David Batty Foundation, which works with 17 schools within the province to improve the children's potential during their time in secondary education. National pass rates for matriculation rose from 70.2% in 2011 to 73.9% twelve months later. However in KwaZulu the best pass rate ranged from 100% to the worst performing rate of 4.7% in Umzinyathi district.

Sun 24

Many of the British based shareholders of the South African mining company Lomin await the result of the report into the police massacre of striking platinum miners in 8/12 which has now been promised within months. Much of the share ownership belongs to the pension funds of trade unions. The largest in the Unison trade union. There concerns will be aired at the companies AGM to be held within the next seven days. The Church Commissioners, of the Church of England are also known to have a share portfolio to the value of £704,000.

Of more concern, to the international community are the findings of an inquiry by the London based Bureau of Investigative Journalism who, after several months of investigation have unearthed a number of facts that need a full explanation.

Details; even before the strike began mine management and the South African police were working towards the breaking of the miners strike because of its alleged 'political content'. Prior to the walk out a large number of private security personnel were employed by the management to act with the state authorities to provide extra CCTV and ambulances. Photo evidence indicated that live ammunition had been supplied to them.

In London head office management, via e mail and the written word, are known to have lobbied the local police and the Pretoria government to send extra police to the mine. The final report; the Farlam Commission, is expected in 4/14.

With the knowledge of the hardships that South African children; such as 16 year old Kgotso Mere who told the British based charity Dramatic Need of the suicide of her father the founder Danny Boyle, face the film director has persuaded London based 'notables' to provide art work for sale.

Names already signed up are the controversial Chapman brothers, Jake and Dinos who won the Turner prize in 2003. Other names bringing their visual responses of tales told to the auction house are Rachel Whitehead and Anthony Gormley.

Fri 29

Recent moves by the Luanda government to downgrade the religious importance of the Muslim faith has angered the Islamic Community of Angola. There was also condemnation of the move, seen as an attempt to ban the faith, by the human rights based Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa. The movements spokesman for Angola, Ellis Isac noted that "the governments intolerant of

any differences.

In a country that is mainly Catholic the small number of the population who follow the Christian faith, numbering only 90, 000 out of the countries 18 million, fall well short of the 100, 000 followers that the authorities in Luanda require for a religion to be certified to practice in the country.

With only 78 mosques in the country remain unsanctioned over the past years there has been calls for them to be closed because of their illegality with the exception of those in the capital Luanda because they were classed as technically unlicensed. As of 10/ '13 the government rejected an application from 194 religious bodies including one based on the Muslim beliefs.

Within time the Muslim community must tear down their own mosques and clear the site within 73 hours. If not the government authorities will clear the site and then bill the community for the work.

In other moves against the faith women who wear the veil as an every day wear have been attacked on the street. In the most recent cases one women was attacked on the capitals streets. In a separate case a woman was beaten up on the street and told to go home.

Sat 30

Once again the spending of government money, on the country residence of president Zuma; Nkandla in KwaZulu Natal, has been raised in the South African written media. As in 2009 (qv 5/12) the cost to the taxpayer was put at R65m / £3.9m. As of now the cost has risen to R215m.

In an interim report; Opulence on a Grand Scale prepared by Thuli Madonsela the countries public prosecutor, writes that with still a claimed R31m work outstanding the outstanding work was in her belief non essential. Details; construction of a visitors centre, amphitheatre, cattle enclosure extra paving, repositioning of a relatives home and anew swimming pool.

Depending on the contents of the final report it is possible that the president will be ordered to appear before parliament to explain these excesses. The leader of the opposition Democratic Alliance, Lindiwe Mazibuko. would go further. Depending on the results of Jacob Zuma 's words of mitigation the DA leader may call on the legislative to begin procedures that would end in the president being impeached.

The media outlet, The Mail and Guardian, notes that the average black headed household earns R505.1/£302 per month. The paper also revealed that past presidents have spent proportionally less when making up grades to their official residences. The last white president, F W de Klerk; £14, 179 /R236, 000. Nelson Mandela; £1.9m / R32m.

