

JANUARY 2010

Fri 1

With the release of the film *Invictus*, on 5/2, the portraying of Nelson Mandela by the American actor Morgan Freeman should be judged against others who have been seen in films about the first black president of South Africa.

In the words of his latest screen nemesis “If we can say any part of acting is hard, then playing someone who everyone knows would be the hardest.” It remains to be seen whether this time those early attempts – D Glover; 1987 TV film *Mandela*, S Poiteir *Mandela* and De Klerk 1997 and D Haysbert *Goodbye Bafana* 2007 are any different.

In the eyes of many who have seen a preview, of this attempt to place on celluloid, the then president still in his 70 's, is is a more fair representation than previous attempts. This is down to having the principal actor share public and private time with Mandela.

Sun 3

The actor Sophie Okonodo who is drawn to playing complex characters – and chooses a good script over a big pay cheque – admits that her playing of Winnie Mandela, in the film of the same name admits “its where all the juicy parts are.”

Mon 4

The new presidential multi residence, built by president Zuma (qv 5/12), has now become the home of the countries third 'first lady' after a traditional Zulu wedding ceremony. The presidents new wife, Tobika Madiba aged 36, is described as a socialite from the city of Durban.

Tues 5

As the president and his new wife, along with their guests – from the unions, politics and communists – celebrated the polygamous wedding in the Natal town of Nkandla where there words of warning from the Church.

The Reverend T Botha, the leader of the Christian Democratic Party, spoke of the actions of the president as “bringing the country back into the dark ages” in his respect of the ancestral traditions of the country.

Fri 8

Obituary Manto Tshabalala Msimang 9. 10. 40 – 16. 12. 09 a one time minister of health under president Mbeki. Born in the village of Enfume on KwaZulu Natal 's coast. Educated at the Inanda seminary at the age of 19. After gaining a BA at Fort Hare University in 1962. With the intention of serving in the ANC 's military wing she asked; and was refused permission and then told, by Govern Mbeki to seek further education.

Along with other political exiles 'posted overseas' by the ANC she along, with her future boss, spent time in a jail cell in what was then Rhodesia. Withstanding this small delay MTM at the First Leningrad Medical Institute in the Soviet Union. Graduating as a doctor then her speciality, gained back in Africa at the Dar es Salaam University, in gynaecology and obstetrics. To add further to her medical knowledge time was spent at the Antwerp University in Belgium. Here she gained a masters degree in public health. Her working life then took her back to the continent of her birth; first as a registrar at a hospital in Tanzania followed by employment in Botswana as a medical superintendent.

Back in South Africa, after 23 years in exile, in 1990 along with other, work commenced to prepare for government. The lady will forever be known as 'Doctor Carrot' for following a non medically proven cure for the HIV/Aids virus.

Sat 9

As the continents nations gather in Angola, for the start of the African Nations Cup, there has been an attack on the convoy of coaches that carry the Togolese national team as it crossed the border from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The 15 minuet attack, which occurred in the oil rich province of Cabinda, saw one coach driver killed and two of the squad wounded. According to a witness, Manchester United 's E Adebayor, the deaths and injuries could have been worse, as the attackers concentrated their machine gun fire on the first coach in the convoy. It was fortunate that the passenger coach was behind one carrying the luggage.

It has been announced that because of the attack on the Togolese football team Togo has withdrawn from the Nations Cup. - **Radio 2 15. 00** -

Sun 10

Ongoing deaths, following the coach attack in Angola (qv 9/1) have reached three. In a statement, claiming responsibility; along with the promise of more attacks, were rebel Angolan 's who are fighting for independence from Luanda.

Claiming a battle that has lasted for 40 years Rodrigues Minangas, secretary general of the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda [Flec] says members are fighting to control the wealth of the province and self rule.

Acknowledged as a security risk to the World Cup D Jordan, head of the South African organising committee indicated that “terrorists cannot be allowed to win” even as he said also that the security around the whole event would be tightened up. These thoughts were echoed by the senior superintendent V Naido; the man in charge of all police activities for the duration of the tournament.

“In terms of preparation of our security we have made more than adequate provision to ensure that security will be as tight as it was in all other events we delivered – 150 – in this country”.

Fri 15

Despite the connections and payment? For the last piece of internet cable to be inserted (qv 1/11) home-grown access to the web is still denied to the majority of nine out of ten townships dwellers. They have to rely on the internet café.

