

JANUARY 2009

Thurs 1

There is news of a new bio pic of the life and times of Nelson Mandela. This will be directed by the veteran actor, cum director, Clint Eastwood.

Fri 2

Obituary Helen Suzman 7.11.17 - 1.1.09, born, a H Garonsky to Jewish immigrant parents in the town of Germiston in the Transvaal and educated at Parktown convent school. After matriculation, at 16, a commerce course at the University of the Witwatersrand was abandoned three years later as the decision to marry Dr Mosie aged 33. By 1944 had completed her studies and was working for the War Supplies Board..

Entered politics in 1953 as a United Party MP. Along with another ten colleagues, in 1959, withdrew their party loyalty, over the issue of land grants for black people, and formed the Progressive party. This then morphed into the Progressive Federal Party [PFP]. Party numbers dropped to one after the 1961 general election. Alone Ms Suzman, representing the white Johannesburg suburb of Houghton, for the next 13 years faced a hostile National Party and male dominated parliament.

With many clashes with P W Botha and later FW de Klerk in parliament, her happier times were spent visiting prisoners on Robben Isle and expounding the views of the anti apartheid movement. No lofty ideological speeches for her, just hard work, was the order of the day.

Honoured throughout the world, with 24 doctorates, a Dame of the British Empire - although not being born there prevented her from using the title and author - she is survived by a son and daughter.

Sat 3

As the authorities in Pretoria, under the guidance of former president Mbeki, preferred to rely on the word of M Rath (qv) and his fruit and vegetable diet cure for HIV/Aids, it has now come to light that in the Western Cape there could have been fewer deaths.

“One demographic modelling study estimates that if the South African government had used anti retro viral drugs for prevention and treatment as the same rate as the Western Cape around one hundred and seventy one thousand new HIV infections and 343, 000 deaths could have been prevented between 1999 and 2007”.

Sat 10

As the African National Congress begins to celebrate its 97th birthday, in East London in the Eastern Cape, there will be two notable absentees. Nelson Mandela, sighting his age at 90 and his desire to retire from public life, and the countries second president Thabo Mbeki.

In a letter to the organisers of the celebrations there was no hint of whether the countries second president, under a multi racial government, had ‘ fallen out’ with the administration led by K

Mothlene.

Tues 13

In the appeal court Justice Louis Harms has opened, again, the possibility of the prosecution of Jacob Zuma on a number of corruption charges.

Speaking of the prosecution case at his 2008 trial (qv 13/9) Judge Harms indicated that the earlier ruling had failed “to distinguish between allegation, fact and suspicion.” In total, the assumed next president of the country, faces 16 charges relating to an arms bribery case. Analysts say he may appeal, though any trial would unlikely before the election which could occur as early as 3/09.

Fri 16

Concerns are growing, in certain circles, that actions by the ANC government are beginning to echo those of Mugabe in Zimbabwe. As the authorities in Pretoria take Harmen decision in his Supreme court hearing into the Zuma corruption charges (qv 13/1) to the countries constitutional court, a second concern; of political interference in police matters has come to light.

As the above announcement was made the governments chief whip, N Booi, has said that there will be an inquiry into the workings of the National Prosecution Authority. Known affectionately as the ‘Scorpion 's who under its former leader, V Pikoli, now replaced by an acolyte of the interim president Motlanthe, with anti corruption investigations against police commissioner J Selebie in 2006 (qv 17/11) et al. According to the chief whip this investigation has not been influenced by the Zuma case. Rather the review was needed “so we are able to run the NPA in a proper way on behalf of the people of South Africa.”

Other, unidentified ANC members, say that there are other measures that the government will use to stop any prosecution of the assumed new president. It is possible that K Motlanthe could amend the constitution to say that a sitting president cannot be charged with any crime.

Wed 21

Attending the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States of America, Barack Hussein Obama, Nelson Mandela the first black president of South Africa noted these similarities in there positions in a letter of congratulation delivered before the ceremony.

“We are someways reminded today of the excitement and enthusiasm in our own country at the time of our transition to democracy. People around the world were inspired to believe that through common human effort injustice can be overcome and that together a better life for all can be achieved.”

FEBRUARY 2009

Sun 1

Following Fifa's 2004 announcement that South Africa would host the World Cup (qv 16/5) the early concerns about the ticket pricing would seem to be unfounded. With the opening ceremony now only 500 days away it is known that there will be four levels of ticket prices. In the early stages local supporters will pay R200 /£13. 50 and in the latter stage, after there are only 16 teams left in the competition, prices will R500 /£34. Critics indicate that such costs are way ahead of the average person. To give some comparison a degree supported teacher earns Seven thousand rand per month or £470 per month.

Untold disruption to the lives of the people who are living near many of the 10 new stadium's are causing concerns of the local people living nearby. The area round the recently completed Mbomela Stadium; capacity 46, 000 near the town of Nespruit has seen its school children having to vacate there school building. They are taught on the schools roof whilst their classroom has become a dormitory.

As with any large building developments there are allegations of political corruption, cash backhanders and, on this site, the murder of Jimmy Mohlala aged 44, a member of the ANC on the local council. His crime, whistle blowing the R1.4m /£900, 000 turf cutting party in 2006.

Tues 3

Awash with millions of dollars, from their off shore oil deposits, Angola has made a major move to improve the lot of its people. With the construction expertise of the Chinese and a population fanatical bout football the countries football authorities are to bid for the 2010 African Nations Cup.

Much of the work will be carried out by a management from the Shanghai Urban Construction Group. Much of the cost, estimated to be as much as £420m will be the construction of four new stadium in Benguela, Lubango, Cabinda and the countries capital Luanda..

As mentioned before revenue from oil production; 1.83m barrels/day in 12/08 will finance this football dream, which is only a small part of revitalisation of this west African country which has been ravaged by a 27 year civil war. The total plan is to spend £700m overall.

Wed 11

The expected date for parliamentary and presidential elections is expected to be 22/4. Although the ruling African National Congress is expected to have the largest number of seats, as it has done since 1994, the emergence of dissident political party Cope (qv), may delay the date.

Fri 13

It would seem that the lot of the seasonal worker, whether picking a fruit crop for a British supermarket in 2007 (qv 29/6) or harvesting grapes on the countries 170 wine farms, has improved over recent times. According to a War on Want study pickers are still being paid less than £4 pounds per day.

The study, led by the charities senior campaigner S Mcree and South African trade union leader, Sikula Sonke, puts the blame for the low wages on the demands of the British purchasers. Supermarkets, such as Tesco, demand lower prices as they are the main outlet for the Cape wineries.

Latest figures for the import of South African wine to Britain show that 27% of wine exports are destined for the supermarket shelves of Britain.

Sat 14

In a move that has shocked the pharmaceutical world GlaxoSmithKline has pledged that it will slash its prices, to the world 's poorest countries, therefore providing cheap medicines to the masses.

The announcement by the companies chief executive, A Wittey, will go some way to end the long felt criticism felt by third world countries as they battle against diseases such as the HIV virus, measles or tuberculosis.

In essence GSK will cut its prices for all drugs in the 50 least developed countries to no more than 25% of the levels in the USA or UK. Allow 'patent protected' procedures to be further investigated. Finally finance a dedicated centre, in Tres Cantos Spain, for research into a range of diseases affecting the developing world.

A look at life in the country, both before and after the 1994 election, is seen in the book A Fork in the Road A Memoir by Andre Brink published by Harvil Sekker @ £17. 99 tells the tale of a man who is now acknowledged one of South Africa's greatest playwrights and authors.

Detailing his life, an angry one, being brought up in an era where there was a "fortuitous surplus of violence," whether it be from those he shared his schooling with, a Methodist minister father who was 'next to God' or the organs of the state who were trying to defend the continuation of apartheid in order to preserve the whites privilege.

As to the conditions at this present time there are few words of comfort from the author. The antics, of the all embossing ANC dominated government, is likened to that of the politics pre 1994. He castigates the present day regime as "enemy of the people" ... "endemic corruption" and being a "disgrace to the party's history.

Mon 16

With an election in the offing, and no word from Nelson Mandela on his continued support there was an indication from himself and a family member at an ANC rally in the Eastern Cape. Sharing a stage with Jacob Zuma and Mandla, his grandson, the countries first black president left the words to the relative.

From the platform, which was surrounded by thousands of party supporters in this most ANC loyal of provinces, Mandla indicated that he and his grand father were "there to confirm there ANC membership and support for the party. Missing was Thabo Mbeki, the assumed power behind the recently formed political party Congress of the People (qv).

Press revelations, which might do more harm at election time than the voters support, have

shown that the ANC politicians are living an extravagant lifestyle. Their chief spokesman, Carl Neihaus, has resigned after admitting charges of forging the signatures of party officials to borrow large sums of cash. This, and other amounts borrowed from others, he used for foreign holidays and purchasing luxury vehicles.

Fri 20

In what is seen as a bold move, to prevent the Chinese influence spreading throughout this diarists sphere of concern, the British government is to financially support a World Bank plan to rebuild and refurbish existing transport links to and from the countries of central and southern Africa.

The cost of the project, shared between eight African countries, is £690m /\$1bn. In all 5, 280 miles of roads will be rejuvenated. Some new track will be laid as 373 miles of rail line are improved.

Mon 23

In an unexpected move members of The Congress of People (qv) have not chosen the parties co founder to stand against the ANC 's choice for president come the 4/09 election.

It was felt that M Lekota, a former defence minister in the Mbeki administration, was to close to the centre of the common complaint that this latter day ANC had moved away from its founding principals. In essence there was too many cash for favours between the politicians and the business community.

The parties presidential candidate will be Bishop Mvume Dandala aged 57 and head of The All Africa Conference of Churches. Although not expected to come top of the South African poll it is expected that the cleric will severely dent the number of votes cast for Jacob Zuma.

By there choice Cope 's executive hope that along with the extra religious votes the bishop will bring there choice will take the moral high ground against the on going corruption charges levelled against his opponent.

Tues 24

Pictorial evidence from the wine land region around Cape Town. Forest fires are endangering the vines that produce much of South Africa's most important foreign exports.

Despite welcoming the assurances made by the chief executive of GSK (qv 14/2) the company has much more to do if it wants to make good its promise to "slash prices of medicines in poor countries .. share knowledge about potential drugs that are currently protected by patents."

The writer reports various misconceptions about the true nature of the happenings in the pricing of medicines for HIV infected Aid patients throughout the developing world.. - **Dr T S Angerer, director MFS's Campaign for Access to Essential medicines, -**

Wed 25

Following on from the De Beers management decision (qv 22/10) the companies production of the 'just mined' diamond has spread outside the countries borders. Blaming the effect on the credit crunch a joint mining operation with the government of Botswana will be suspended.

From this date four mines, run under the Debswana name, will cease production until the end of 2009. Speaking from company headquarters a spokesman for the mining conglomerate noted that there had been voluntary lay off 's of workers in Namibia as well as the closure of mines in South Africa.

MARCH 2009

Sun 1

In a surprise move the name of Winnie Mandela has appeared on the list of ANC candidates for the 22/4 general election. Appearing after the Congress's chairman Baleka Mbete, the countries president and the finance minister it would seem that the convicted fraudster is well placed for a ministerial position if the party will the election.

According to constitutional rules convicted persons, as Winnie was in 2003 (qv 26/4), are barred from standing for parliament for five years after the sentence has been completed.

Thurs 5

Despite a close association with Jacob Zuma, the politician facing a corruption charge for the second time, a close relative of South Africa's first black president is to become a member of parliament.

A businessman by profession Mandla Mandela is to join the African National Congress in parliament, a decision that party spokesman Brian Sukutu called "historic."

Fri 6

Weeks away from the next election thoughts are very much focussed on the outcome of the trial faced by presidential heir apparent Jacob Zuma. It is understood that the ANC breakaway movement Congress of the People has 15% support of the countries non white population. The official Democratic Alliance, led by Cape Town's mayor Helen Zille, is well on course, at least, to wrest Cape province from the hands of the ANC. The jail time, served by Schabir Shaik (qv) who was special adviser to Zuma/BAe/corruption charge, has been freed 'compassionately.'

This writer believes that forthcoming election will not be the one that will decide whether South Africa will become a role model for the African continent through democracy rather than the gun and the bullet. The purpose of this election is to build into the country some true political opposition. This will be achieved by depriving the ANC of its overwhelming majority in parliament. - **Simon Jenkins** -

Sun 8

Such is the slump in match ticket sales, for the forthcoming Confederation Cup - what has been termed the 'warm up competition for the 2010 World Cup, drastic changes in the allocation of tickets have ordered by Fifa. As of this time local sales of tickets of 170, 000 out of 640, 000 have been sold.

The ticket selling policy, for 2010, has been ordered to be changed by the games ruling body after it was found that 80% of applications for the 3 million tickets have come from outside the country. Ticket applications, a five stage process with stage on ending on 31/3, as they stand now would see 500 sold to those who live here out of the 750, 000 placed in the random draw.

Wed 18

Comments, by Pope Benedict XVI en route to Cameroon to begin a six day tour of Africa, on the subject of the use of condoms, has initiated a certain amount of criticism from those involved in the treatment and care of those suffering from HIV/Aids.

Speaking of to journalists the head of the Roman Catholic Church said that to use condoms was not the way to stop the spread the virus. The only way to stop its spread was a continued policy of abstinence and fidelity.

Reaction from a spokes person for Treatment Action Concern (TAC) said that these papal comments did not help the situation in Africa. His words, said Rebecca Hodes, TAC 's director of policy, communication and research said that if Benedict was serious about the spread of Aids his policy should not be in favour of there use, rather than the churches policy of religious dogma and promote the use of the condom.

Mon 23

As the Pope ends his tour of six countries in Africa (qv 18/3) his message, on the use or non use of condoms, reverberates outside Norte Dame Cathedral in Paris. As some 300 worshippers left the cathedral they were met by 30 protesters and about 20 youths associated with the far right. There was one injury as the right wing protesters were waving "Leave my pope alone " placards.

Meanwhile back at the mass, held eight miles outside Luanda and near a cement factory, a large crowd heard the pontiff speak on the "evils of war and tribalism and ethnic rivalry." Another of his themes was the dangers - spoken at a mass on 21/3 before a crowd of mainly clergy - was the perils of witchcraft. This form of worship, a mixture evangelical and Christian beliefs that have swept the country since the end of the civil war in 2002.

Happy Planet Index, based on figures from the New Economic Foundation which takes perceived quality of life based on environmental protection factors shows that South Africa has a rate of 27.8, where as the United Kingdom, placed 13th, is rated 5 places above at 40.3.

Of the two countries, in a comparison of the standard measure of the two - their GDP in US\$ terms is \$6, 648, whereas The United Kingdom value to the country of its people is US\$44. 720.

Tues 24

Visitors, to the 340 baboons who have made there homes in the Cape Town area and are prone to accept food from tourists, will have to find alternative sources of food. With the encouragement from tour guides members this protected species species are becoming bolder. In some cases the animals have been known to steal tourists bags and their picnics. in an effort to combat the problem people will be fined up to R150 /£10 and face six months in jail or both.

A planned conference, with the aim of tackling the issues of peace and racism in the run up and duration of the 2010 World Cup, is in danger of collapsing after the spiritual head of the exiled government of Tibet; the Dali Lama had his invitation withdrawn.

As well as His Holiness non appearance South Africa's recent Nobel prize winners have indicated they will boycott the conference.

Commenting on his decision F W de Klerk called the decision “disgraceful.” the last white president of the country made his remarks after Archbishop Desmond Tutu who was writing in the Johannesburg Sunday Independent indicated that he would refuse his invite if the Tibetan spiritual leader was not present. Nelson Mandela, who shared the Nobel prize with de Klerk, and fellow invitee, will be seen as an embarrassment to the government.

If there is a no high level conference then it may be seen by the international community that Pretoria’s moral authority is lessened as it conceded that the government of China has more say in which this supposedly democratic county deals with issues that upset the Beijing government.