Knowing how hard it is for the people of South Africa to to discuss the issues surrounding the issues off HIV infection without bringing Christian or abstinence issues or behavioural changes into any discussion a Heath professor James Lee has thought of importing a Kenyan broadcasting programme onto the screens in the country.

Now the second series of Shuga is to be broadcast in Nigeria where there 3.3 million people with Aids; which comes one place behind South Africa in African infection rates – the highest in on the continent – now believes is the time to have such a programme on TV screens. The informality, without the preaching element, is why the academic has donated copies of the programme to be screened to community health workers and teachers. Thus the hope of an open discussion round the dinning table about cause and effect of the infection will have a positive effect on the nation.

DECEMBER 2013

Mon 2

At a time when the London government have voted in a policy that, from 4/15, British dads can share in 12 months of parental leave after the birth of child. The South African government only allow three days of father/mother baby bonding time.

Thurs 5

News Flash, the first black president of the first multi racial government in South Africa, Nelson Mandela died at his home in the Johannesburg suburb of Houghton.

Fri 6

Surrounded by his family the news that Nelson Mandela had died was passed to the nation by president Zuma at 20. 50 as the third holder of the office noted that “nothing can diminish our sense of our profound loss ... a great son father. His humility , his compassion and his humanity earned him ... love.”

Now comes a severe challenge for the whole nation as the 'world and its mother' will want to attend the state funeral which will take place, as an internal document notes, 12 days after his death. Liable for revision it is said that more or less the approach that will be taken.

With the body removed, by the military authorities; who are always in charge of arrangements for the burial of the countries president, to the Pretoria Number One military hospital, for preparation for a lying in state after consultation with the family. Day three foreign diplomats briefed and the working out of the logistics of the former presidents lying in state happens. Day four foreign dignitaries visit Mandela 's grieving family.

By day six a memorial service attended by family and politicians. Lying in state, from day eight in Pretoria city hall till day eleven. Rehearsal, by the military, on day nine for funeral at the Union Building in the city take place. Meanwhile on this day the foreign heads of government begin to arrive at Pretoria and Johannesburg airports. By day 11 former president Mandela 's body will move across to the Union Building.

The most attention, from the countries 'notables' will be given to attendees from the African continent as well as those heads of governments that gave most assistance to the African national Congress during its years of armed struggle. The other diplomats, and 'media guests'; O Wimpfry will have to make their own arrangements.

Leader Comment, **A leader above all others** Nelson Mandela a man who “understood that the Afrikaners were a frightened and vulnerable tribe, that their laager would crumble. Through the lens of his own peoples tragedy he was able to perceive theirs.”

Sat 7

Scenes, not seen since the ebullient days of the end of the apartheid, era erupted on the streets of Soweto as those that suffered most under the Nationalist government; and a sprinkling of members of the white community came together to celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela.

Nowhere was this mood of remembrance more notable than in the Kliptown section of the country's largest squatter camp. Joining in were tourists who just happened to be on Vilakazi Street, the then home of the Mandela family and now a rededicated as the Museum of Apartheid.

The provisional announcement that the funeral service will be held in front of the Union Buildings in Pretoria seem to be changing. As of this time the location has moved to Qunu in the Eastern Cape. As was always known the former president was to be buried in the family cemetery.

Such is the distance, for the yet untold numbers of official guests, world leaders et al will have to travel away from the metropolitan centres of Johannesburg and Pretoria the logistic problems for the provincial leaders are many and varied. The Eastern Cape lacks the airport facilities such as will be needed at this time.

The vast majority of those who fought apartheid to the bitter end, the black majority, will be well accommodated at the memorial service which will be held in the Soccer City stadium, on the outskirts of Soweto which holds 94, 000.

Obituary Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela 18. 7. 1918 – 5. 12. 2013 *authors note see relevant index' s 1980 to date.*

Sun 8

With the funeral arrangements firmly in the hands of the Mandela family, the elite of the African National Congress the government's spokesman, Collins Chabane, will be liaising with National Operations Centre of South Africa 's security forces.

With the ending of the Soccer City Stadium memorial service where the capacity crowd is expected to be in excess of the 95, 000 capacity there has been assurance from the government minister that 'no one will be turned away'.