Still the number of web users grew form 4. 6m to 5. 3m, a rise of 15% since 2007 when the latest figures from the World Wide Worx; a technical and research/strategy organisation, and sponsored by Cisco were released. Managing director A Goldstuck puts the rise in uptake down to the increase in the number

Sat 16

It would seem that the inspiration for the title of the recently released Invictus, telling the tale of nelson Mandela 's inspiration of using a Rugby Football match to inspire a feeling of togetherness of the black and white peoples of the nation, was a poem of the same name written by W E Henley in 1985.

Out of the night that covers me
Black as the pit from pole to pole
I Thank whatever gods may be
From my unconquerable soul

It matters not how straight the gate
How charged with punishment the scroll,
I am the master of my soul
I am the captain of my soul

Sun 17

Despite the known health risks that male circumcision brings to the risk of HIV/Aids the Zulu nation waits on a decision by their monarch, King Goodwill Zwelithini, as to whether it should once again be the sign of the time that an Xhosa youth has become a man.

Over the last 12 months there has been about 80 deaths of young men, out of at least 50,000 who have returned to their home province for the ritual.

Wed 20

Letter **D Wyatt MP, Sittingborne and Sheppy** with the ease with which the rebels, fighting for independence in Angola's Cabinda province, the world's football governing body must be aware that huge amounts of insurance money may have to be paid out if such violence occurs during the South African hosted World Cup.

Fri 22

With the home motivated sales of World Cup tickets are as strong as ever fans from European countries are much more cautious in their purchases. In most of these countries supply has often matched demand.

In England it now seems that, because availability, every fan who is a member of the English Supporters Club will be assured tickets for the group games against America, Algeria and Slovenia.

In South Africa English fans have been allotted 22,479 tickets. In addition 48,274 have been sold to British addresses for use in any of the 64 other matches in the tournament. Individual match tickets; price range from £49 - £98 for group matches and from £250 to £550 for the final.

Mon 25

Product branding has come to South African politics. Popularised by president Zuma, at the ANC's victory party, a styled collection of leather jackets is now available for the party faithful to purchase. The jackets, made over in the black green and gold of the Congress, are priced between £133 /R1 620 to £164 /R1994. Such a high price will inevitably limit the number sold to the party masses.

People in the fashion industry gave a poor response to their design as members of the public in an online survey. The reactions; "... would 'nt be caught dead in one" T Lindi. The clothes designer also said in her opinion people under 40 would not wear them. The response to the web poll showed that of the 1,428 who responded to the question "Would you buy a ANC leather jacket?" 86% said no.

Tues 26

Seen by some, as a prelude to the release of Schabir Shaik, the one time right hand man of president Zuma, who was jailed on corruption charges is the release of one of the apartheid era most prolific state assassins.

As of this time the former police colonel Eugene de Koch is serving 212 years in jail after being found guilty of six murders and 89 other crimes.

Even though 'Prime Evil' as he became known appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (qv) as an act of contrition and asking for a pardon. This was refused on the grounds that a number of crimes were committed without a political reason.

The move was sparked by the presidents visit to his Pretoria cell in the recent past.

Sat 30

Whether or not any direct employees of British Areospace are prosecuted for the companies involvement in alleged bribing the South African purchase of Military jets (qv 1/10) a London court has begun hearing a case against one of the companies 'fixers'.

Count A Menordorff – Pouilly has been remanded on bribery charges. An unusual element has seen the attorney general, Lady Scotland, having to decide if the case will go ahead. This case has now been adjourned for four weeks.

The South African competition watchdog is to investigate alleged collusion between domestic airlines to fix ticket prices, for internal flights, during the World Cup. As of this time the fixing of prices, by SAA, BA and the internal Airlink; Mango and others would see an English fan pay £1, 192 for tickets from England and flights to the group games in Port Elizabeth of £194 and return to Johannesburg of £416.

Sun 31

Book **Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game that Makes a Nation** by J Carlin, which is the basis for the film Invictus.

Twenty year on from the release of the long time political prisoner, where the country did not go along one of the two paths that many people feared, there seems optimism. Neither has South Africa finally come to terms of equalising out a country where for 350 years one ethnic group has had a dominance over the other. There again nor is there any sigh that the country has been likened to its northern neighbour Zimbabwe; where political unrest and economic instability have become the norm as of this time.