As the people of Angola, and the governments of rest of Africa, are urged by the Pope, to put the interests of there people first The Luanda government has learned that the country ranks 158th out of 180 on the Transparency International 2008 Corruption Perception Index.

Mon 30

Giving a boost to the chances of Jacob Zuma actually becoming the next president (qv 6/3) is an impending decision by the National Prosecution Authority.

Media reports, from the Sunday Independent, suggest that this convicted rapist will not face a second trial on corruption charges. In there report, the Johannesburg paper indicates that there is new evidence of a political wrongdoing by the Mbeki administration.

The dropping of these 13 charges is expected to be made by the interim head of the NPA, M Mpshe by 1/4.

Tues 31

At the end of the Pope’s recent visit to six countries in Africa, latterly in Angola (qv), there was a gift of a tortoise from the people of Cameroon. This lumbering creature was abandoned in Luanda where it would be cared for by nuns. “Only room for one lumbering creature in the Vatican” goes the reasoning.

APRIL 2009

Fri 3

Crowds who gather at the Hay Literary Festival will be regaled with tales of life with Nobel Prize winner Nelson Mandela by a fellow winner. Desmond Tutu has agreed to attend Britain's premier book gathering.

Three men convicted of murdering Lucky Dube, the world renown reggae star, who died in a 2007 botched car jacking, have been sentenced to life behind bars. Hours before being called to account, on 31/3, two of the accused S Mhalanga and M Mabe made an attempt for freedom. In the ensuing melee a police officer was assaulted.

Tues 7

With, the foreseen announcement concerning the prosecution of the assumed next president Jacob Zuma (qv 30/3) now verified the coming election will be even more eagerly observed. The decision to drop the corruption fraud and tax evasion charges involving about £291, 000 /R4m was announced on live television by the acting head of the National Prosecution Authority.

According to M Mpshe this was not an acquittal. Rather the decision was mad because of an "abuse of process" by the then head of the Scorpion unit L McCathey. The recently release, and now broadcast tapes of talks, with the NPA 's former head B Nkuka as to the timing of announcement of Zuma's impending prosecution.

As the news was digested ANC supporters took to the streets in Johannesburg and Durban, and Congress treasurer M Phosa expressed his delight tat the NPA had "seen the light." On the other hand others were angered by the decision. The Freedom Front Plus leader, P Mulder, complained of the waste of R60m of tax payers money. The leader of the opposition, Helen Zille, and many other groups may mount a private prosecution of the next president.

Sun 12

A profile of Jacob Gedleyihlekisa* Zuma; the man who was a member of the ANC 's military wing. Dammed for having unprotected sex with an HIV positive women and has been beset by allegations of graft, of which he now states "My conscience is clear. I have not committed any crime against the state or against the people of South Africa."- press conference, Durban 7/4 -

* authors note; this name is a compound of a isiZulu phrase constructed by his "I can't keep quiet when someone pretends to love me with a deceitful smile.

Fri 17

Backing up the promises, made by the head of GlaxoSmith Kline about the availability of affordable HIV drugs (qv 14/2), a decision has been made to with one of its business rivals to pool there resources in a bid to reinvigorate financial returns for tackling the global epidemic.

The unnamed company, jointly supported by GSK rival Pizer, will be run by Dominique Limet the former head of GSK 's French operation and have a working capital of £250m and 85% of

the new company will be owned by GSK. Initially the new company will have 11 drugs on the market and a further six in development. With new products available the company will have a 19% share of the £1.6bn market.

Sun 19

With the election of a new president imminent political satire has emerged as a crucial element of in the battle for votes. The main satirists, N Moshesh, F Mpela, P Uys, and newspaper Zapiro are all feeling the ire of the mainstream establishment.

One venue to observe one of these satirical efforts is the Market Street Theatre in down town Johannesburg. There Moshesh and Mpela perform in a South African interpretation of ‘the Scottish play.’

This new adaptation; McBeki: a Farce to be Reckoned With has the three main characters, King Duncan, Nelson Mandela, Macbeth Mbeki and MaccDuf and Jacob Zuma. A second theatrical production, Elections and Erections, is a touring production written and performed by D Uys the one time scourge of the apartheid regime.

The cartoons of Zapiro also attack the probity of Zuma to be president. An admirer of the London based S Bell, with his showing of a prime minister wearing his pants on the outside, so Zuma wears a shower head as a permanent fixture to his head. This is a reference to his assumption, during his recent rape trial, that he was free from HIV ‘because he took a shower after sex.’

News report, an opinion poll has indicated that Congress of the People (qv) political rivals of the ANC will be able to count on 15% of South Africans on the 22/4 election. - **Radio 2 16.00** -

Mon 20

A crowd, estimated to be 40, 000 in number, watched what could be the last political appearance of Nelson Mandela who sat alongside Jacob Zuma in the Ellis Park stadium in Johannesburg. Even as the ‘next’ president of South Africa was on the podium to those there it was obvious that the crowd was there to venerate the countries first black president.

One who had come to the rally, G Mpho aged 22 said “You cannot compare anyone to Mandela. Jacob Zuma comes under the shoes of Mandela. People support the ANC because of Mandela because of Mandela, not Zuma,”

In his home village of Nkndla in the KwaZulu Natal province the cattle herder made good is seen to have remained very much a product of a Zulu warrior upbringing. Jacob Zuma still wears the scars of initiation with pride. With only 7 million, 15%, of the ethnic minority making up the Zulu nation, the ‘president’ bears his ethnicity, nationality, its customs with pride. Whilst he may not have as many wives as is customary it is known that he has fathered 22 children by six different women. This and his, renown sexual discretions (qv), does not go well with well educated and middle class members of the voting public.

“Mandela and Mbeki were both Xhosa. Xhosa have a reputation as great talkers. Zulus have a reputation as great fighters.”

Contrasting elections in South Africa and recent ones in Zimbabwe can, this writer feels, offers

encouragement, or despondency, as to the future of the country. An amount of corruption in government or the wholesale kleptocracy in Zimbabwe is not found here. South Africa is important to Africa and the world's economic structure. There are checks on autocracy here, either by political party or government.

Specific to the forthcoming regime in Pretoria, there are many people who, because they identify with the Zulu nation, expect because they share the same cultural roots, some sort of gain. This could be political or economic.

An election, at this time, will see many of the post liberation generation voting for the first time. These are the people that will, it is hoped, vote to put in place the checks and balances to ensure that the ANC does not over stretch its authority. - M Gervisser author : The Legacy of Liberation : Thabo Mbeki and the Future of the South African Dream -

Tues 21

Two of Cape Towns dining out experiences, Le Quartier Francais and La Colombe, have been recognised in the rankings at the San Pellegrino World's best 50 best Restaurants Awards which were held in London. Although they came 37th and 38th respectively in 2008 number thirty seven was placed in 5th position.

In an unexpected turn of events the transport issues that surround the 2010 World Cup have become an election issue. Such was the concern of the ANC 's 'next president' that he attended a rally organised by the Taxi Drivers Association.

An influential grouping, who played a major part in the apartheid struggle, had been angered by the governments intention to replace this mode of transport with new buses. Jacob Zuma came before the angry gathering and with great showmanship, charmed Association members with tales of the struggle and agreed to suspend the plan to have buses running of specified routes in Johannesburg. Cape Town and Pretoria.

Economic fact for the new president as figures show that the economy shrank 1.8% in the last three months of '08. output declined 15% in 2/09. This added to the year on year drop 1/08 - 1/09 12.9%, making this the countries first recession in 17 years.

This writer asserts that the human rights issue, promulgated in 1992 by Nelson Mandela, as being high on the agenda of a democratic South Africa, is in danger of slipping from top of the political agenda.

In some cases backsliding is alleged, especially in the case of Pretoria's attitude to the rule of Zanu PF and then the unity government in across its northern border. Firstly, from Mbeki there was his 'do nothing' policy then an attack on the international community for not providing enough funds to rebuild Zimbabwe's economy.

The proportion of green spending in the nations economic recovery package amounts to 9.4% and the total CO2 emissions per person from fuels, metric tonnes is 10.04. In the UK the comparative figures are 6.9% and 9.66 tonnes.

Wed 22

Election day statistics; 19, 726 polling stations will serve a population in excess of 25 million.

Many of the votes cast will be by those who are first time voters; more than that voters of a generation born after the release of Nelson Mandela. In Britain, where 7, 427 South African nationals live and are entitled to vote for the 26 contenders, election day was seven days ago.

At an eve of election rally Jacob Zuma made comment on the enthusiasm shown by supporters which the ANC leader said had not been seen since 1994.

Thurs 23

Reports from around the country indicate that there has been little difficulty, or incident, as people went to the polls in this forth election since 1994. With an estimate, from the Independent Electoral Commission that the numbers voting; 90% were reminiscent of the all groupings vote that elected the first black president.

The number of seats up for selection is 400 in both national and the nine regional assemblies. The 27 political parties nominated candidates; 9, 289, 61.6% male and 38.4% female, who want the voters, 23.18m, to support them. There are 4, 900 domestic, 358 diplomatic and 355 international observers.

This writer, and his guests, reflect on the election issues outside his Johannesburg home. Despite all agreeing that the ANC will win again, non of these self proclaimed members of the middle class, voted for the most likely winner.

Many are the reasons, government associations with regimes - China - that are deemed not to have the same values as democratic led governments, lack of motivation in finding a solution to Africa's - Zimbabwe - internal issues an the belief that with a forth ANC led government South Africa is another post colonial nation that has lost its way. - **Justice Malala, political analyst** -

Fri 24

With claims of victory already issuing from Jacob Zuma's press conference as the countries next president claims the ANC has over 66% of the vote, other declared, on a 12m count, shows that the party has 8m votes in its favour.

Other parties; Democratic Alliance 1.9m [16%], 927, 000 [7.7%] Congress of the People and the Inkatha Freedom Party marooned on 4%.

Sat 25

With 95% of the votes cast the ANC now claim that there voter support has risen to 66.1%. This earned a congratulatory phone call from the British prime minister.

Leader Comment, **Payback time** as despite the well recorded scandals - rape and corruption - that Zuma was able to sidestep, the ANC seem in a position to claim the 2/3rds majority that will enable them to tinker with the constitution if they so wish.

While they have trounce the opposition in most of the country, the Democratic Alliance is well placed to wrest control of the Western Cape away from government. As for the ANC's turncoats, the Congress of the People, and the Inkatha Freedom Party they have fared badly winning little more votes than previously (qv 24/4).

“As the natural ruler of the country ... Zuma has a mandate to rule. This is not the end of the story. It is payback time for the band of brothers” who have guided the candidate through his two recent traumas.

In the months ahead there will be close - from the trade union movement - watch on the way Pretoria performs in its approach to the worsening economic climate. “Mr Zuma starts with the advantage of not being Mr Mbeki : he has the popular touch; he can listen; ... pull people together.”

There is more that is expected of the new president. If he is able to find a way through “It is not enough for the ANC to remain in power. It has to deliver too.

Sun 25

With the expectation that the Independent Electoral Commission will publish final figures for the votes cast, this time round, leave the African National Congress short of the number needed to carry out policy changes without consulting other parties.

Percentage of votes cast; ANC 65.9%, Democratic Alliance 16.9%, Congress of the People 7.4%. Other parties claimed 10% of the votes cast.

Probably the most significant outcome in the poll was the outcome of the vote for members of the legislative in Cape Town the capital of the Western Cape. From gaining 46% of the votes cast in the 2004 election the percentage vote, this month, was down to 32%. Thus Helen Zille the leader of the Democratic Alliance and parliamentary Opposition leader becomes regional premier.

Mon 26

This writer, commenting on the ability of the ANC to win the recent election is a ‘last chance effort ’ if the party is to remain the number one political party in the country. As has been seen, by the Cape province result (qv 25/4), the ascendancy of the Democratic Alliance to the position now held by a party led by Jacob Zuma is not an impossibility.

It has become known that during the campaign promises were made to different sections of society. In some cases the promises made to one grouping were diametrically opposed to the promises made to a second group.

The poorest strata of society are the people who have ensured this victory after the promise that there needs homes, services and economic benefits will be at the forefront of government policy. To point out that the same have not come from the previous regime will be answered with ‘blame the corrupt administration run by Thabo Mbeki.

COUNTRY	AREA SQ ML	POPULN M	POP/PSM	GDP [M]	GDP/PP £	TOURISTS
ANGOLA	481,354	16.5	34.4	23.06	1. 393	209, 000
BSWANA	224,607	1.75	7.8	541	2,912	1.522 807
L'SOTHO	11,720	2. 14	181. 1	763	382	303, 508
MOZAMB	308, 641	20. 53	67.6	3 490	166	1, 095, 00
NAMIBIA	318, 261	2.1	6.6	33. 53	1,638 000	1, 031 678
S AFRICA	470, 693	48. 693	193.4	130. 3	2,750	8. 508
SWAZI	6, 704	1. 14	171.2	1.352	1, 188	316, 082
UK	93, 628	60.9	651.3	1 213.8	20. 048	32, 588

AFRICAN FACT FILE : HEALTH

COUNTR	CHILD/ MUM	CHILD DEATH/1000 K	INFANT DEATHS/100K	ADULT HIV %	DRS/100,000	ADULT LITERACY
ANGOLA	6.5	1, 400	260	3.7	0.8	6.4
BSWANA	3	380	124	24.1	0.4	82.9
L'SOTHO	3.5	960	132	23.2	0.05	82.2
MOZAMB	5.2	520	138	16.1	0.03	44.4
NAMIBIA	3.3	210	61	19.6	0.3	88
S AFRICA	2.7	400	69	18.8	0.8	88
SWAZI	3.6	390	164	33.4	0.16	79.6
UK	1.8	8	6	0.2	2.3	99

MAY 2009

Thurs 7

South Africa's parliament has, as expected, voted Jacob Zuma, to be the country's fourth post apartheid era president. The choice was not made without challenge. Mvume Dandala of the Congress of the People party mounted a challenge. However the acquitted rapist and alleged fraudster won the vote 227 to 49.

Fri 8

As the lawns in front of the government's Union Building in Pretoria for the swearing in ceremony of Jacob Zuma ANC officials indicate that the new president will continue the celebrations among the people below. There will be a repeat of the singing and dancing that the president used to such an effect on the campaign trail. Explaining this step away from previous inaugurations a spokesman said that "this is Africa's way."

Invited to watch the ceremony, which is said to cost in the region of £6./R75m, will be invited guests. Chief among these, from Africa will be Kenneth Kaunda the former president of Zambia and Mugabe from Zimbabwe. Overseas guests will include Jesse Jackson from the USA and Maddox Brown the minister for Africa and the foreign office.

The cost of the proceedings has been criticised by the Democratic Alliance who have said for the spending 2, 000 low cost houses, 25, 000 bullet proof vests for the police or a new 75 bed hospital could be provided.

Sun 10

Whilst the mining conglomerate De Beers was known as one of the main supporters of the apartheid governments of previous times once they sell on one of their mines there is, from the new owners, no sense of the paternalistic attitude that was fostered from a National Party government down through to mine management.

Just such a case has occurred at the Cullinan mine 30 miles outside Pretoria. Sold to the company Petra Diamonds in 4/08, a Saudi Arabian firm, who will profit from the one million carats worth of diamonds; at a profit of £46m produces every year?

Twelve months of ownership and many changes are being imposed by the new owners as many miners leave the company as employment conditions change. One such employee, Ambrose Gambush aged 43, a father of two and instrument technician has resigned rather than face disciplinary procedures for not holding onto a hand rail.

Earning £1, 700 /R21, 000 per month this is below, by £790/pm, his white colleagues, and is one of the concerns of the National Union of Mineworkers as is the loss of jobs, 20, 000 since 10/08, claim the union.

This mine has its place in history. It was here, in 1905, that the Great Star of Africa was mined. This 3, 106 carat precious stone eventually ended up in the coronation crown of the British

monarch.