With the funeral, as well as the burial taking place in the Eastern Cape the whole road system around Qunu location will be cordoned off and only the funeral procession will be allowed through. Also only the TV crew from the South African Broadcasting Corporation will be allowed, from a respectful distance, to monitor the progress.

For others attending the laying to rest of Nelson Mandela the state airline will lay on special flights from both Johannesburg and Pretoria to the local airport of Mathana near Madiba 's home village. It is thought that some heads of state, the United States president, will arrive via helicopter after landing elsewhere in the country.

Examining the chances of the Mandela legacy surviving for any length of time as deep below the surface, as has been well documented, that House Mandela; the exploitation of his name by various close relatives has led to much adverse publicity in recent times.

Members of the Afrikaner nation, who are the small ethnic grouping, 9% of the population, who feared even as their soon to be president was freed from jail, that the majority black population would seek a blood thirsty revenge on their oppressors have little changed their minds.

In 1964, when Nelson Mandela and others were facing the death penalty the Observer, a rich source note for this diarist since the 1980's, kept the issue before the world. According to Mandela himself the reporting, by editor David Astor and like minded journalists, saved the African National Congress leader from being hanged.

Rebel, warrior, leader – and a man who inspired a nation was/ in Nelson Mandela 1918 – 2013.

Cartoon The spirit of Invictus lives

Mon 9

On a day that Pretoria deemed a day of prayer for Nelson Mandela ' life and works there were hymns of hope sung by the congregation at the main church in Soweto. At what many people will see as the 'struggle 's religious base; the Regina Mundane Catholic Church in the centre of the township, many of those attending the service prayed that “everyone would come together Mandela 's spirit to go well or the Lord has given this great man to us were just three of the asks of God. Throughout South Africa, in mosques, temples or synagogues similar words were spoken.

As the numbers of world 's media attempt to register there presence at the Johannesburg Nasrec Expo Building, an estimated 2 – 3, 000 there were repeated claims of delays as, rather than standing in line news organisations wanted their journalists out in the field filing stories.

The heads of state, and other 'notables' will fly into Mathana airport which is close to the village of Qunu where the former president will be interred alongside other members of his family and forebears. Other visitors will have to take one of the SAA flights into East London airport. From there the VIPs will travel to the venue in luxury coaches.

A plea from the provincial president Noxolo Kiviet to residents to open their homes to visitors because of lack of hotel space for overnights will, it is hoped, stem the round of profiteering that has emerged during the last few3 days. It has been reported that some residents of Qunu have been charging R10 / 60p for use of the toilets.

The death of Mandela will have a huge influence on the 2014 presidential election just as he had even many years after supposedly leaving the political scene in 1999. At all subsequent elections the spectre of the ANC 's first black president has loomed large during the campaign.

Whether the Zuma led government is successful, because it has been able to rely on the sympathy of the electorate who are willing to give the party one last chance to right the wrongs of the past, the intervening time will tell.

In recent times there has been the emergence of new political parties, Agang (qv) launched by M Ramaphole; to the Right of the government 's current position and J Malema 's Economic Freedom Fighters (qv) who although espouse a policy 'of the left' and is targeted towards the countries youth.

The need is for a challenger who the majority of the black poor can rely on to improve their living conditions. The emergence of a trade union rooted political party may emerge after supporting the successful 2007 winner the Congress of South African Trade Union feel let down. Within Cosatu the mine workers union, Numasa who were in the forefront of the apartheid struggle, may just be the organisation to form a political party to put forward the policies so demanded by the mass of the people.

For a man who throughout his life thought much about his children Nelson Mandela knew he would miss out on all those precious developments after being sentenced to jail in 1964. However with the help of the photographer Alf Kumolo a court photographer, he had known from his time as a barrister in the 1950 's it was agreed between the two of them that pictures of the children and wife Winnie Mandela would be sent to him on Robben Island. Upon his release in 1990 the former court picture taker noted many of the soon to be president 's intimate moments with the likes of Betsy

Verwoerd the widow of South Africa 's first National Party prime minister of 1948.