“The country has a sound and stable democracy without a hint of terrorist secessionist movements on the horizon.”

Talking, in his Cape Town office, the president who ended the imprisonment after 27 years of Nelson Mandela; F W de Klerk, whose home now overlooks Robben Island prison, about the need for a new era after 20 years of the African National Congress governments.

To have a government of one party for such a length of time there is the need for a realignment in the political field. In his opinion ideal opportunity will come in the 2011 municipal elections when the people may choose to cast their votes as a consequence of a falling of of services and not with any emotion.

Central to the photograph of the Mandela 's walking through the gates of the Victor Vesty Prison on 11.2. 90 was close colleague and liberation fighter H Ndude, now aged 90, who on this date was head of protocol and arranges all aspects of the days events.

Her thoughts revolve round the feeling that the optimism felt by the ANC has gone off target and squandered. It will not come back. Such disillusionment has set in that this, once loyal activist, has joined the Congress of the People (qv).

FEBRUARY 2010

Mon 1

With the film of the J Carlin book (qv 31/1), Invictus now on general release in the opinion of one who has seen it “is that it is more of a monument ... than a motion picture. Despite being handed the Freedom of Expression Award by the National Board of Review it it might as well have been stuck on Robben Island.”

Days after his wedding the media have revealed that president Zuma has fathered his 20th child. The South African Sunday Times reports the birth of Thandekile M Zuma on 10/09. The mother is named as I Khoza aged 39 and the daughter of one of the principal organisers of the forthcoming World Cup.

Reaction, from the leader of the Opposition in parliament, H Zille, said the president was sending out the wrong message about the nations sexual activities; the risk of the HIV virus from multiple sexual partners.

Fri 5

Further claims, first made in 2004, that the Angolan state oil company was not well placed to follow all the revenues (qv 23/4) an investigation by the American Senate that a large amount of cash has been laundered through the HSBC banking group. The £31m /\$50m has passed through a Bahamas subsidiary of the global banking giant from the oil rich states Banco Nacional de Angola; the states central bank.

According to the findings of the 325 page report from the senates permanent sub committee on investigations chairman Carl Levin said this should not have happened. In mitigation W Mandemaker, compliance manager of HSBC America, indicated that the event happened eight years ago. Since then regulations have been tightened.

Sat 6

The recent arraignment of the British AeroSpace Systems 'fixers' (qv 30/1), Count Mendoffin a London court, is to have all bribery charges withdrawn by the Serious Fraud Office. The move has come about after senior management have agreed to pay fines of approximately £300m. Thus bringing to an end to a campaign to uncover how the murky world of the armaments business is financed.

Although this deal, equally sought by the authorities in Washington; where other fines will be paid by the company for alleged paying officials for contracts in countries other than South Africa, persons there are happy with the outcome.

One who has expressed 'dismay' at the outcome is the former South African member of parliament Andrew Feinstein; of the ANC who, in 2002 (qv30/3) and again in 2007 (qv 9/11) raised his concerns. As a member of the public accounts committee he had first hand knowledge of the 'where and how' peoples tax revenues were being spent.

Sun 7

The recent revelations, following the birth; of an out of wedlock child to one of the presidents wives (qv ½) can be said that much of the nation feel they have been let down. Non more so than those campaigning over the great number of people who have become infected with the Aids virus through unprotected sex.

Acknowledging his actions have caused, both to the African National Congress and to the health of the nation, a statement has been issued by the three times married Jacob Zuma. "I have over the past weeks taken time to consider and reflect on the issues relating to a relationship I had outside wedlock I deeply regret the pain I have caused my family, the ANC and South Africa in general."

Mon 8

It would seem that just at the time members of the Serious Fraud Office were continuing to collect witness statements from the employees of British Areospace Systems in connection with a promise to prosecute (qv 2/10) on 6/2 the deal was struck that ended any hope of affected countries receiving justice.

Even as the SFO felt it had a strong case, for the prosecution of corrupt officials, this decision leaves the governments of Tanzania, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania, as well as South Africa no nearer to establishing which of their businessmen, civil servants or even politicians are easily induced to favour help for those willing to sell their products in the country. - Andrew Feinstein -

Thurs 11

With this day, twenty year ago, being the day that the soon to be the first black president, walked free from Victor Vesty Prison; just announced as a National Heritage site, a frail Nelson Mandela will attend a special sitting of parliament in Cape Town. A 500 metre march to commemorate the gate opening will be led by his former wife Winnie Madikizela Mandela MP.