Mon 11

The first cabinet of the Zuma government has surprised many with the demotion of the former health minister Barbara Hogan. Strong on the policy changes implemented as the Mbeki administration dropped the 'natural' cure policy for the HIV/Aids virus popular with the president and the previous health minister. Her role will now be filled by medical doctor and recently a provincial education minister Aaron Motsoaledi. Ms Hogans new post is to be the less influential portfolio of public enterprise.

Other cabinet appointments; the former finance minister Trevor Manuel will move to a new and powerful central planning post. From being seen as a success in the tax department Pravin Gordhan steps up to replace Mr Manuel. Blade Nzimande is the new higher education and training minister.

Although elected as a member of parliament there was no place in the Zuma cabinet for Winnie Mandela.

Thurs 14

A slanging match, between Zuma and the leader of the opposition, Helen Zille, touched on the presidents moral attitude and attitude to the female gender. In response members of the ANC's Youth League have criticised the administration in Cape Province for being made up of only white males.

In parliament, with a 45% female presence, she told MP 's that the president was not the right person to lead the country as he was sexist in nature as he was prepared to put any of his three wives at risk of the HIV virus; see his attitude to the treatment of women/rape accusation trial. In his own defence Zuma then turned on Zille, who is also leader in the Western Cape and heads the all male provincial cabinet. To have such a cabinet was inappropriate in these enlightened times.

Coming to the aid of the president a Youth League spokesman said "it was disgusted by remarks attributed to the racist girl Helen Zille who when failing to defend her stupid and sexist decision ... attacks the president of South Africa."

The make up of the cabinet in the only province not held by the ANC, centred on Cape Town, is to be questioned in the countries equality court. This is at the behest of the trade union body the Congress of South African Trade Unions. At the same time the court, which is based in Johannesburg will consider the remarks of Julius Malema the president of the Youth League.

The so named Blue Diamond, mined at the Cullinan mine (qv 10/5) went up for sale in the Swiss based Sotheby's auction house recently. Now with a carat weight of 7.03 it was sold for £5.6m/SF 9.3m. With commission the cost, to the unnamed purchaser will be SF10.5m.

Sat 16

Concerns of the charity War on Want, and its efforts to improve the well being of the fruit pickers who work in the orchards of the fruit suppliers for British supermarkets have once again come under the spotlight. Following the confrontation between Gertrudia Bartmaan and the chairman of the Tesco supermarket chain in 2006 (qv 8/6) and subsequently in 2007 (qv 29/6) the mother of three indicated that the only benefit obtained for herself and other workers is the ability to 'spend a penny' in a toilet in the field.

In a recent report the charity Action Aid revealed that more than 104, 000 workers were in permanent employment on 3, 000 fruit farms in South Africa. As to the supermarket chain Tesco chairman, David Reed, said that 790 farms, a sizeable investment, provided fruit for there British outlets.

A second named fruit picker, Kitty de Koch, gathers tangerines on Welgemeen Farm which is located near Cape Town. For this she is paid £97.90 /R 1, 231 per month. From this she has to support four children. Defending the payment of the countries minimum wage; Hannes Hanekom farm director who manages the 200 hectares farm disputes any claims that employees are living in squalid conditions and that there was a series of structural improvements ongoing.

Sat 23

Long known, to the South African authorities that male truckers are heavily responsible for the spread of the HIV virus throughout the continent. There is now evidence that haulage companies are turning towards the use of female drivers.

One such company, Rennies, employs single mother Eunice Sikhunyane aged 36 who drives her 28 tonne 16 wheeler, who delivers goods overnight throughout the country. For the night shift the former tractor and fire engine driver is paid £350/ R 4, 700. Whilst aware of the dangers, of being being on the road at night, Ms Sikhunyane, is able to spend time with her young child.

Academic research, by Rubican and Scott from KwaZulu University has established that 1 :4 male drivers are HIV positive and 3, 000 truck drivers are lost to the Aids virus and accidents every year. The proliferation of the Aids virus has seen the authorities initiate the Trucking Wellness programme. The aim is to offer the countries 70, 000 truck drivers use of one of the fifteen clinics established on major truck routes.

The supposedly resting and repapering Desmond Tutu at age 77, even though recently he has been asked to help in forming a Truth and Reconciliation Commission - based on the 1990's South African model - for the Solomon Islands, still has views and fingers in many pies.

Of his views on the Zuma led government; led by the self acclaimed 'man of the people' even if there are still unanswered questions about the way forward led by this man. To sum up his opinion the former cleric says "It's all water under the bridge. Its the new reality."

Tues 26

As members of the World Economic Forum prepare to gather in Cape Town next month the plight of the residents, who have money making ideas but little chance of raising adequate funding in there harsh economic times, are much in the forethought of the organisation.

In times past, to take the example of Ncedo Kanti aged 25, the owner of a small telephone exchange in Gugulethu township, money would have come from friends and relatives.

However now, and with the support of a well known businessman guarantees set up finances were available through the facility backed by the African Development Bank. The African Commission, initiated by the Danish government launched a 'guarantee facility worth £1.9bn/\$3bn. Seen as the most apt way for small scale business opportunities to flourish.

In the wider context, however, there are words of caution. Mo Ibrahim a Sudanese/ British businessman warns that as Africa is short on providers of venture capital the Commission should not be seen to act in a regional manor. Other monies should be made available, from governments from all over the continent.

Fri 29

Theatre productions in the main tend to breach barriers between cultures however a new production, by a company based in Cape Town, has re ignited the apartheid era's ban on cross culture co operation.

A young white member of the Riverside Theatre Company, whose production of The Pied Piper of Hamelin, which calls for her to kiss an older black actor has had to change the female actor after she refused to kiss him.

Accusations of racism, from Unathi Dyantyi aged 28 were made against the 22 year old Carolyn Forward, which were made all the worse by Fords apparent show of distaste at such an act, were answered as she said that the main audiences for the production were school children which for the young audience to witness "was not appropriate."

There was support, from the plays director Leslie Ehardt, for Unathi who said of Forward that the protest was made because in rehearsals he was told that her doctor told her it was unhygienic to kiss on stage.

Sat 30

It has been reported, this day in 1953, the city council were ahead of the National Party government in implementing the Group Areas Act in relation to the small Indian population in the Witwatersrand area of the country.

This dispute was brought to a head by the head of the Reserve Bank of South Africa who calls for the greater utilisation of their abilities. This has led to political a dispute with members of the United Party as to the imposition of this Native African policy.

JUNE 2009

Mon 1

The life and times of Hamilton Naki, the Cape Town based surgeon cum gardener who allegedly was in the operating theatre at the time of, what the apartheid nation sought to claim 'white nation' credit; the first human heart transplant has been made into a documentary.

The Swiss based production companies Hidden Heart programme opens up, once again, claims that the local and poorly man was not in the hospital theatre which were made by some of those participating at the Groote Schuur hospital.

Tues 2

A fire, in an illegally worked gold mine has claimed the lives of 36 people who were seeking to enrich themselves after the mine closed down.

The Eland shaft in the Free State, owned by the Harmony Group (qv), and at one time produced the goods that enabled Harmony to become the fifth largest mining group in the world. So desperate were those that died to work that they risked the wrath of the groups security guards and slipped through the fence, passed security guards then down the shaft.

A spokesman for Harmony Group said that the severity of the fire made it impossible to shaft rescue. This is the second case of illegal miners loosing there lives. In 2007 23 workers died in the St Helena mine. The governments mining minister, Susan Shabangu, said "these are human lives that have been lost, and we are saddened by this."

Finished with politics, as a former member of the ANC 's Youth League in the Northern Cape in 2001, Patrick Macphoso aged 40 became a 'Celtic tiger' and moved to Eire. With cases of racial abuse on the rise in the country, he who has battled for much of his early life in South Africa such discrimination, has returned home to stand for a seat on Dublin City Council.

As a consequence of the financial recession gripping the world there are renewed fears that some of the 3, 870 car workers in the country could loose there jobs. This move comes as America's General Motors company went into bankruptcy 's Chapter 11 procedure.

Thurs 4

In his 'state of the nation' broadcast president Zuma said that despite the effects of the world's economic recession the nations poor are his first concern. Calling on all to spend there 'cents wisely' as the country; Africa's largest economy faces its first real down turn in seventeen years.

With the urging of the trade unions and allies the president promised to create jobs and to do more to address one of the world's highest rates of violence ahead of the 2010 World Cup.

Sun 7

As the nation hosts the Confederation Cup, the acknowledged policy 'try out' before the 2010 World Cup, the effect of thousands of football fans from across the world on South Africa's infrastructure are awaited with keen interest by the authorities. Of most concern, especially to the health authorities, are the number of tourists who will make use of brought in HIV infected prostitutes and then leave the country only to spread the Aids infection even further internationally.

Authorities in South Africa have no Aids prevention plan in place even as it is known that forty five thousand soccer fans are expected for the series of matches beginning on 14/6 between the eight nations. To participate the country has to have won the previous world cup, Brazil, and the other seven nations, Italy, Spain New Zealand, Egypt, USA and Iraq and South Africa as the host nation.

Cheap alcohol and 33% of women aged 25 - 29 who are thought to carry the Aids virus are expected to kill 300, 000 during 2010. With no policy in place to protect the foreigner the countries Law Commission are considering legalising sex work as the country faces an increase of trafficked women from neighbouring countries.

Wed 10

With the end of the various policies urged by organic saviours; Thabo Mbeki or the ousted former minister of health M Tshabala Msimang (qv) to reduce the effect of the HIV virus the real saviour is to be found in the up take of the use of the condom by the nations youth.

The report, written by Dr A Motsoaledi for the countries Human Sciences Research Council interviewed 20, 826 in various age ranges.

In 18 year old 's new infections were down, from '05 - '08 by 0.8%. 20 year old males 2.2% to 1.7%. Condom use in 15 - 24 year old 's '02 - '08 57% - 87%. For females in the same range usage rose from 46% to 72%.

The prevalence of finding the virus in a child aged 2 - 14 in the years '02 - '08 - were down from 5.6% to 2.5%. There has been little change in the overall rate of HIV infection for the 2 years+ 10.9%. In 02 the figure was 2.8% and in 05 it was 11.4%

Sat 13

With the Confederation Cup's (qv 7/6) opening match; between the host nation and Iraq less than 24 hours away the preparedness of the regime in Pretoria for the 2010 World Cup in 2010 will be tested to the limit. With the onslaught of an estimated 450, 000 expected for the event will be closely watched by the 2010 committee.

High on the political agenda are the crime statistics of a nation that is still emerging from the 'post Mandela' era. Figures show that, in 2007/08 there were 36, 190 crimes of rape and 14, 201 car jackings. It is thought that many other similar offences were not reported. To ensure the safety of fans the security operation will spend £90m/R1.3m as a 41, 000 security force, backed up by helicopters and water cannon, are deployed around the 10 stadiums that will host matches. There has been a cost to the social infrastructure as the building programme has continued. Only recently has the squatter camp, Macassar Village outside Cape Town, succumbed to the needs of the project. As residents were evicted stones and other missiles were thrown at those tearing down there homes.

A survey, by the charity War on Want, says that of the 415, 000 jobs - including 5, 000 in construction, where a strike has occurred on two occasions, are paid as little as £1.06/R14 per hour.

This date in history 1964; on the eve of sentence for the Rivonia trialists members from the House of Commons World Campaign for the Release of South African Prisoners marched on that country's embassy. At the head of the 48 strong group was the group's chairman, Conservative MP H Berkley. Once outside the residence their way was blocked by a line of police. However a side entrance was located where the Labour MP Fenner Brockway was able to post was able to post an appeal.

This demonstration came at the end of a day that saw Mandela aged 46, convicted of two charges of sabotage one of attempting to further communism and another of accepting and receiving cash from inside and outside the country .

Also convicted, by Judge de Wet JP of the Transvaal, in the Supreme Court in Pretoria was W Sisulu, 52 D Goldberg 33 G Mbeki R Mahlaba 44 E Motsoledi 39 A Mlangeni 38 all convicted on the same charges.

Mon 15

The decision of the constitutional court (qv) come under scrutiny from the soon to be retired Albie Sachs to force the supply of the anti Aids drug Nevirapine to pregnant women in 2002 (qv 12/3) are explained in his book The Strange Alchemy of Life and Law published by the Oxford University Press along with other ground breaking rulings.

The already acknowledged 'worst recession in 20 years' that has hit the country can now be seen to be affecting all aspects of life therein. Children's charities are reporting that they are having to accept more abandoned babies into their care homes than ever before.

Two charities, Tshwane Place of Safety, who normally find volunteer families to care for those abandoned, street living mother refugees from Zimbabwe et al find that they are beginning to hand the child back as the recession begins to bite. The Door of Hope charity, based in Johannesburg, has seen baby numbers left outside churches rise from 5 a month three years ago to an average of 15 a month now.

Thurs 18

A British backed Medical Research Council of South Africa has further exposed the culture of sexual violence that is endemic here. Written by Professor Rachel Jewkes, and colleagues, this detailed report gathered information with the use of methods that was able to guarantee to the respondents. The survey questioned 1, 738 men in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal province.

Results show that 28% of those questioned admitted raping a girl or women, 73% of these attacks were carried out before the bloke was aged 20. Homosexual rape was carried out by 1:20 of those questioned.

Criticising the government's response, where only 7% of reported rapes lead to convictions, the reports authors called this a 'woeful conviction rate. The cases of child abuse are increasing, according to the trade union Solidarity, who say that one child rape occurs every three minutes

with 88% of rapes going unreported.

Fri 19

With no doubts that the Global Fund for Aids TB and Malaria, set up By the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation in 8/'06 has saved many lives and brought a wider understanding of these killer diseases, concern is now being expressed.

Writing in the Lancet medical journal a wide ranging review backed by the World Health Organisation says that such is the prestige, for members of the medical profession to work to eliminate these conditions from there home country, that other aspects of a nations health care suffer. In other words the bright scientists or doctors take up positions on there programmes.

The upside it can be seen that millions of people are alive because of the roll out of HIV drugs to 3 million people in developing countries. The number of children protected against malaria by insect repellent and bed nets rose from 3% in 2001 to 23% in 2006. The Fund was directly responsible, along with a government injection of money for the infant mortality rate for Botswana 'n child mortality rate and the overall life expectancy in the country to rise for the first time.

Sat 20

The feel good factor film, White Wedding, is possibly set to improve the relationships between those that speak the eleven official languages of South Africa than any other political or media inspired initiative so far seen in the post apartheid nation.

Termed a 'road movie' the tale is told of the race against time of a groom and his best man to arrive at said wedding. The film, directed by Jann Turner, daughter of Westminster MP Barbara Follet, has herself has been blighted by the apartheid struggle. Her father, Rick Turner, a friend of Steve Biko, (qv) was killed it is assumed by the security forces when Ms Turner was 13 years old.

One of the films most defining moments scenes is when the groom and best man stumble into a bar full of Afrikaner speaking youths drinking under the nations old style flag. However once some hard political points have been made, amid the hard drinking and talking, the interlopers are treated to genuine Afrikaner hospitality.

White Wedding, this romantic comedy, was produced in 19 days at a cost of £450, 000/R6m, and features 11 languages and the three leading actors - K Nkosi, Zulu, R Seiphemo, Tshwana, with the bride from the Xhosa nation.

As the host nation comes out on top, after a Confederation Cup match the use by supporters of the Vuvuzela, has been challenged for future use in the 2010 World Cup (qv). Described as an instrument that makes a sound like an approaching herd of elephants players have called for it to be banned.

Sun 21

Authorities are playing down the apparent shortage of short stay venues for sports tourists ahead of the 2010 World Cup, despite complaints from followers of the British Lions at the start of a series of Rugby Union matches against the national Springbok side

Many of the 30, 000 British and Irish fans, who say their team lost 26 : 21, had to be transported to the venue Durban from as far away as Johannesburg to watch the match. For 2010's traveller Fifa estimates that 55, 000 hotel rooms will be required, some 15, 000 more than is available at this time. To try and cope the authorities are contemplating reserving hotel rooms on the island of Mauritius.