News item, Speaking as the founder of the Congress of Deputies a political party formed in 2009 (17/12) the former ANC member M Lekota is well aware of the allegations that surround the present government. Also other issues, more concerned with the death of Nelson Mandela were aired for the first time. One of his grand daughters noted how all the family came together at this time.

Tues 10

In excess of one hundred world leaders and heads of state will gather at the DNB Stadium; Soccer City Soweto Johannesburg the demographic of who will be seated next to who will be seen as of the greatest importance in the international context of world politics. Will the American president want to be seated near the president of Cuba Raul Castro or David Cameron near Robert Mugabe?

What is known is that there will be three past USA presidents, father and son Regan along with Bill Clinton on the Obama flight. On a flight from London will be the monarchs eldest son Charles then along with the head of the Conservative government will be two former Labour prime ministers, G Brown and T Blair along with another former Conservative PM Sir J Major. Those chosen to speak words in praise of Nelson Mandela include the Cuban leader, Jacob Zuma, the Indian and Namibian presidents as well as the vice president of China.

While there has been expressions of concerns over the 19 year rule of the African National Congress the president gave a good account, or so he himself believes, that the government has achieved in the time up to this moment. Speaking of the 2014 election he saw nothing in the past that would see the current government lose its job. Even their own opinion polls indicate that at best 55% of the votes cast would be for his party. While his lowest estimate was 45%.

Even as there was hopes that the ruling party will remain in power after 2014 an academic, Steven Francis, from Rhodes University and the University of Johannesburg, concludes that where the ANC government wrong in their policy during the last 19 years was not being serious about placing the country on an economically different path. In effect what has happened is that economic goals have not differed from that of the pre 1994 government. What the new regime let happen was a simple integration of the people into the old ways.

Even the possibility of a new political party, members raised by the left leaning union the National Union of Mine workers (qv 12/12) has diminished. The union movement as a whole, the Congress of South African Trade Unions has produced figures that half the population live on 8% of the national income, while recent estimates suggest that the top 5% of earners earn 30x 's more than the bottom 5%.

The House Of Commons in London was turned into a praise day for the work of the departed South African leader. Also lauded was the international, mainly the UK 's efforts to end the rule of the apartheid regime. Notable were the words of Peter Hain one who became heavily involved in the struggle. It was also noted that those who had benefited in the past, Cameron as a 23 year old and Speaker Bercow who as a member of the Conservative youth movement all thought that 'as a terrorist Mandela should hang.

Those not attending the memorial or the funeral include the prime minister and president of Israel on account of on the one hand the alleged overspending of government cash . On the other president Peres is 92 and recovering from a bout of flu and advised not to travel. The Iranian president was advised not to attend by local media as they saw it as a trick to force a handshake with the Great

Satan; the USA.

Quotes from Nelson Mandela “As long as we take the view that these are problems for women alone to solve, we cannot expect to reverse the high incidence of rape and child abuse. We will not defeat this scourge that effects each and every one of us until we succeed in mobilising the whole of our society to fight it.” - 1997 -

“For every woman and girl violently attacked, we reduce our humanity.” - 2005 -

Wed 11

As the masses and later the great and the good gathered at the Soccer City Stadium in Soweto for the memorial celebrating the life of Nelson Mandela the heavens opened. It was as though God himself was mourning his death.

It was a long day for some who had travelled early to ensure themselves a good seat; under the enclosed part of venue in the top tiers of the seating. Many had begun their journeys as early as 6am for the 11am beginning.

The audience/congregation were more appreciative of the words of the American president than those of their own president. From a large section of the crowd could be heard booing when Jacob Zuma spoke. Commenting on this disrespect, in African society attendees at a funeral are respectful of the bereaved even if there is ongoing dispute with the family, political analyst Justice Malema, noted that by this action once again domestic politics spills over into a celebration of Nelson Mandela 's life.

By the time Desmond Tutu rose to speak about his friend many of those in the crowd had left as celebration failed to live up to the spirit of Nelson Mandela. It was an absolute joyless experience. Or maybe they went home because they were drenched by the rain.

Orations, “While I will fall short of Madiba 's example, he makes me want to be a better man. He speaks to what is best inside us” Barack **Obama**

“What made nelson Mandela great was what made him human, We say in him what we seek in ourselves. Fellow South Africans, Nelson Mandela brought us together and it is together that we will bid him farewell.” **Jacob Zuma**

“The ultimate symbol of dignity and unwavering dedication to the revolutionary struggle, to freedom and justice, a prophet of unity, peace and justice.” **Raul Castro**

Words were also spoken by representatives of the Bric nations. There was no place for words from any of the heads of government, or state , of a European power.

Whether by design or accident of positioning president Obama did pass by the Cuban president on his travel to the speakers podium. The first black president of the United States took the opportunity to shake the hand of Fidel Castro 's brother.

Apart from the words already noted, see above, the president spent some of his allotted 15 minuets his speech seemed to be a call to other government heads, and not to far away from this place, to contemplate the peace making efforts of the late Nelson Mandela.

Cartoon as Mandela sleeps the world leaders are distracted

Much of the wording about the life of Nelson Mandela in the media has likened him to a religious deity, from Mother Teresa through Gandhi right up to Jesus Christ. The leader of the African National Congress was none of these he was just a politician with “qualities that were apt at a crucial juncture in time.”

While locked away, but working towards a solution with his Afrikaner jailers and politicians a realisation that the conflict was one between a potent white minority and an impotent black majority. It was F W de Klerk that was left to sort this out. Even before he became president he had seen that the NP system of government was wrong. It had been, said FW “a terrible wrong.”

In this writer's opinion Madiba would be looking down on those that want to give him a sainthood and laugh at the very idea. - **Simon Jenkins** -

Thurs 12

Such numbers of of the people of South Africa were lining up to view the body of Nelson Mandela, who was lying in state at the Pretoria Union Building, that one of them Elias Nyembe aged 47 was that he had not seen such a gathering of people waiting in line since the 4/94 multi racial queues waiting to vote.

A prison warder, Jack Swart, one who ministered to 'the terrorist' Mandela on Robben Island and then was his prison companion at Victor Vester prior to his release in 1990, reminisces about times past.

Despite the well received speeches at the Soweto memorial service for Madiba (qv 11/ 12) the interpretation for the hard of hearing among the crowd, by the use of sign language, was rubbished by South African Braam Jordaan who is a board member of the World Deaf Federation. It was also noted, by many of the crowd that the same man has officiated at many of the African National Congress 's gatherings.

While the former Archbishop of Cape Town was at Nelson Mandela 's memorial thieves broke into his Cape Town home. Police noted that there had been no arrests as of this time. Wife, Leah was also unsure if anything had been stolen.

Those who have been castigated for their their tongue in cheek support for the 'saintly' Mandela are the ones who deemed him a terrorist but now have changed their opinions so as not to appear out of step with the modern world are doing history a great disservice or so the writer believes.

The likes of prime minister Cameron and her predecessor Margaret Thatcher were not alone in their wish to airbrush the leader of the ANC out of history. Most of the Western world backed the Pretoria either openly or covertly in its battles with the onslaught of the Soviets/Cubans as it fought to retain its lands; Namibia or Angola out of the communist sphere of influence. - **Simon Jenkins** -

Fri 13

While the body of Nelson Mandela awaits his transport to his home village of Qunu; the place of his birth and soon to be final resting place, media types have made the reverse journey he made in the 1940 's.

From the rural life he knew in the Eastern Cape he thrust himself into rather squalid township of Alexandria. Talking to residents of Hofmey Street some would say the town, now known simply as Alex, looks much the same as when the soon to be lawyer arrived. It would seem, by observing the

cracked infrastructure that conditions have not improved since the country's first black president took office. Long term resident Kgagki Maloke notes, with disenchantment, that Mandela delivered democracy without economic liberation.

Further on, 350 miles south west to the town of Bloemfontein brings the traveller back into historic South Africa. A land of large enclosed white gable ended farm houses home to Afrikaner farmers who have occupied the land for generations. Onze Rust; five generations of the Steyn family run Colin who unlike many of his neighbours does not wish for a return of white rule.