Mon 22

Attending the end of year arts show at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy the television talk show host praised the work of the students, who although come from the deprived areas around Johannesburg, show potential.

Speaking after the event Ms Winfrey explained that this year's show was themed around the ability to recycle whether this was ideas or the making of art installations from refuse.

Tues 23

Evidence has emerged, through delegates to the International Community of Women Living with HIV/Aids that a number of health authorities, from across the continent, are virtually forcing pregnant women to be sterilized after the birth of their presumed Aids infected child.

It was reported that such methods were being used in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia and more of interest to this diarist, Namibia and South Africa. Such was the pressure at the time of delivery that it was only after the birth that it was recognised by mum that papers had been signed giving consent during time.

Many of these newly sterilized women fell into the age range of 20 years to 34 years, the age range for females known to be the age range most infected by Aids than any other age group. In South Africa; thus the risk fell from 1 : 4 to 1 : 3.

One case, among 40 such cases of forced sterilisation, is that of Namibian born Hilma Nedongo aged 30 who is HIV positive, only found out that she had no chance of providing a sister for her two boys, when a nurse enquired "Oh, didn't they tell you that you had been sterilized?"

Ms Nedongo's case will be among the 15 cases that the ICW will bring before the courts this year in an attempt to win compensation for the loss of their reproductive rights.

Mon 29

The World Cup 'try out, the Confederation Cup has come to a conclusion. Played in a stadium in Johannesburg the finalists, Brazil and the USA, battled to the final result of 2 : 3 in favour of Brazil, who fought back with goals in the 46th, 74th and 80th minutes.

JULY 2009

Thurs 2

With a history of being a caring employer South African Breweries (qv) the world's second largest brewer is to follow the line of other South African employers and offer its workers part ownership of the company.

The deal, worth £454m /\$750m, will see staff and retailers receiving new shares in the company. After ten years the SAB shares will be exchanged for a share in the companies parent company, SAB Miller, which is listed on the London Stock exchange.

This move, it is hoped, will bring in at least 60, 000 new shareholders 95% who will hopefully be from the majority of the population. Such numbers will boost overall black ownership of the company to 16%, well on target for achieve the spirit of the post apartheid legislation; of the Black Empowerment Act.

Sun 5

A missed opportunity; in 1985 by the World Health Organisation, not to act after research by Kenyan scientists, had seen the HIV/Aids infection numbers continue to rise way above what they should have if the findings had been taken heed of.

Twenty five years ago research found that if a man, who had made use of a female prostitute, the main way HIV/Aids is transmitted throughout the African continent, has been circumcised then the spread of the virus was less than if men were left uncut.

Some 30 studies, on this issue, were completed in the 1990's but it was not until 2004 that a formal double blind trial was commissioned by the international aid agencies. Such were the findings of this latest trial saw HIV/Aids infections down by 60%, 3 million deaths and 5.7 million infection that in 2008, a 'mass circumcision programme was mounted in a number of African countries.

A tale told, to finance the studies of Aher Arop Bol a war refugee from Sudan in 1984, is told in the book The Lost Boy, published by Kwela Books, as he sells sweets, cigarettes and other cheap items under a bridge in the city of Pretoria.

With the ambition of becoming a lawyer, via a correspondence course from the University of South Africa which costs £2, 000 /R27, 000 a year. Already highlighted in the magazine Drum the tale of his flight from north east Africa through Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and arriving in South Africa in 2003 is an "extraordinary tale of pain, desperation and above all, survival against all the odds."

Thurs 9

Whatever the benefits to the health of a nation riddled with the HIV virus (qv 5/7) the act of circumcision is a dangerous 'right of passage from child to man' for many tribal groups in the country.

In the last few days there has been reports, from the Eastern Cape, of the death of 37 children as they progressed from Xhosa boy to Xhosa man. This number far exceeds the 24 that died in the whole of 2008. Much of the blame, for the deaths, and the 100 boys who were hospitalised for complications, was due to use by the tribal elders of rusty and dirty knives to remove the skin from around the tip of the penis. In response the police have closed down illegal initiation schools and arrested 11.

Deep dissatisfaction, at the low wages being paid to the construction workers engaged in the preparations for the 2010 World Cup, has seen the National Union of Mineworkers instruct its members, all 70, 000 of them, out on indefinite strike until their demand for a 13% increase in wages is met. In response the companies have offered 10%.

Fri 10

News report, it would seem that the chairman of Anglo America the mining conglomerate is to stand down. His replacement, in the opinion of the authorities in Pretoria, should be a black South African. The non appointment of such a person could see the relationship between government and company become more difficult in the future. - Today, R4 07. 00 -

Not only could Anglo America upset their relationship with the government, see above, but, as it battles with Xstrata over take over issues Anglo 's deputy chairman, G Boustred aged 84, has attacked the companies chief executive Cynthia Carroll describing her a "useless."

With the battle raging the government has let it be known that their favourite to replace outgoing chairman, M Moody Stuart, with the apartheid era, former minister Cyril Ramaphosa (qv).

Cartoon, An Anglo American board meeting; non pc remark over a newspaper headline "SEXIST TIRADE AGAINST Cynthia Carroll.

Sat 11

With the knowledge that the government would rather see a person of the stature of Cyril Ramaphosa as the new head of the mining conglomerate Anglo America the companies board has appointed Sir John Parker to the post, from 1/8.

With his experience, as chairman of the UK's National Grid and the understanding of business in South Africa, as chairman of the paper producer Mondi, it is thought he is well placed to mount the campaign that will see off any take over bid by Xstrata.

Mon 13

Still of concern, to former president Nelson Mandela, are the series of lithographs produced and exhibited in New York in 2004 (qv 13/3). As of this time the exhibition is coming to the Belgravia Gallery in London.

Through his lawyer, B Chuene, the former president still insists that the signature on the prints is not his even though the Galleries Anna Hunte one time the managing director, and a forensic hand writing expert both say it is. Letters have been sent indicating that Mr Mandela "strongly disassociates himself" from the display, he further calls for the exhibitors to "desist immediately." There has been no reply as yet.

The original purpose of the prints, which were purchased by celebrities and other international 'notables', was to provide funds for the then presidents Aids and children's charities.

Wed 14

The long running argument over the Mandela lithographs (qv 13/7); with a previous mention by in 2004 (qv 13/3) is put by some as a crisis of memory for the countries first black president.

Argued is the stance that 'selling memories', of his time and the view from his cell window on Robben Island as they 'do not possess the eloquence' of written memories? It is felt that the best opinion of the jailed leader of the ANC 's time on his prison island are described in his autobiography The Long Walk to Freedom. Other examples is the Mandela /Tambo black and white photo of the two standing in the prison quarry.

Perhaps the most memorable work of art, left by the then president in 1995, is the Reunion Cairn. This is simply a mound of limestone pieces to which all the reunion members added, as all subsequent visitors are supposed to.

Sat 18

The celebration of Nelson Mandela 's 91st birthday, a music concert in New York - in which the wife of the president of France is scheduled to perform along with Steve Wonder and Aretha Franklin - pale into significance with the amount of recognition the former president receives at home and around the world. In the UK there are more than 40 examples of a building or a road bearing he name.

Along with the Bridge, Square and home in Johannesburg the coastal bay in the Eastern Cape et al, there are other examples of businesses trading on the name of the countries first black president.. Some may have official sanction; coins, fridge magnets, posters, salt and pepper shakers others do not. These include the impotency medicine Viagra.

As a lasting legacy he himself, in the name of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, has asked that this day be named as Mandela Day. On this day celebrants would be asked to donate 67 minutes; the number of years of the anti apartheid struggle to doing 'good works' in the community.

Tues 21

By the year 2010 5.8% of the population will be aged 65 years and over. Thirty years later, 2040, the over 65 's will make up 10% of South Africa's population. For every 100 people in the working age group, 20 to 64 there will be 16 people of pensionable age.

In the United Kingdom comparable figures are 2010 16.4%. In 2040 25.1% and 46 persons for every 100 people of working age.

Wed 22

With echoes of the British Oscar winning film, Slumdog Millionaire, the ever present South African film industry has also taken an unknown child actor to produce a film along similar lines. With its premier set for the Durban Film Festival on 23/7 Zulu Lami; My Secret Sky sees 11 year old Sobovhle Mkhabase and seven other children selected from rural KwaZulu Natal.

The film, which cost £350, 000 /R4.5m and was shot in just 4 weeks, tells the story of an orphaned sister and brother, played by 8 year old Sibonelo Malinga, who have travelled to Durban to try and win a craft competition with a mat made by there late mother.

As with the British film the two children fall under the influence of a criminal gang, where the eleven year old only just manages to escape a sexual assault.

This latest creation, from an already Oscar winning industry see, page 267, has already won international awards. At the Tama festival in Spain for the best actress along with other awards at the African Festival in Cannes and after a showing on Zanzibar. It is hoped that Zulu Lami will be shown at the London Film Festival in 2010.

Thurs 23

Not seen since pre 1994 days have protesters taken to the streets in protest at the lack of local authority services; water, electric street lighting and homes provided in the suburbs.

Over the last few days the police have had to confront crowds in townships around Johannesburg, north east region of Mpumalanga and in the western Cape areas. Also a focus were the large number of economic migrants that have fled from neighbouring countries (qv 22/2).

Despite the 15 years of stable government the ANC now faces the residents anger over the slow supply of municipal services to there home and streets. Police have also made arrests after a number of farm workers were forced off there land, an echo of the feared Mugabe land grab policy?

Newly elected president Zuma faces the jobs/ service provision for those who elected him on the back of the growing world recession. As author and commentator, W Gumede,notes in 2007 (qv 21/12) says Jacob Zuma, having inherited this problem 'it is not a crisis'.

Fri 24

At the age of 40 Vernan Henn, having worked as an office cleaner and with a distinct liking for wine, is on the verge of; as general manager of wine producer Thandi becoming the head of a wine brand wholly owned by a collective of 250 black families.

The brand, started in 1995, a fair trade label in 2003 and sold in the UK's Tesco stores, is one of only a few black owned enterprises. By 10/09, vines grown in Lebanon and Paardenkloof areas of the country, having come together, as the Company of Wine People, will within the next five years be wholly owned by its workers.

Wine exports to the UK rose by 27%, in the year to 4/09. Ninth largest wine producer in the world with 120, 000 hectares of vineyards representing 3% of world wine production. In 2007

there were 3, 999 wine producers and 1, 351, 447 tonnes of grapes crushed according to SA Wine Information Service.

Sat 25

There are plans to increase the number, to four, of nuclear power stations in the country. They, like the existing Koeberg electricity producing site, will be built at the coast. Provisionally known as Nuclear 1, 2, and 3 would be able to generate twice as much as the existing plant, which was raided in 2002 by Greenpeace as part of an environmental protest.

Six monthly profits, 1 - 6/09, of De Beers fell 99% to £1.82m/\$3m. In the same period in 2008 the world's largest producer of diamonds made a profit of \$316m. Sales of 'rough diamonds fell by 57% to \$1.4bn with production falling by 73% to 6.6m carats. Its worldwide work force was cut by 23% Pre tax profits were down 80% to £140m.

Sun 26

Echoing the thought of many Nozipho Mbambo aged 24, who was part of a 3, 000 strong crowd who attended a rally in one of the newly built World Cup stadiums in KwaZulu Natal, and listened to Jacob Msholozzi* Zuma as he nears his 100th day in office.

The concerns, of this single mother, from Haamarsdale a semi rural township, told of the unfulfilled promises made by the previous regime. Voting for the ANC/Zuma administration was "because she had to". There was little concern for the politics. Speaking of the let downs felt by the people president Zuma stated that he needed time to end the endemic corruption across the country. * Zulu for dance

Not only is this time marred with anti poverty violence there is, looming in the near future, the possibility of sweeping strikes among 150, 000 municipal workers. Also workers in the chemical industry may down tools. The recent strike by construction workers, involved in World Cup projects (qv), after a stoppage of seven days. The workers were there demand of R1.68 on top of there present R14 /£1 per hour.

Other statistics, heralded by Sicelo Shceka the minister of cooperative governance and traditional affairs, was the fact that since 1994 2.6m homes. However there needs to be constructed another 2.1m houses to reach there set target.

Tues 28

An angry crowd of striking municipal workers marched through the centre of Johannesburg. They were demanding from the recently elected ANC dominated government, and more precisely president Zuma, action over the slow progress of the provision of poor services and more social spending to cushion workers during the countries economic down turn.

Thurs 30

For sale, in the Orchard suburb of northern Johannesburg is the home N Ball and her husband. With an initially expected price of £215, 000 /R2.8m 'The Krall' was a low interest sale as far as many people were concerned.

What makes this home an 'of interest home' is that it was a residence that Mahatma Gandhi

during his 21 years that he worked as a lawyer in the country. Moreover this home, built on 1, 100 acres of land by architect H Kallenbach and donated to the young Indian lawyer, was the place that the future prime minister of a self rule India theorised the policy of non violence.

The historic house, owned by Kirti Mennon Gandhi 's great great grand daughter, wants it turned into a museum, was purchased for R65, 000 in 1981 from a British women.

Fri 31

A former wannabe guerilla fighter, in the Rhodesian civil war; who was rejected because he was an 'educated man' and an independent Zimbabwe would need businessmen Strive Masiywa is now a resident in South Africa.

With an impressive CV; Educated Holt School Edinburgh, North Wirral of Technology Merseyside, University of Wales,gaining an electrical and electronic engineering degree.

Career - Zimbabwe Posts and Telecommunications Corporation 1984 - 1988; Retrofit Engineering '88 - 94, founder and CEO Econet Wireless Holdings, !994 onwards and founder and CEO Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe, 2000 onwards- see Zimbabwe Diary this date

AUGUST 2009

Sat 1

As the recession continues to affect the economy once again a large employer of labour has announced a fall in profits. Not only this, there is continual discontent that a member of the black majority was not placed at the head of Anglo American (qv 10/6)

The company, profits down 69% to £608m /\$1bn in the period 1/09 - 6/09, now faces a massive period of retrenchment heralded in by American chief executive Cynthia Carroll. This victim of a crude sexist attack from their own deputy chairman G Boustred, will make savings of £1.2bn/\$2bn by 2011. With \$450m saving made so far there has been a loss of 15, 405 jobs. This leaves another 13, 505 jobs to disappear during the next two years.

Many see this white run company, listed on the London Stock Exchange, since the 1990's and with company headquarters there, as a management a step removed from the playing fields filled with gold, platinum or precious stones.

The lost enterprise of the Anglo American: De Beers company is the subsidiary Anglo Platinum. Here, because the mined metal is used in catalytic converters in motor vehicles; if they were being produced comes the largest job losses. In the case of Anglo Platinum, according to a Solidarity union, is in excess of 6, 000. Add to this the 6 to 8 dependants involved then it can be seen how bad the unemployment situation is.

It still is a bone of contention, with those in the political/union field, that after 15 years of black rule and acts of parliament; the Black Economic Empowerment Programme has not filtered through to this company. The white chairman Sir J Parker, the chairman, appointed after Cyril Ramaphosa was found to be 'not available' was only one of a number who could have been approached.

Sun 2

With the end of the Mbeki era and the view of the somewhat off beat cure for the Aids virus the testing of an Australian biotech companies anti Aids virus that was developed in 2006 (qv 1/12) will be beneficial to those infected with the HIV virus.

One of the first recipients of the developed HIV Vaccine is Nothelembu Mbembe a resident of the Crossroads squatter camp on the outskirts of Cape Town. One of 36 volunteers who gathered at Emavundeleni Centre.

Mon 3

The financial grant as the total share of government foreign aid expenditure in 2008 to Mozambique was approximates 35% of the allotted amount set aside for overseas aid. The interest rate amounts that the Luanda government had to pay on overseas aid, during the period 2004/06 was 11%. In the same two year period the authorities in Angola were repaying their loans at an inflation busting rate of 11%.

The life and death of the Black Consciousness leader, Steve Biko; whose life and times were shown in the film Cry Freedom is to have a museum that is dedicated to his life built.