A journey of five hours south, skirting Free State, brings the traveller to the town of Dimbaza in the Eastern Cape, the site, in 1967, of one of the worst episodes of the apartheid era; the dumping of 'surplus blacks' deemed unproductive by the National Party government. So remote was the area that prisoners released from Robben Island were also forced to live here. One notable resident was Moses Twebe who was a founding father of Umkhonto we Sizwe.

The final leg of the journey, 200 miles, east away from what was deemed 'a concentration camp; a place with no running water or electricity, by the son of M Twebe, Zolile, ends the journey. One who is employed setting up the viewing platforms et al for the internment, Qutu Fonabo has full praise for Mandela notes the changes and praises the work of the president. Because of him the majority population can travel. In the apartheid era he would need a pass to go to the nearest town which was only 30 minutes away.

The 'rubbish' interpreter, brought up onto the stage at the Soweto memorial ceremony was named as Thamsanqa Jantjie aged 34 who admitted himself had been diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia and was prone to violent outbursts. He is registered disabled and worked for the country's justice department for four years.

In 2011 he allegedly detained a staff member and threatened them with a brick. There were also false claims worth R1.5m /£88, 000 for interpretation work not done. On this latest nonsense signing he blamed hearing voices and seeing an angle in the DNB stadium.

News item; much discussion of the long believed, but never confirmed, that Nelson Mandela was a member of the South African Communist Party. Not only that he occupied a position on the central committee.

Sat 14

It has angered the Dewani family that three high court judges have overturned the magistrates decision of 24/7 and will not allow the extradition of the Shrien so that he can be tried in a Cape Town court over the death of his just married bride Anni. The judicial reasons will be divulged in early 2014.

As is well known the former archbishop of Cape Town, and a close friend of the soon to be interred Madiba, has been a keen observer of the ways the post Mandela ANC governments have performed. The cleric was not happy at what he saw. There will, although this was later rescinded, see BBC R4 22. 00, no place for an action described as a 'petty snub' by other critics of the government.

As one who been part of the ferocious struggle, even as a 2 year old calling on P W Botha to release Nelson Mandela, three when the leader of the African National Congress emerged from Victor Vester prison and seven when apartheid ended, Sipho Matlane aged 26 can be termed one of the Born Frees; a name given to those who have live their lives in the times when Madiba was a free man. They note how life for their kin in Zimbabwe has not turned out under the rule of Robert Mugabe.

Cartoon If : a meeting of unlikely minds.

Sun 15

With the lying in state, of former president Nelson Mandela, ended his body was moved Waterkloof air base on the outskirts of Pretoria. Here there was a private ceremony involving Graca Machell and Winnie Mandela along with senior members of the African National Congress too place.

Once the military plane had landed at Mthatha airport in the Eastern Cape to be greeted by a large military security detail. In much evidence were the police Casspir armoured personnel carriers an 'iconic decision' as these very same vehicles were much in evidence during the apartheid years. For the last 20 miles to his lasting resting place; Qunu the first president of the post apartheid era 's coffin passed crowds of local people welcoming home Nelson Mandela.

Picked from the obscurity of the presidential typing pool Zelda Le Grange reflects, in her first media interview sing her bosses death, on the life and times of working for this black man an Afrikaner women termed 'her grandfather.'

Mon 16

As 450 guests, among them Prince Charles, representing Britain, gathered in his home village of Qunu along with leaders of other African nations. Also represented were the world of show business; Oprah Winfry and the businessman Sir Richard Branson.

At 12. 40, after the end of a three hour service and transportation to the site of burial, on a gleaming gun carriage the casket was lowered into the ground as the guns fired a 21 gun salute and jets of the South African Air Force flew from their Pretoria base to perform a fly past in honour of the life of Madiba. One of those who spoke words of sorrow and grief was long time friend, prison associate and fellow member of the African National Congress, was Ahmed Kathrada expressed his emotions over the last 10 days.

The one time minister in Mandela 's government talked of earlier times when the young Nelson showed off is prowess as a boxer. There were tears when details were told of their last meeting."And now the inevitable has happened. He has left us and in now with the A team of the ANC the ANC in which he had cut his political teeth, and the ANC of those whose policy of a non racial non sexist South Africa he was prepared to die for."