It is to be designed by the English, Crouton based, architect Ray Hole. This will be built in Port Elizabeth

Sun 9

As the American secretary of state, Hilary Clinton, continues a seven nation tour of Africa it would seem a long term rift between the two countries is coming to an end. With an admittance that Washington's past support for former president Thabo Mbeki's 'slowly slowly' policy over Zimbabwe, from the secretary of state, relationships between the two countries will improve after president Zuma's more determined approach over the issue.

There was a joint meeting of the two politicians in the port city of Durban, which Clinton termed "extremely helpful." Later in the day the visiting dignitary spoke at the Victoria Mxenge housing scheme on the outskirts of Cape Town. Here praise was heaped on her host for the way that South Africa had absorbed the estimated 3 million Zimbabwean refugees who are now living in the country.

The visit is seen, by many people as a forerunner for one by president Obama, during the 2010 World Cup.

Thurs 13

At a ceremony at the White House Archbishop Desmond Tutu was bestowed with America's highest award given to civilians. The stalwart of the fight against apartheid received the presidential freedom of honour medal from president Obama, along with other notables in their own specific field.

Unknown date Long known as a place with a rich plant diversity scientists working for the Earthwatch environmental charity at the Mkhambathi nature reserve in the Cape Town region known as the Wild Coast have identified a number of new animal and insect species never seen before.

After the eight day project at the East Cape Parks, covering 29 square miles, scientists and researchers suspect that as well as the 18 new species of invertebrates discovered this time round there may still be a similar number still to be found.

Thurs 20

The status of the winner of the women's 800 meter race at the World Athletic Championships in Berlin has been questioned. Caster Semanya aged 18 from Polokwane, Limpopo province South Africa, has now been asked to take a gender verification test to prove she is a women. Concerns were raised after her winning time of 1.55. 45. was 2. 45 seconds faster than the defending champion.

The request for 'proof' of womanhood was dismissed by M Malehopo, manager of Athletics South Africa, gave a ringing endorsement of the gold medal winner in the African Junior Athletic Championships said "she is female. We are completely sure about that."

Fri 21

Although the gender test still awaits the winner of the Women's 800m race at the World Championships in Berlin, the sexual orientation of Caster Semenya is in no doubt to her family or indeed the media and politicians.

Known as a child as something of a tomboy at Nthema secondary school, where she would rather play football with the boys and wear trousers, did suffer some teasing from her peers as well as gender doubt from certain teachers. This was usually laughed off at the time. Speaking to the South African Time grandmother M Sekgala said that "if the teasing did hurt she kept the hurt to herself and didn't show what she was feeling."

Political support came from the government as she was heralded as "our golden girl." A second strand of defence for this most successful athlete came from the Youth League as they attacked the "racist agenda" of those who doubt her gender, word echoed by the Young Communist League.

Called into question is the decision by the International Association of Athletics Federation to challenge the gender of the winner of the 800 meter woman's event at the Berlin games. From the writers perspective the call for 'gender verification;' an so Orwellian phrase is only based on innuendo and name calling. It is internationally accepted that, participants in other world sporting events, have equally not shown a significant number of female traits and still been allowed there victory. This so public call for Caster Semenya, at only eighteen years still at a venerable age, to undergo this public investigation is the wrong way to go about such determining her gender.

If after all that is necessary is done and the rural born women retains her gold medal would the IAAF be charged with a failure of care for this young South African? would there be any compensation offered for such a humiliation?

As has been proved previously many female sports personalities, especially from the former communist dominated Eastern Europe, could visually not be described as 'the accepted face of womanhood' due to the forced taking of steroids to bulk up for sports such as weight lifting or the shot put. Then there is the medical condition of hermaphroditism. Women with this condition are likely to have characteristics of both sexes.

Having won other athletic competitions, under the same jurisdiction as this disputed result, why was a gender challenge left till now? Apart from accusations of this being seems to be discrimination because of looks.

Distant elements of pre and post apartheid regimes are well advanced. Probably the most far fetched; District 9, but having been presumed filmed in Soweto during the dying days of the De Klerk era, likens the day to day lifestyle of a bunch of stranded aliens; an allegory - for the township dwellers of the early 1990's. is released on 4/9.

The donning of the Springbok rugby shirt by newly elected Nelson Mandela is the back drop for Invictus, an adoption of the book Playing the Enemy by British journalist J Carlin. The main thrust of the film/book is that by the act of donning the then emblem of the oppressors the new president effectively united a divided South Africa. is released 2/10

The real life work of photo journalists capturing the essences of the much hyped Rainbow Nation is shown in 2004 The Bang Bang Club (qv 11/2) where the actor who takes on the role of Ryan Phillippe came to shoot scenes where on of the Club was shot dead he said "it was painful to

return to the streets where his friend was killed”.

Also in pre or post production is a BBC Television biopic of the life and times of Mrs Mandela who is portrayed by Sophie Okondo while her estranged husband's role is filled by British star David Harewood.

Sat 22

It would seem that such is the pressure that Ms Semenya seemed; in her own opinion to be under that the women nearly refused to climb onto the podium to be awarded the gold medal after winning the 800 metres at the IAAF game in Germany.

Detailing the events, L Chuene the president of Athletics South Africa, told that country's Times newspaper “She said she did not want to go on the podium. I told her she must ... she is not rejoicing she did not want the medal”.

In defence of ordering a gender verification test for this rural born ‘shy teenager’ the sports governing body stressed that it did not suspect her of cheating, rather they were interested in knowing whether she had a rare medical condition.

Sun 23

In the interest of fairness the president of Athletics South Africa, L Chuene, has stepped down from the governing board of the International Association of Athletics Federation ‘for as long as it takes to fight this dreadful case against our young runner’. It has also emerged that the call, for the gender verification of Caster Semenya had been called into question even before the controversy erupted on 20/8.

The speculation and innuendo first came to light after her races in the 2009 Junior African games held on the island of Mauritius. There, this virtually unknown, was able to come to the tape in a time 1. 56. 72, more than one second off this time in Berlin. There was even greater improvement when the 1500 metre ended 25 seconds faster.

More words, from Julius Malema, president of the ANC's Youth League or the IAAF's attack on “this beautiful women.” There will now be representations made to the United Nations commissioner for Human Rights to determine if there has been a breach of the athletes rights of privacy and decency.

Tues 25

News report, it would seem that the growing row, involving C Semenya, who was due to arrive, along with the other members of the South Africa team from Berlin, back in the country, and the board of the International Association of Athletic Federation only came about because of a miss sent electronic communication. Also early reports, along the gender verification process, indicate a high level of the testosterone found. - **Radio 2 16. 00** -

Wed 26

There was a rapturous welcome home for members of the Athletics South Africa team who had participated in the recent IAAF games in Berlin. The mainly black crowd were there, to chiefly welcome home the 800m gold medal winner C Semenya over who such controversy has raged.

Among the crowd at the Oliver Tambo International Airport was Winnie Mandela MP who called her 'my grandchild' and for the rest of the world - "to the world out there ... who test our gender ... they can go stuff there insults this is our little girl and nobody is going to perform tests on her."

The team, whose other gold medal was won by M Mulaudzi in the men's 800m then processed to Pretoria where they met president Zuma in his guest house. In his greeting the president indicated that to challenge whether an athlete had an unfair advantage was justified. Where the International Association of Athletics Federation was wrong was in their approach. It was too public.

A silver medal, in the long jump, went to Khotso Mokoena.

Thurs 27

Speculation about the health of the president of Zimbabwe has emerged in the pages of the Times of South Africa. The report, heavily denied by Zanu Party officials, is based on reports that Mugabe who has not been seen since 26/8 claims he has travelled to the city of Dubai for an on going prostrate condition.

This 'serious health scare' comes on the eve of a cross border visit to the former British colony by president Zuma. There were concerns of the progress of the workings of the interim government

It is expected that Jacob Zuma will take a tougher stance on this issue than his predecessor did. During this two day visit the president will be more vocal in the ways of anyone showing deviant behaviour.

Fri 28

A far more common 'end game' for notables who are of the gay and lesbian gender type is their rape and or murder. In the view of a female member of the ANC, when 44.5% of the make up of parliament is female, the case of Caster Semenya will open minds and the realities that 'people are just people.'

The most notable attack and murder of the captain of the country's women football team was gang raped and murdered in 2008, for which 3 men are now on trial. Also research, by the pressure group Triangle detailed that about 10 cases of 'corrective rape' occur every week in South Africa.

Sat 29

Police were out in force, on 26/8, as members of the military marched on the Union Buildings, in Pretoria. They were demanding that president Zuma speak to them as they demanded a pay rise. There were casualties.

Sun 31

On going legal moves, by members of the South African Taxi National Council, despite the

promises made by the soon to be president Zuma (qv) have reached the courts. On 28/9 the high court in Gauteng province turned down the associations plea to suspend the opening of the Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transport System [BRT]. Following the ruling executive members at a Kibler Park in Johannesburg are to decide if and when any further action protests are planned.

authors note, having recently returned from a touring holiday and encountered the rush hour traffic in Johannesburg and other large cities it can be seen that the country is crying out for a method of transporting the workers quickly and cheaply into and out of these towns. The Rea Vaya route, between the Soweto suburbs and the centre of Johannesburg is the first to be completed and it will be extensively used in the run up to the 2010 World Cup. Also it is a lot cheaper than the cost of the mini us taxis controlled by Sanco.

The family of the women's 800 meter gold medal winner, Caster Semenya, are to have a new home as a mark of the teenagers achievements. The decision, by the provincial authority to award such an honour is also in respect of 9/09 being designated The Month of the Women.

In a collaboration between the Limpopo provincial government and Bitline Property Developers the new residence, which will cost R150, 000, /£125, 000, will start being constructed within seven days.

Mr Justice Hlophe, will not face further questions - from the Judicial Services Committee about claims that he influenced those trying, and acquitted the recently installed president Zuma, on an earlier rape charge. Critics of the announcement include Cope (qv) called the decision 'a political decision'.

SEPTEMBER 2009

Fri 4

The long on off battle for the victims of the apartheid struggle to win reparations in the American courts, since 2002, has taken a decisive turn. Since 2006, when the then president Mbeki sided with the American companies, General Motors, Barclays Bank, IBM and the Ford Motor Company by telling them there would be no help for those who suffered fro Pretoria. As of now the Zuma administration has reversed that decision.

With only 26 plaintiffs remaining there plight is represented by one such victim. In 1985 M Masemolo, a school student who was destined to be a medical doctor, was arrested under section 29 of the Internal Security Act (qv) and served 5 years on Robben Island. To this day there is a piece of bullet shrapnel lodged in his skull.

The ongoing judicial row, centred round Judge Hlophe is causing ranking members of the legal profession to refuse invitations to serve at the higher levels. One such is Justice Nugent who is in two minds over accepting a post in the Constitutional Court or remain on the bench of the supreme court of appeal.

Delayed once again, after a date set for 4/09, the former chairman of Interpol and South Africa 's police commissioner J Selbie, has received the backing of the international police body in his fight to clear his name over alleged corruption charges.

The trial is now expected to begin on 5/10 in the high court.

Leader comment, **BTR is welcome**, despite the taxi associations threats of strike action which has not happened embarking instead on a go slow along the route."They are also angry that at last people have a safer, more reliable and more comfortable public transport alternative."

The imminent annual general meeting of the Inkatha Freedom Party the very existence of the Zulu dominated political party is in doubt after a poor showing in the recent provincial elections. There will be a tough battle for the Chief Buthelezie to stay as head of the movement. His chief rivals will be between IFP national chair woman Z kalMagwaza Msibi and party general secretary M Zondi.

As an add on to those suing in the American courts, for apartheid era reparations, representatives of the named companies will meet with the companies and the secretary general of the justice department, Menzi Simelane, within the next 7 days. Immediately following this meeting the minister will talk with a legal representative of the plaintiffs to discuss an out of court settlement. An offer of \$40m was rejected in 2002.

With there future also in mind 'minor officials' of the ANC are jockeying for position come the retirement of the 'old guard. The 'young lions' Gwede Mantashe secretary general and Fikile Mbalula a member of the national executive committee seem to be the names to watch in 2012. The two most likely ones are backed by members of the SACP and the Youth League respectively.

De Beers production 1/09 - 6/09 produced 6.6m carats. This is a fall of 73% fall on the same period in 2008.

Cartoon It 's been a pleasure! now if we' re done here I 'll be moving on comment on impartial justice M @ G S

Mon 7

The grouping Freedom Under the Law is to challenge the Judicial Services Commission's non investigation of the claim that Judge Hlope (qv) made interfering moves before the Zuma rape trial had given its verdict.

Allegations of racism have been made against Judge Kriegler by members of the JSC. The claimants, including C Ramaphosa (qv), say that the remarks made were of a racist nature. In his defence this long serving member of the bench apologised and said any 'offensive' remarks were due to his legal heritage - a white apartheid nation was used to talking down to those brought before him - member of the bench.

Cartoon We want asylum ... the Aussies attacked us in Brisbane the Springbok team suffer a heavy defeat in the RUWC **The Citizen**

Tues 8

Cartoon Gender questions; Casta Semenya has to answer **Cape Times**

Cartoon "The JSC is also doing a spot of spring cleaning. They 're sweeping the Hlophe matter under the carpet." ie the pressure brought to bear on the judiciary over Zuma 's rape/ corruption charges. **ditto**

Wed 9

Cartoon 'Rule of law going down' as Judge Hlophe outwits the JSC

Thurs 10

With all gender verification tests completed on the recent winner of the women's 800m at the World Championships the next move is up to her. According to IAAF spokesman, N Davis, the various examinations of Caster Semenya; both medical and psychological still have to be checked. With the cooperation of the athlete the issues could be settled quickly. For her not to assist the investigation would have serious consequences. The world champion would have ended her career at a stroke.

An unofficial leak, from Australia, claims that Ms Semanya was born, in the physiological sense, a hermaphrodite. The meaning of which is that she was born without a women's ovaries, but with a large amount of the male hormone testosterone flowing in her system.

As to the next moves, discussions will continue at the 11/09 meeting of the IAF 's national executive meeting. For the time being attempts are being made to contact the lady. Nick Davis told the Sydney Morning Herald that one way out of the dilemma could be to award a second gold medal to the Kenyan runner up in the 800m race.

The bodies of S Hashe, C Galela and Q Godolzi who were activists*, supporting the ANC, in the Eastern Cape and were 'disappeared' by members of the South African police or military in

1985. are to be handed back to their respective families. * known as the Pebco 3 features in part of DVD 1 Red Mist 25 11 2008

The move comes after intense work by members of the national Prosecution Authorities Missing Persons Task Team. see also 'Peoples War : New light on the struggle in South Africa page 92, purchased in Cape Town.

Members of the South African parliament, are to urge lawyers, acting on behalf of Caster Semanya, to sue the IAAF for breaching her right to privacy. The move comes after the leaking of the results of her medical and psychological tests.

As to defining her perceived medical abnormality which, according to exercise physiologist Dr R Turner, is Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome which results in under developed testes remaining within the body. Not to remove them could lead an AIS sufferer open to testicular cancer. In his opinion these useless gonads should be removed as soon as possible.

out of course report The new insight report, from the South African Institute of Race Relations, a Cape Town purchase not only looks at historical basis for the liberation but offers an explanation for the eventual overwhelming success of the African National Congress in the 1994 multi party elections.

The author, Dr A Jeffery of The Peoples War published by Jonathan Ball of Johannesburg, puts such a victory down to the numbers who died between 1990 and 1994 who were in reality killed by members of the ANC but blamed on the security/military forces or their political rivals.

An opinion poll, conducted by Sport and Market Research on behalf of Fifa shows that at this present time 89% of those questioned were confident that the country would host a successful World Cup competition. In 12/08 the figure was 73% and in 3/09 83%.

Fri 11

The writer believes that once the National Party government had ended, in effect over a period of 84 years, a 'new elite' the black nationalists rose to power. Their intentions were the same as South Africa's apartheid rulers. This was to grab for themselves the many trappings of power, cars and high wages et al.