Not only will the whole nation be sad at the death of the icon Avanda Mbaatyothi has more to concern him. As a lookalike and being of the Xhosa clan and living in the Eastern Cape an easy stream of income has been lost to him as it had been noted by the then president when the two met met. The president told the now thirty seven year old 'You look like me.' So did many others as taking the mimic part of the life of the president he was able to give renditions of Nelson Mandela 's speeches and appear at political rallies. His life now; return to his newly formed company Young Madeba.

Cartoon the world weeps

The desire to remember the brilliant individual, that was Nelson Mandela, who single handedly guided the nation to democracy is not honest or helpful. Remembering past icons, from the time when they were living; to illustrate these future modern times is not the best way forward or so this writer believes.

“Mandela 's long walk to freedom yesterday ... his legacy still lives. And in the interest of those who must live with it, the struggle to remember it honestly continues. - **G Young** -

Leader Comment, **The ANC after Mandela** the sameness, and the differences, between the present government and those during the rule of the apartheid era National Party will see history repeat itself.

The Afrikaner regime “conceded power to the ANC, if the truth be told because of their formula for rule was falling apart, and the ANC was the only organisation that had the will and the motivation to take on the task of government.”

As has been seen over the years that the Mandela/Mbeki and now Zuma administrations many of the South African people have not found their expectations of a better life met.

“Presidential incompetence, party rigidity and the ineffectual economic policy all suggest the ANC is very much in need of a new start.”

noted but not date recorded A township resident, who was born after the Americans had landed their first national on the moon, in 1969, and brought up listening to his fathers tales of space exploration has won the right to travel into space on board one of the various private enterprise companies that are planning such an adventure.

Radio report, Stellenbosch University academics are working on a process that will enable the wine industry, one of South Africa 's greatest exports, to recycle much of the water that the industry uses. This will not only help the companies finances but also protect the vital water reserves in an area of the world that may suffer water shortages in the future. - **World Service;Radio 4 3. 45am** -

Fri 27

this day 1953 the son of a former Governor General of South Africa pays the penalty, for participating in a campaign of civil disobedience, organised by members of the black majority population, in protest against the countries discriminatory laws. His options; 100 days in jail or to pay a fine. This early pioneer, of what was to become a world wide movement of protest of South African apartheid, chose jail time.

Sat 28

The number of South African doctors trained doctors working in the National Health Service is, according to the latest figures, is 5, 463, or 2.1% of the total number employed.

The work of photographer Llan Godfrey, in documenting the lives of those who live around the spoil heaps of the diamond and gold mines that so benefited the economy of the country is well shown as an image of former miner, J Ramiruti, from the Tudor Shaft mine in the town of Krugersdorp outside Johannesburg.

The site is still mined, illegally, even though the residents are known to be suffering from the effects of the poisonous chemicals that are used in the mining process. This stalwart , as a representative of the 1.6m nationals who live on such contaminated sites, are in the process of being rehoused.

Sun 29

A well established charity, The Donald Woods Foundation from 2003 by the son of the named anti

apartheid journalist/campaigner, has embarked on a new charity initiative. Noting the difficulties of the medical needs of the nations rural dwellers Dillon Woods now brings his initiative; Health in Every Hut, on trial in the countries Eastern Cape.

A pilot project in the village of Mbashe, one of the provinces most deprived areas, will see outreach workers visiting every family hut and plotting its location with GPS technology. One of the HEH 's main aims is to locate, and treat the number of residents suspected of, or being susceptible to Odiabetes. It is a known fact that the African nations are one percent more likely to suffer this life threatening disease if not treated than their Caucasian; 4% neighbours.

As of 6/13 the outreach team have mapped 2, 160 huts screening 9, 126 people which has resulted in 3, 844 referred to higher medical services.

Tues 31

While we may not forget
The brutality of Apartheid
We will not want
Robben Island
To be a monument
Of our hardship
And suffering

We would want it
To be a triumph
Of the human spirit
Against the forces of evil
And largeness of spirit
Against small minds
And pettiness

A triumph of courage
And determination
Over human frailty
And weakness.

A poem written by Maymunah Kathrada, niece of Ahmed Kathrada long time African National Council associate/ government minister in Nelson Mandela 's government., while she studies at Batley High School.