There is an argument that enrichment through the Black Empowerment Act (qv) works against all that the liberation struggle fought against. That is the monetary rewards should be shared among all the people and not just the elite. **M Mbeki deputy chair SA Institute of International Affairs**

Cartoon Gender issues hamper Ms Semenya **Cape Argus**

Sat 12

All the pressure placed on Ms Semenya is facing is inspired, according to president Zuma who was speaking at the recent European/ SA summit in Kinshasa, is blamed on the media. Such is its intensity that she has disappeared from the scene.

Cartoon Two men battle for the SAFA president's job and therefore the glory that will come from staging the World Cup. **Cape Argus**

Sun 13

A review of the recent book *A Peoples War*, condemns the author for its extensive use of other peoples work, footnotes span 161 pages and a bibliography of 6 and 29 pages of end notes.

Recounting mistakes made in the text - people who were in places where they could not have been or visiting delegates not there - are fully explored.

In the first dated cartoon, from W Deysel two ongoing themes are linked. Over the last few days and weeks stories of a South African white male has been offered refugee status in Canada. It was claimed that living in Johannesburg opened himself up to violent crime, of which he had suffered since 2004. Fearing that his life was in danger and after marrying a Canadian woman he was granted asylum. The second theme to the cartoon is a plea for similar treatment from Australian authorities after Springbok RFU suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of the host nation.

Andy's piece in the Sunday Times comments on the claims of M Mbeki (qv 11/9).

Cartoon reaction to revelations, by overseas media, of the case against Caster Semyana
Johannesburg Sunday Times

Cartoon Still Under Construction the utopia of Black Empowerment envisaged in 1994 ditto

Mon 14

this date 1977 speaking of the death of the 21st person to die in detention in the country, since 6/76, it is thought that Steve Biko an aspiring medical student at the University set aside for Durban based students, who formed the Christian orientated Black Consciousness Movement, may possibly have become the first black leader of South Africa.

Thurs 17

With an acknowledged murder rate of 50 per day and the 2010 World Cup's influx of foreign supporters arrival the police are wanting to go back to police methods prevalent during the apartheid era.

With the constitutional court having struck down parts of the Criminal Procedure Act the new police commissioner Bhekie Cele wants the police once again to have the right to shoot criminals, who flee from the scene, in the back without having to worry about any consequences.

The commissioner, who some see as a 'cowboy' with a liking for wearing a pin stripe suit and a panama hat, is supported by police minister N Mthethwa who feels current legislation and the abuse of the human rights issues hamper the work of the police. There was opposition to the move by shadow police minister, Dianne Barnard of the Democratic Alliance, who saw no need to return to the days of apartheid.

The move comes on a day that police killed six armed robbers as they tried to seize a Pretoria bound cash in transit van. As for the police being guilty of crimes; as of 2008 538 officers were found guilty of a range of offences ranging through theft, corruption or murder.

Fri 18

Residents, infected with the tuberculosis virus, of Khayelitsha informal settlement, on the outskirts of Cape Town have found a way to make money out of their illness. Sufferers, who are eligible for a temporary disability grant of R1, 010 per month., have been selling their infected sputum to those clear of the disease. For this service they were charging £4.10 - £8.20 / R50 to R100 which also entitled them to the grant.

Mon 21

The continuing saga covering Caster Semenya, the South African 800m gold medal winner and other people knowing about her alleged asexual gender make up, has reached new heights. It has come to pass that the L Chune, of Athletics South Africa, knew the results of an already carried out gender test before the women ran in the Berlin Games.

Among those calling for his resignation are deputy sports minister, G Oosthuizen, who accused the official of not only lying to the government but also to the whole nation. The minister also indicated that to deny knowledge of such tests has fuelled the media's continued violation of Ms Semenya's rights and dignity. In response Mr Chune said "I will face this head on. I won't jump ship."

Wed 23

Ongoing concerns over safety at the 2010 World Cup are highlighted with the latest set of statistics made available by the police. Despite a 3% drop in the murder rate there has been an increase in sex crimes including rape and the number of burglaries has risen. Of concern to the English fans, most probably based in Rustenburg, sex crimes, assault and robbery have risen in the last 12 months.

Statistics 2008/09; 18,148 murders. Street robbery fell by 7% along with common assault which was 4% lower than the previous year. Sexual offences rose 10%. Car jackings up 8% meaning nearly 15, 000 per day.

At the end of the trial of 3 men accused of the murder of Eudy Simelane the captain of the national women's football team (qv 28/8) one Themba Mvudu aged 24 was found guilty of her murder. The two other men were found not guilty of the rape. Earlier a fourth person was sentenced to 32 years for his crime.

Thurs 24

News report, scientists, in Thailand, have identified a vaccine that reduces the spread of the HIV virus. While it cuts the number of infections in the controlled experiment there are real fears that many governments in sub-Saharan Africa will not be able to afford to pay for the treatment. The new vaccine is a combination of two others, both have been tried in previous trials. **ITN 18. 30**

Fri 25

More than 32, 000 took part in the joint US military and members of Thailand's ministry of public health experiment in which sub types B; common in America and Europe and type E common in Thailand of the HIV virus were mixed and administered to one of the two groups of participating in the trial.

There was a 50 : 50 split of participants one group was given the new Band E mix of the live virus

and the second was given a placebo. The results showed that group 1 suffered 51 infections of the second group 74. Although the number of new infections was 34% this was seen as a success on this 'historic day' said the director of Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise Dr A Bernstein.

The big question now is whether a combination of the Band E strain of the virus will work on the widely different strain that has such a deadly effect south of the African Sahara.

Obituary K Jagoe Davis 19. 11. 1954 - 8. 7. 2009 disabled during her mid teen years, after a swimming accident, which saw her live the rest of her life paralysed from the neck down. University educated at Rhodes University Eastern Cape where battling the terrain and the university authorities gained a BA in education.

Always identifying with those disadvantaged , whether it be because of injury or because of skin colour she persuaded the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg to launch a project to help disabled persons. She also launched a project that would get architects to consider their needs when building homes.

One notorious clash with the apartheid of politics, she was always identified with Steve Biko's Black Consciousness Movement, came in 1986 at an acceptance ceremony for being an 'outstanding young South African' from president Botha. Following her presentation on her architectural work and made a strong attack on government policy towards the black majority. This was described, in the press, as a snub to Botha.

Another great achievement was her 1985 call, following the Langa massacre where 19 died, was for an improvement in the care of spinal injury patients in Baragwanath Hospital on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Injured a second time, during a road trip from the city to Cape Town, by an over inflated car tyre, or was the blow out caused by a gunshot? Moving to south to Pringle Bay outside Cape Town and lives six years longer, with renal failure than the medics thought.

Casting aside the cost, put at \$105m, of the Thai/ US military vaccine trials - see above - this writer feels that motives must be examined.. Delving into the past, 1986, fearful that the American soldier would fall victim to the HIV virus Congress initiated the Military HIV Research Programme. Its stated aim - "to develop effective preventative measure against HIV disease to protect US troops against infection," and only as an after thought "to reduce the global impact of the disease."

Sat 26

Britain's premier bridge building firm Mabey and Johnson has been convicted of bribing government named officials in Angola and Mozambique in order to win the contract on offer. Of the 12 named money takers two; A Gois the former general manager of the Angolan state bridges agency was paid a total of \$1.2m and his colleague a director J Fucongo was paid \$13,000. In Mozambique Carlos Fragoso the former head of the DNEP directorate of roads and bridges was paid £286,000.

In total the company, which officials say does not now resemble, in any way, the management structure in place at the time of these cash payments, will repay more than £6.5m in fines and reparations to foreign governments.

The Serious Fraud Office, long on the case of bribery and corruption allegations against British Areospace Systems has until 30/9 whether it will agree to enter a plea bargain.

Wed 30

There has been no word yet from British Areospace Systems as to whether it will enter a plea bargain (qv 26/9).

The Cullinan mine that developed some of the precious stones that are set in the British monarchs crown has unearthed another world beater. This white diamond, which weighs 507.55 carats; 101.5g was found in said mine was announced to the world by Petra Diamond company.

Thought to be of the Type 2 class of stone it is thought to be the 19th largest in the world. The value of which is expected to be slightly more than the £11.5m /\$18.4m stone sold in 2008 and mined 12 months earlier (qv 16/11).

OCTOBER 2009

Thurs 1

In as much that the management of British Aerospace Systems have changed since a previous regime were encouraged to offer money for contracts. The director, Richard Alderman, of the Serious Fraud Office has to decide whether the regime change nullifies his attempt of prosecution the companies current management.

Figures from UNAids, Unicef and the World Health Organisation for 2008 show that 4m people of low and middle income countries are using drugs to help them stay alive even as they carry the HIV virus within them. Just 3m people in Sub Saharan Africa were on anti retrovirals; only 44% of those who should have been taking them by the end of 12/09. In middle income countries the take up was 42%.

Pregnant women 45%, 35% by 12/07.

Fri 2

There will be prosecution of BAE Systems by the Serious Fraud Office, once the paperwork has been presented to Lady Scotland, the Director of Public Prosecutions and her officials. However the plea bargain road is still open to the company.

The sticking point, preventing an early settlement of this long running investigation, is the inability of both sides to agree a suitable level of monetary censure. At the top end of the scale the SFO are thinking along the lines of £50m whereas the company hopes that any fine will be in the “tens of million.”

Despite managements wishes not to hurt investors, or there employees, the decision to prosecute wiped £500m; 4% of the value of Britain’s largest arms manufacturer.

Sat 3

As welcoming as rabbit meat was for residents of Robben Island, the former prison home of Nelson Mandela et al, the very being of the land mass of Cape Town is under threat. With an estimated population of 25, 000, the dietary fill ups introduced by sailors over 300 years ago face could face the chop.

Moves are afoot that would save the very existence of this valuable World Heritage site. Environmentalists fear that the number of rabbits, if left unchecked will do untold damage. Also facing the hunters are the cats that threaten the 2, 400 pairs of breeding penguins. The colony numbers were, after a 2006 census were put at 6, 000.

Sun 4

The people of Botswana are to go to the polls on 16/10 where it is expected that once again to vote in power the Botswana Democratic Party led by Ian Khama. If re elected, which is most likely, the BDP would have been in power since the country gained independence in 1966.

With the work of lawyer turned author Alexander Mc Call Smith, The Ladies Number One Detective Agency; recently a series on British television his writings have brought an influx of tourists to Botswana. His new initiative is bound to bring even more tourists into the country.

With the title The Okavango Mackbeth a tale, in operatic style, of a bunch of baboons who according to the author show many tendencies shown by the Scottish queen. Initially the cast of 20, including only one professional singer will be on stage for only ten nights from 17/10. Then there will be a tour of Botswana's primary schools.

Thurs 8

Well known is the poachers work in targeting the elephants that roam the lands of the Kruger and other National Parks. As of this time the black rhino faces the same problem. The tusk, in reality a hard compact similar in composition as found in human nails, is sold on to countries in the Far East to be used in the medical/herbal trade.

So far 84 of these beasts have been killed, 33 in the Kruger National Park alone, since 1/09 throughout the country. This is the highest number of poaching loss since 2007 when 13 were lost. All in all the country has 1, 490 black rhino roaming wild in its game reserves this figure represents more than one third of the world's population. Also under the protection of Pretoria's authorities are the 16, 275 southern white rhinos; 93% of the global total.

Many observers believe that the poaching gangs have increased there activities as the Chinese government has become more involved with Africa's development. By having the buyer nearby the risks have been lessened.

To combat this increase in poaching a special unit is to be formed. With a budget of £165, 000/ R2m the 57 game rangers in the Kruger, will be equipped with the latest technology and motor bikes to patrol the 280 mile long border with Mozambique. Some success has already been had . 14 poachers, all from Mozambique have been detained in 2009 out of a national number of 22 held in 1/09. 11 more were detained as a international rhino smuggling ring was smashed.

Fri 9

President Zuma's 'big idea' which he felt would ensure his current position, has materialised. From 14/9, with the president manning his phone hotline such was the interest from the nation that the lines became overloaded and crashed.

In the short time that it was open, 21 days, the Democratic Alliance's Helen Zille said that party had tested the line, which cost £340, 000/ R4m, 46 times and only been able to register four complaints with no reference number given. The forty two failed calls wasted 572 minutes on hold or 9 hours 32 minutes.

An American study, PEW Research Centre Forum Religion and Public Life show that countries in this diarists interest have a Muslim community that in the case of South Africa is less than three million and therefore 1% of the population. Mozambique has 5.2m which is 22.8% of there population. By contrast the United Kingdom's 1.6m Muslims make up 2.7%. The numbers world wide of the followers of the prophet Mohammed 23.1%

The price of gold hit an all time high for the third day running, touching \$1, 061 per ounce.

Sat 10

The former home of Mahatma Gandhi, for sale in the Orchard suburb of Johannesburg (qv 30/7) has been sold. It is thought the price paid was R315, 000/ \$500, 000. The purchasers, the French tourism company Voyageurs du Monde. Their intention is to turn the house, which was the home to the young lawyer for only three years, into a museum.

Sun 11

Such is the worry that the influx of World Cup supporters will make use of the prostitutes, many who carry the HIV virus, that leading campaigners in the struggle to combat the virus are calling for the sex trade to be legitimised.

The thinking behind this proposition, which was backed by the now suspended police chief Jackie Selebi, and Professor I Smith head of the clinical HIV research unit at Witwatersrand University and others, is that once registered the sex workers would have a license to work if they had a medical certificate that said they were clear of the virus.

Infection rates for women, aged 15 - 24 fell slightly from 22.1% in '07 to 21.7% twelve months later. Among women aged 30 - 34 the infection rate was 40. 4% in 2008.

Mon 12

As director of the Serious Fraud Office, R Alderman, and his officials continue the legal moves against British AeroSpace Systems (qv 2/10), the Conservative MP N Evens, in whose constituency many of the armament factories are based, has asked the office of the prime minister to halt the prosecution in order to preserve the employment of his Ribble Valley residents.

The MP is placing his hope that the current resident will follow the lead of his predecessor and halt the prosecution of a company that in Tony Blair's time achieved as not to do so would harm relations with foreign power.

It is thought that the prosecution dossier, that is on its way to the Department of Public Prosecution, is a 'slimmed down version' of the normal papers. This will lead to a quicker decision by Lady Scotland.

Wed 14

Lodged with the Nelson Mandela Foundation are the from this time the whole collection of personal papers of the former prisoner and president. In his own words "these traces of my life and those who have lived it with me" hope that the collection of notebooks, letters and jottings from a time when he was a Johannesburg based lawyer then Robben Island resident turned president will afford the world a glimpse into his mind and his world.

This formidable archive, revealed at the Frankfurt Book Fair has started a financial bidding war between publishers fighting for the chance to become first to publish this remarkable record. Already the 2010 publication of Conversations With Myself is assured as is Young Mandela charting his life before 1960.

Mon 19

As of this time the country has two nuclear reactors, which in 2008, produced 12.7 billion kilowatt hours of electricity. In the future the authorities in Pretoria envisage a building programme that increases the number of these facilities to 29.

In comparison the United Kingdom has 19 plants producing 52.5b/KW. On earth there are 446 nuclear plants and it is proposed to increase that number to 898.

Tues 20

The number of people shot dead by police to the year ending 4/'09 has been revealed as 556. These figures include the deaths of 13 innocent bystanders caught up in the nightmare of police attempts to detain criminal suspects.

In the year 2005 - 2006 there were 281 deaths and the current figures was the fourth consecutive rise in the number of fatalities recorded by the independent claims directorate.

Relatives of the 'accidental dead', the latest case involves the death of a 30 year old hairdresser caught in the crossfire as police took on criminal elements, blamed the rise on remarks made by president Zuma that gave the police a 'shoot to kill policy' when pursuing their quarry.

Wed 21

Claims that former president Nelson Mandela materially assisted the president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are strongly denied by those in the know. Listed, in the central African leaders book, *Speaking for Africa*, as the writer of the book's forward is; according to a spokesman for the Mandela Foundation is something that did not happen.

The white student perpetrators of student prank that saw black workers at Free State University humiliated, as well as having the scenes up loaded onto the internet have been shown a great degree of understanding. In the eyes of the black chancellor J Jason the four students have been allowed to continue their studies as a gesture of forgiveness. The move was condemned by political leaders and praised by Desmond Tutu as the former head of the TRC.

The 'great white hope' of medical intervention in the search for a cure for the HIV virus (qv 24/9) has been downgraded to a trial that is 'wide of the mark' for its effectiveness a conference in the French capital was told.

The full results of the controversial trial, published in the on line version of the *New England Journal of Medicine* reveals the vaccine did not protect those at high risk of infection, such as sex workers and those addicts that took their drugs intravenously. There was only a protective effect for a maximum of 12 months before the vaccine's worth declined. When some of the trialists missed some of the six shots and therefore were taken out of the analysis, the positive result was insignificant.

Pro and anti supporters of the Thailand/US military/International Aids Vaccine Initiative made various comments. Military Doctor N Michael called the results "a beacon of hope." Speaking for the IAVI president S Berkley said that the trial was bound to fail and 'would be taken no further.' Of the 16,400 participants 125 were given the vaccine. Of these 51 became infected

Thurs 22

Once the most opulent hotel in Beira and luxurious in all Africa the Grande Hotel, with fine views of the Indian Ocean, and an Olympic sized swimming pool is now home to a population of squatters.

As to whether or not Nelson Mandela wrote anything in the forward in D S Nguesso's autobiographical tome (qv 21/10) these words; "In President Denis Sassou Nguesso I recognise a man who is not only one of our great African leaders ... but also one of those who gave there unconditional support to our fighters' demand for freedom and who worked tirelessly to free oppressed people from there chains and help to restore their dignity and hope. "will see the author defend the claim in a court of law.

Fri 23

Warnings of climate catastrophe affecting the world, as temperatures are forecast to rise by 4 degrees Centigrade by 2060 because of global warming, have seen production of a map showing the consequences.

The whole of southern Africa could warm up by as much as 7 degrees Centigrade. There would be a high risk of forest fire damage in the east of the continent. Maize and wheat, part of many peoples staple diet, would be reduced by 40%. There would be a 70% reduction of water run off in the south. There would be a doubling of the risk of severe drought in the lower parts of the continent.

Wed 28

Wile the British legal system dithers over irregular gained armaments (qv 12/10) the French authorities have, sentenced a former interior minister to 12 months in jail and fined the son of former president Mitterrand for links to arms supply to the government in Angola during the civil war'

The former presidents son, Jean Christopher, who was working as his fathers African adviser, was sentenced to a 2 year suspended term in jail and a E375, 000 fine for receiving commissions linked to the bribes. There were a total of 41 other political heavyweights on trial.

Sat 31

Many times, over the last few years, has it been said that Nelson Mandela 'will retire from public life,' then in the next breath the first president of a multi racial South Africa has been on an overseas mission or become involved in a legal wrangle (qv 22/10),

Previous reasons for a curtailing of his work has been claims that his health is deteriorating. Again this call has been made, and denied by, Professor J Gerwell. This is more a case of wanting to spend more time with his family than anything more serious said the chairman of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

NOVEMBER 2009

Tues 3

The jailing, in 2006, of Simon Mann (qv 21/6) for masterminding a coup to oust the president of Equatorial Guinea, which was supposed to be for 34 years, has come to a sudden end as the country's president Teodoro Obiang has granted him a presidential pardon. This former SAS officer and his fellow conspirators have 24 hours to leave the country.

The recently won acclaim in 2006 (qv 13/2), for being the country that has the largest radio telescope in the southern hemisphere, falls slightly when its ability to link up to the internet falls short of expectations. Constructed outside of the town of Sutherland, on the edge of the Karoo desert at a cost of £25m /R323m all that is required is a short length; 11 miles of cable to tie in the phone line of Telekom is all that is needed. For the connection to be made the South African phone provider is demanding £775, 000/ R 10m. This we are assured will be paid and connection made by the end of 12/09.

Wed 4

Due back in Britain, after only 15 months into a three decade prison sentence in west Africa, S Mann (qv) will have tales to tell over his involvement with his overseas backers and financiers. What has emerged so far is the 'coup contract' that would pay him \$15m if the coup was successful. Team members would also be given documents stating that they were member of the Equatorial Guinea armed forces. They would also carry papers that would guarantee immunity from prosecution by any new government that was installed. Each of the 75 mercenaries would, it is alleged, be paid \$20, 000 each.

There is some speculation that the imminent arrival of the South African president Jacob Zuma on a state visit had some influence in the former soldiers release. There again a deal may have been worked out between prisoner and president as, by all accounts, prison life was not too harsh.

Thurs 5

The two most prominent thoughts S Mann (qv) as he arrived home from west Africa was firstly to be with his wife and a child born after he was detained, secondly to have Mark Thatcher questioned over his involvement in the purchase of a helicopter that was a key part of the operation.

The former prime ministers some could throw light on a meeting, in 2003, between himself and Ely Calil a Lebanese born oil tycoon. Was a coup discussed? What was the relationship between this former Cape Town resident - he was deported - and the South African middleman Nick du Toit who was also released 48 hours ago.

Fri 6

Police are to examine documents that could further link Mark Thatcher, who now lives in a Madrid suburb with his second wife; number one wife went back to the USA where he is banned from because of a drug conviction and his links to the failed west African coup. They will be assisted by comments that the freed mercenary made during prison interviews. These also gave

more detail of the involvement of the Lebanese oil tycoon E Cali.

As for the future earning prospects of the recently released prisoner there is talk of boos, films or newspaper serialisations to the value of up to £2m.

this date 1962 The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution condemning the countries racist apartheid policies and calls for member states to cease military and economic relations with the nation.

Sat 7

Legal opinion has it that any plans, by the British police, to prosecute Mark Thatcher will be dashed because of the legal term 'double jeopardy.' There is however the chance that an attempt will be made if Crause Steyn, the South African mercenary pilot who was never faced charges, either in Harare or in Equatorial Guinea, agrees to tell what he knows about any meetings he had with the son of the former prime minister.

This writer is of the opinion that apart from welcoming home Mr Mann the Establishment will in effect close ranks while this top cast class; E Caly, Thatcher Mandelson et al freely go about there business.

Sun 8

With an imminent announcement, from the government concerning the expansion of our nuclear electrical production, fears have been expressed for the survival of the mountainous sand dunes of the Kalahari desert.

If the power plant building programme is to be expanded then an increase in the use of uranium is to be expected. it just so happens that much of the present supplies are dug from the Rossington owned mine located in the Naukluft national park in Namibia. The mining company, which provides 8% of the worlds uranium, has leased hundreds of square kilometres of the desert near the town of Trekkopje.

Mon 9

China, who itself has a nefarious reputation for its treatment of dissidents, is to offer countries on the African continent £6bn/ \$10bn worth of loans over a three year period. The offer was made by the countries premier Wen Jiabo at the beginning of a China/Africa summit in the Red sea port of Sharm el Sheik.

Since 2006 the development of the continents infrastructure has been greatly improved as trade between the two countries increased as a then offer of a \$5bn loan was offered. Trade between the African continent and Beijing has surged over the past eight years. In 2008 the value of this trade was \$107bn. Even in the period 1/09 - 9/09 there has been a 77% increase.

Wed 11

Further examples that a 'shoot to kill policy' had been adopted by the police (qv 15/9) have emerged in recent days. In the Midrand suburb of Johannesburg members of the Aphone family were sitting in a vehicle outside their home. The son Atlegang, aged three, was in the rear and an uncle in the front. There next occurred a shot, through the window which struck the boy in the chest, ending his life. There was no apology from the police officer and no one was allowed to remove the body until hours after his death.

At the magistrates court, where the shooter was indicted and refused bail, it became known that there had been reports of a wanted man at the address. An explanation for the being shot fired was given that inside the vehicle the officer identified what he identified as a gun, which was in fact a pipe.

A second shooting happened in Pretoria as K Ndobe aged 21 as he bent down to polish his shoes outside his home. A third death, this time in Thembisia township when a man and his mother became involved in a case of domestic violence.

Obituary Zakes Mokae 5. 8. 34 - 11. 9 09, brought up in Sophiatown by his policeman dad and housemaid mum. Educated at St Peters School Rossetenville, as so were many of the countries soon to be 'notables,' under tutors of the ilk of Trevor Huddleston (qv)

A jazz player and budding actor, his talent was spotted by Athol Fugard the author of Blood Knot. This play, which explored the relationship between brothers - who because of having different fathers - were placed in separate racial classes. This was the first time that a South African audience had seen a black person performing on the same stage at the same time.

This play came to London in 1963 and adapted for ITV 's Armchair Theatre programme. A decision to remain in England and his resting periods were spent at the Abbey Life Insurance Company run by prominent South African lawyer Lord Joel Joffe who would also employ other exiled residents - Thabo Mbeki among them.

Having moved to the United States in the late 1960's, there were repeat performances of Fugel's productions on Broadway - Bosman and Lena. 1982 he won a theatre Tony award for his role as Sam in Master Harold ... and the Boys. Filmed in 1985 it explored the relationship between a fragile white South African teenager and the two family servants. There was also film work; a performance in the 1987 biopic Cry Freedom

There was a second home in Cape Town, bought in 2005, but he and his second wife, the American woman he followed to the US, could not settle due to his onset of Alzheimer 's disease A return was made to the lights of Las Vegas.

Fri 13

Figures, from the Statistical World Review of World Energy reveals that as of this time Angola has 13. 5bn barrels of oil still to be brought out of the sea. By contrast the United Kingdom has 3.4bn barrels worth of reserves.

Sat 14

With days to go, before the International Amateur Athletics Federation reveal the results of the 'gender verification tests' that Castor Semyana (qv) had to endure after her appearance at the World Athletic Championships in Berlin, there is other more heartening news for the winner of the Women's 800 metre race.

Back home in South Africa there is the new found fame, which she abhors, of being named sports personality of the year. also there is a developing relationship to take her mind of the 22/11 findings.

At the track and at Pretoria's University, where it is believed that Ms Semanya has finished her sports science degree there is a growing relationship with Violete Rosenbay. A fellow student and a recognised cross country and middle distance runner. Although he hails from Soweto he has links with Limpopo province.

Sun 15

Despite many African nations, who will also be taking part in the 2010 World Cup, having played in stadia seeded with kikuyu grass, Fifa have ordered changes. According to officials the texture of the grass gives poor definition of the pitch when shown on television.

The local grass subcontractor, who will supply the pitch for Green Point stadium in Cape Town, J Vissor from the Grovle grass farm outside the city, says that the European style re seed with rye grass will disadvantage the home continent players as this type of pitch will not provide as it will not allow the ball to bounce.

A decision such as this will give credence to the idea that the 2010 celebration of world class football will leave nothing for the African hosts when the games are at an end in 7/10.

Wed 18

In a similar vein, to the 'class action' being fought through the legal system by victims of apartheid firstly through the courts in New York and latterly in the South African courts (qv 4/9), so black gold miners are challenging the actions of there employers in the courts.

If all is in place by the beginning of 2010 18 former gold miners working for the company known as Anglo America South Africa are taking management to court because of inadequate protection from a known medical condition.

The apartheid era miners, many who lived away from there families for long periods of time, have been diagnosed with the lung diseases silicosis TB. An incurable disease which as it becomes more severe leaves the sufferer fighting for his breath even aster the slightest exertion.

Whilst there were a number of white underground workers employed, alongside the plaintiffs between the 1970's through to 1998 they were offered full face masks to protect them from inhaling the damaging dust particles.

The action, at the behest Alpheus Bloom aged 48 and the others, is being taken on board by the South African Legal resources Centre. They are assisted by London solicitor R Merran of Leigh Day & Company.

Thurs 19

With a well documented history of protest action, he was a keen anti apartheid supporter, Dr Kumi Naidoo has been named as international director of the environmental charity Greenpeace. Born in a shanty town outside Durban 44 years ago the as of this moment human rights stalwart was expelled from his school at the age of 15 because he organised a protest against the regime in Pretoria. Fled to Britain in his 20's then a Rhodes scholar earning a D. Phil in politics at Magdalene College, Oxford. Co founder of Global Call to Action in 2005 and is also chair of the Global Campaign for Climate Change.

At a press conference, and being the first African to hold this prestigious position, he will use the experiences of those who fought for a multi racial government as a blueprint to fight those who are opposed to the idea of climate change.

“We never thought change would come as fast as it came. In the mid 80's it just seemed that it was going to take another 20 years. Therefore when people say we'll never get a treaty” ... I recall those that said that apartheid would never end.

Gold bullion prices hit a record high within the last 24 hours. At one time 1oz of the precious metal would have cost \$1, 152. 75.

Fri 20

On the day that the International Armature Athletic Federation were going to announce to the world whether Caster Semyana had passed there set of 'gender verification' tests Athletics South Africa have said that as an 'innocent in any wrongdoing she will be able to retain the 800m Women's Championship medal she won in Berlin.

As to Ms Semany's sexuality the outcome must remain between herself and those who carried out the tests. It would then be up to the athlete as to her next course of action. Speaking from the Monaco headquarters of the IAAF a spokesman said that further tests are still needed and there instructions to suspend, order to have surgery or being cleared to run are on hold.

Unreported general election and presidential results in Mozambique, which were held in 10/09, showed that the Frelimo businessman Armando Guebuza was once again voted in to the presidential palace with 75% of the vote. The opposition Renamo Party, former right wing military force supported firstly by Ian Smith's failing Rhodesia regime then by the regime in Pretoria until the 1992 civil war's end, were down to 16%.

As in South Africa, through the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, citizens anger at the loss of family members has been largely down played. Perhaps the killings, because they were mainly carried out by proxy, by fighters from the neighbouring countries, the hurt feels less.

Certainly this seems to be the case of M Ngwenya one of the country's painters and poets. During the civil war most of his family were killed by the rebel army. His response at the time was to paint more deeper reds onto his canvas. As time went on and peace came and the painter/poet sat on government committees he came into contact with Afonso Dhlakama - the man who led the civil war and therefore responsible for his family deaths. - and “I've sat with him. We talk, and I don't feel any anger.”

Sun 22

With the aim of moving away from the dependency of the diamond industry, the government of Botswana has invited the United Nations Development Programme to have an input into the conflict between fisherman in the Okavango Delta and the needs of the thousands of tourists that visit the area every year. The Delta covers an area of 16, 000 sq km on the edge of the Kalahari Desert where many species of wild life graze, feed and swim in the many channels and lagoons. In conflict with these numbers are the locals who use the waterways to net fish commercially .

There chief complain, as spoken by Njkwii, as chairman of the 400 strong Okavango Fishers Association, is that tourist the boats, even in - at present - restricted numbers, show no respect for the native way of fishing. The, in their motor boats, will pass the much slower mokoro canoe that only glides in the water. This 'cutting through' the water will either frighten the fish or cut the nets cast from the canoes. Either way less fish will be caught and the local population will lose out.

With approximately 12, 000 tourists visiting the Moremi Game Reserve every year and, with Botswana's economy facing a down turn over the next 20 years as the diamond mines are worked out, an increase in tourism would seem to be the way to take tourism into the top spot in governments wealth creation programme.

With the authorities in Gabone intention of pursuing a strategy of high value low volume tourist policy the government has pledged £8.6m to upgrade their facilities to attract overseas tourists.

Fri 27

While the words, allegedly written by Nelson Mandela (qv 22/10) for the forward of a book by the president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were not by the former South African president's hand, they were spoken by him.

According to a note, from the office of the DRC 's president, the first black man to lead a Pretoria regime spoke the words in a speech given in 1996. In explanation the government minister, that was, Tony Sexwale, was the middle man between the two governments and was not aware that part of the presidents speech would end up as a book preface. He has now been sent to the countries capital to try and placate a president who was smarting at a charge of dishonesty.

Sat 28

As the world worries about the amount of carbon dioxide being retained in the atmosphere those organising the 2010 World Cup are deemed to be increasing the amount of this greenhouse gas eight times greater than the 2006 fiesta of football held in Germany.

In a commissioned report, by the host government and Oslo's administration entitled, Feasibility Study for a Carbon Neutral 2010 Fifa World Cup the estimated output from South Africa is 896, 661, tonnes of CO2. In addition there will be further emissions, from travelling to the tip of the continent and then the travel between any of the 9 host cities to watch any of the 64 matches.

International travel will see 1, 856, 589 tonnes used up or 67.4% of emissions. Once inside the country fans will use up 2, 73, 250 tonnes

Sun 29

With the intention of providing educational bursaries for school children, as well as advertising Omo soap powder, a challenge to produce 'whiter than white' shirts to mothers of the white and non whites communities. Unfortunately, along the way the campaign; with the slogan "Omo adds brightness to whiteness" seems to have angered a number of black mothers who entered the competition.

Such was there anger, that it was only possible for them to win R10, 000 when days earlier a white mother was rewarded with a cash payment of R 50, 000. The discrepancy in the cash pay outs is now to be investigated by the South African Advertising Authority.

In defence of the promotion, which has seen education facilities for 300 school children enriched by R2m, vice president of the parent company Unilever said that the company was undecided as to whether a second Omo challenge would come about.

Mon 30

Used to having all manor of security devices employed during the apartheid era having another camera spy covering cities and towns has not gone down well. Seen to be free of such devices, since 1994, the world of the all seeing Google camera is about to traverse the land.

Those that oppose the system, that will photograph all the details of a town, such as Pretoria or Johannesburg, and then place them on the internet for all to see. Nothing will be hidden. This is where the conflict comes, Some people will say that such a plan will give advantages to those who want to avoid detection while they go about there nefarious business, whether it be robbery ore something more sinister.

Following on from the CO2 production figures, revealed in 2007 (qv 1/6) the world production from; 1997 - 2007 was 283, 500 metric tonnes which is a 29% growth in emissions.

Over the same time scale the figures for South Africa were 4, 504 metric tonnes which is a 17% growth in emissions. This places the country as the 11th worst emitter.

United Kingdom 6, 281 metric tonnes which shows a fall of 1% placing the country in 8th place in the emissions list

As the leading African voice, and expected to lead as a member of the 52 member African Union the countries representative, Buyela Sonjica Minister of water and environmental affairs has said "It appears that a deal is far from being on the able .. pushing hard for a 40% cut in developed countries ... carbon emissions by 2020." There are conflicts within the Pretoria government - chiefly that president Zuma's uncertain position on climate change issues.

DECEMBER 2009

Tues 1

News report, on, this World Aids Day, the South Africa president, Jacob Zuma has promised actions that will it is hoped dramatically cut the deaths of people who are HIV positive and carry the Aids virus. - Radio 2 13. 00 -

Obituary, Eleanor Kasrils 9. 3. 36 - 8. 11. 09 a leading anti apartheid activist who having divorced early in life and with a daughter went on to become the wife of Ronnie Kasrils the minister of security under Nelson Mandela.

Daughter of a the Logans, railway engineers from Kilmarnock in Scotland until the family moved to Durban. Studied art at technical college. Divested of a husband, and left as a single mum of Brigid by the age of 24 she joined the Congress of Democrats in 1962 after the Sharpville massacre.

By 1963, having met her second husband she joined the underground struggle of the ANC for which she was detained in Fort Napier in Natal. Tricked guards into thinking she had a mental illness and was able to communicate with barrister Bran Fischer and Ronnie. Walking out of the prison then meeting with Ronnie they fled to Botswana [then Bechuanaland] dressed in Muslim garb. There were other ANC 'notables'; father of Ruth First, Babla Saloojee and others fleeing in the aftermath of the Rivoena trial.

Having been granted political asylum by the British rulers the two travelled to Dar es Salaam, now in Tanzania and the two married in 1964. Within 12 months both were in London, she to have treatment for malaria. Setting up home in the northern suburbs there she worked as assistant to Oliver Tambo. During her time there were many clashes with the supporters of the Pretoria regime.

Inside the House of Commons Conservative MP Andrew Hunter accused the ANC of training terrorists for the IRA and that Ronnie "was "recruiting terrorists" in London. Called to repeat the accusations without parliamentary privilege no statement was forthcoming.

1990 saw a return to her adopted homeland where she continued to work for O Tambo until his death in 1993. An end to the travelling as a ministers wife came in 2008 following the ousting of Thabo Mbeki to whom Ronnie Kasrils owed his allegiance.

2000 amnesty was claimed, and granted, from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for bombing the police security offices, stealing dynamite, destroying electricity pylons crossing a countries borders and escaping police custody.

Wed 2

The 1/12 announcement by president Zuma, that will see him undertake an HIV test, heralds the end of the 'denialist era' rampant throughout the presidency of Thabo Mbeki who, some say, should apologise or even be prosecuted for genocide.

More anti retroviral drugs will be available, for HIV + babies under the age of one year in public hospitals from 4/10. For those already infected and with a CD4 or T cell count below 350 will

also have public funded medicines. At the present time a T cell count below 200 will make an infected person eligible for these medicines.

The presidents speech, to an audience in Pretoria, gave no indication of where the extra funding was to come from. However the USA gave a £72m/ \$120m aid package over two years for the country.

Thurs 3

With the commercial revenue from the World Cup projected to be \$850m footballs governing body Fifa is hoping that a small amount of the revenue could be used to bolster a ongoing Unesco project; the Better Future project that aims to have 2 million school age children in education by the year 2015.

All that the project managers seek is 0.4% of revenue. Another source it is hoped will come from the top football leagues from five major European countries.

this day 1977 at the end of the inquest into the death of Steve Biko (qv 14/9) the magistrate hearing the case, M Prins, in the Pretoria courthouse told those assembled that he accepted the findings of the medics that the anti apartheid campaigner had died of extensive brain injuries. He ended his 3 minuet statement by saying these injuries were caused as he struggled with police.

Sat 5

As the football nations of the world watched the televised World Cup draw, an audience of at least 200 million, a frail looking Nelson Mandela told why football had a particular place in the hearts of people. "This is why it is so important that the Fifa World Cup will for the first time ever be hosted on the African continent. We feel privileged and humbled that South Africa has been given the singular honour of being the African host country. The people of Africa learned the lessons of patience in there long struggle for freedom."

Whilst many of the residents; 5m of the home province of the president live in poverty with 1.2m surviving on less than £16 /R200 per month the rural family homestead of Nkandla in KwaZulu Natal is to have £5.3m /R65m spent on new living and security buildings built.

Already with a home of her own Zuma's number one wife S Khumalo will become close contact with his two other wives N Nutuli and T Mabhija. There will also be a police station and parking for 40 vehicles as well as a helicopter pad, military clinic and visitors centre.

Following the 2010 World Cup opening ceremony on 11/6 the host nation has its first match against Mexico followed by games against Uruguay and France. In contrast, in what pundits term an easy Group C England will play, and have to beat, teams from the USA, Algeria and Slovenia if they want to progress further in there aim to become world champions.

Tues 8

As the film *Invictus*, made for the BBC (qv 21/8), receives its premier the whole question of whether; as the film projects, the game of rugby is or ever was the unifying bond between the white minority and the black community. Questions are being asked. When Nelson Mandela donned the green Springbok shirt was he really unifying the now multi racial governed country? According to the head of the South African Institute of Race Relations, Frans Cronjje, not a lot

has changed. The game is still played almost exclusively by members of the white community. Still non white players in the national team number only two.

As to actors who have lined up to portray leaders of the apartheid struggle in film gather to pay homage to their namesakes South Africa's Creative Workers Union have made known their displeasure with the American actors Jennifer Hudson and Morgan Freeman in their depiction of Winnie Madikizela in a forthcoming biopic and Nelson Mandela in *Invictus*.

The CWU's general secretary, O Leborg, has called for the decisions to be reversed.

Fri 11

The level of integration between the races has fallen since the 2006 survey of the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation. At that time 61% of people agreed that "the relationship between various races was improving. After this later survey of 3,500 people over the 8 weeks before the 4/09 general election only 49% agreed with the statement that race relations were healthier than in 1994.

Statements "happy future for all races 62% 86% in '05. On a typical day in '09 only 24% spoke to a person of other races and 46% never socialised with other races in house or friends houses. There are people, 59%, who have a difficulty in understanding other peoples customs and 39% of people of other groups are untrustworthy 42% in '03.

Overall 84% of the nation agree that apartheid was a crime against humanity and 79% feel that "in the past the state committed horrific atrocities against those struggling against apartheid.

Mon 14

The first long term trial, of the vaginal cream incorporating microbicides (qv) to fight the HIV virus has been deemed ineffective.

The mass use of the Pro 2000 gel instigated in 2004 (qv 15/10), by the British Medical Research Council and the Department of International Development gave the product to 9,385 women in four African Countries. The costs involved; from the DfID £38m and £2m from the MRC are seen as a small amount in comparison to the amounts that private drug firms are prepared to spend.

With all results in it was seen that 130 women who used the gel succumbed HIV. Of those using the placebo there was only 123 infections.

Wed 16

An ongoing row between the developers of new drugs that fight disease, especially those that fight the HIV virus and their third world imitators, has been upstaged by Unitaid. This global drug purchasing facility voted on 14/11 to ask manufacturers, from developed nations of the world to forgo the sole production rights; patent so that cheaper forms can be produced by firms from the third world such as Merck and Gilead.

While many of the world's big hitters in the pharmaceutical worlds showed an interest the British firm GlaxoSmith Kline showed no interest in the scheme. The company's chief executive, Andrew Whitty, had said earlier that he believed that his company's price cuts and other

initiatives would produce better benefits.

It would appear that the takeover of Interbrew by South African Breweries was achieved as secret and confidential papers were leaked to five media groups. Having been ordered to disclose their sources after losing a legal case in the London High Court there was a further legal move in the European Court of Human Rights.

Giving its verdict for the Guardian, Times, Financial Times, Independent and the Reuters news agency the judges ordered the government to pay the news organisations £143, 000 to cover costs and expenses.

Thurs 17

The former minister of health, Manto Tshabalala - Msimang aged 69 has died from complications following her 2007 liver transplant. Perhaps her most notorious, and fatal for many, was her belief in the non drug regime to cure the HIV Aids virus.

Mon 21

Following the world's leaders meeting in Copenhagen, to try and stem the output of Carbon Dioxide gas into the atmosphere, the outcome, despite the best intentions of the president, were seen not to be enough by the various media outlets.

Although recognised as one of the five countries that brokered the deal that all the conference participants signed up to before Jacob Zuma had arrived in the Danish capital with other intentions. This agreed deal was far from one that would end the climate "wreaking havoc on the lives of our people [in coastal provinces] of South Africa.

The accord was dubbed the Hopelesshargen Flop in the Sunday Independent. As for the signing of what the paper termed 'the Obama deal' was described as "no deal at all for those who are going to be worst affected by the devastating effects of climate change.

Wed 23

The inspiration behind, what is believed by some home football fans to be the 'must have' acquisition for the World Cup matches, F Maakke aged 53, is set not to receive any inventor's royalties for the funnel shaped Vuvuzela which was the scourge, some may say, of the 2009 Confederation Cup (qv 20/6).

Now unemployed and living in Tembisa outside Johannesburg Freddie or 'Sadam' Maake as he likes to be known, says a plastic or aluminium prototype was produced for him in the 1970's. In 2001 Masincedane Sport gained a trade mark. Talks to enable royalties to be paid were entered into the lifelong soccer fan said which eventually broke down. This did not happen says company director and founder. N Schalkwyk aged 36. The instrument will be priced between £2.50 - £5. 00 / R30 - R65.

Love them or hate them, the Japanese FA tried to have them banned and Seth Blatter Fifa chairman said in their defence "It is African culture, we are in Africa and we have to allow them to practise their culture as much as they want to. Vulcanizes, drums and singing are part of African football culture."

Sun 27

As Angola begins the run up to the opening ceremony, as hosts of Africa's Cup of Nations, for which have been built four new stadium in the capital Luanda, Cabubda, Benguela and Lubango. The cost of which has been put at £62m most of which has come from China and is only a small part of Beijing investment continent wise.

The honour of hosting this prestigious soccer tournament is seen as an act of belief, that after 27 years of civil war, that the country is now being recognised as one of Africa's economic power houses.

A recent International Monetary Fund loan, of £900m, has conferred that the west African state, because of its increasing revenues from its off shore oil resources, £6bn in 2009, that along with South Africa Angola will prosper.

Following the recent visit of Jacob Zuma to Luanda, in 8/09, there was an agreement between the South African president and his opposite number, dos Santos - whose MPLA party won a landslide general election victory - to increase cooperation between the two countries so that, using Pretoria's know how and Angola's new wealth, both southern Africa countries would prosper.

Tues 29

AFRICAN FACT FILE : PREDICTED POPULATION 2050

COUNTRY	MID YEAR 2050 [m]	MID YEAR 2009	CHANGE [%]
Angola	42. 27	18. 50	129
Botswana	2. 77	1. 95	41
Lesotho	2. 49	2. 07	21
Mozambique	44. 15	22.89	93
Namibia	3. 59	2. 17	65
South Africa	56. 80	50. 11	13
Swaziland	1. 18	1. 75	48
Africa	1, 009 893, 000	1, 998, 466, 000	98
World	9, 149, 984, 000	6, 829, 360, 000	33

Source United Nations Population Fund

Thurs 31

With officially accredited England Football Supporters Club only being awarded 12% of the tickets for the World Cup and when sanctioned tour packages will cost up £3, 999 at a minimum accommodation and transport to matches will be hugely in demand. For the teams group matches ticket allocation is Rustenburg 4, 125, Cape Town 6, 876, For there final group match in the Nelson Mandela Bay stadium in Port Elizabeth 4, 715.

The struggle for lodgings and travel, during the 31 day fiesta of football, has seen the organising

committee, led by Danny Jordon use various unusual venues. South African residents, with spare rooms, are being encouraged to rent off rooms. Empty university dormitories are being pressed into service along with two liners, moored in Cape Town harbour. Many of the countries safari and hunting lodges, even though they are well away from footballing venues have been pressed into service.

As well as the 1, 500 floating beds of Cape Town's coast there will be other floating homes. These will belong to, among others, Chelsea FC's owner who will stay on his 170 metre yacht. A neighbour might be the 126m floating home of the Microsoft co founder P Allen.

With the possibility of big money to be won during the World Cup those inclined to try their luck are turning to traditional healers and their 'alternative medicine'. Of choice, and to increase chances, the muti medicine of choice is the smoked brain of the common vulture. In its dried state it is rolled into a cigarette and then inhaled. More commonly it would be used to see the forthcoming lottery numbers.

Speaking as manager of the birds of prey working group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust of South Africa, A Botha, said that in the charities 2007 survey it was found that 160 dead vultures are sold each year for this purpose. It is estimated that within 30 years some species would be extinct.

It would seem that President Zuma, who comes to Britain in 3/10, have earned some praise from critics after the tempestuous years of the Mbeki regime which followed the autocratic rule of the country's first black president. Not normally known for this Nelson Mandela was, it is said, apt to shout down cabinet colleagues as he had already decided the outcome of the debate. There was also praise for his handling of the Aids crisis with the agreement for easy access to anti retroviral being granted.

Where he, and the ANC as a whole, has gone wrong is not listening to the people at the lower end of the social spectrum. School pupils are still, and are willing, having to walk for two hours to attend their classes when there may be as many as 50 pupils in a class. Even political support for the Congress of the People Party, who won support of 7% at the general election have seen that fall to 2%.

The African National Council is failing poor black South Africans and the economic debate does not even recognise Keynesianism as a legitimate alternative to their failed strategy.