Remembering that day, as a 19 year old student at the University of the Witwatersrand, J Malala remembers following along with a vast crowd of township residents by members of the security forces who were not discharging their weapons, chasing or tear gassing the black crowd. He found this unusual.

As to the well being of the country, as of now, there are many different opinions. A former member of the ANC government, A Feinstein (qv 8/2); “My overwhelming sense is just how far we as the ANC have fallen from the heady days of Mandela 's days in office. It was an inspiring example of occupying the moral high ground. That 's now gone and I suppose I look at it with a sense of sadness.

Peoples minds are concentrated, as of this time, on the adverse publicity that surrounds the presidency of the country that may see 'just another democracy' which is beginning to manifest itself with many of the traits of the first world.

There has been successes. Chief among these in the part of the constitution that deems a persons sexual orientation irrelevant. Probably the highest beneficiary would be Judge E Carsoon. Now aged 57 and a closet gay until appointed to the high court in 1994 and then 16 years later to the constitutional court. “We are still a country riven by inequalities and discrimination. The expectations from those days have 'nt been met.”

Putting the case that Nelson Mandela, while locked away for 27 years, could not have been affected by the bitter rivalries felt by those activists forced into exile. It is this difference between Mandela and Mbeki and all the thousands who took part in the struggle that mould the actions that have been creeping in since the end of the active Mandela phase.

Fri 12

Down in the Cape Town parliament diary as the time for the opening of the new session of the South African legislative in reality members were gathered to celebrate the events as Nelson Mandela, now 91 years old, walked free from the detention.

Before president Zuma gave his state of the nation address the freedom of their former president was celebrated. With bursts of song from the MP 's assisted by specially invited 'praise singers' accompanied by Graca and his former wife, Winnie, F W de Klerk and K Kaunda; the former head of the Zambian government, the nations president called on all its people “to celebrate Madibs 's release today, let us commit ourselves to building a better future for all South Africans, black and white. Let us pursue the ideals of a free and democratic society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities.”

Outside the formerly named Victor Vestor Prison there was also a remembering of the release; 20 years past. Speaking to the gathered thousands ANC veteran and former cabinet minister under Mandela, Mac Maharaj noted the iconic actions of the freed Congress leader. However he also noticed a sombre approach to his freedom and “a sense of bewilderment in him.”

A three way tie, between the Oppenheimer family, the Botswana government and the diamond producers De Beers and share holders in the Anglo American Corporation, have backed a rights issue worth £640./ \$1bn after the groups profits fell \$200m last year.

Sun 14

With the apparent faltering of the Black Empowerment Act, aiming to push forward the enterprise skills of the majority, is seemingly failing the continents small farmers-dependant on the British supermarkets Tesco and Waitrose who are now turning to the Fairtrade organisation.. From 2006 orchard and vine produce have supplied these British outlets (qv 8/7).

Recently in Cape Town, and elsewhere in Africa, a coming together of farmer and purchaser was organised. Called to review policy and to determine the future one example of success can be noted.. A 97 pupil school at Trawl, for the children of the Stellar Winnery of the Northern Cape is a good example of how the policy has progressed.

Other British food outlets have gone outside the Fairtrade remit. One such is the supermarket Waitrose and its Foundation which was formed in 2005. Now with 33 farms with its orbit, and another seven expected to join within the next 12 months, monies gathered from the grocer to the importer are required to contribute to fund for the betterment by financial, social and educational means for employees. In 2009 the fund gathered £890, 000/ R10. 8m.

Sun 21

Well known to uphold the Zulu traditions – the 12/'09 attendance at the Xhosa feast of Ukweshwama; where young men slaughter a bull with their bare hands – president Zuma's defence of the tradition of polygamy does not sit well with with other South Africans.

Whether the quip “There are plenty of politicians who have mistresses and children that they hide so as to pretend they are monogamous, I prefer to be open,” was meant as serious comment has stirred up debate in the country.

For columnist Justice Malala of the Sunday Times the fact that many people may still practise the taking of more than one wife “that however does not make it right ant it 's not right under the guise of culture.”

Mon 22

With great store being set that an ongoing 209 Thailand based trial of a virus that would help fight the Aids virus (25/9) and then just as sudden the trial being dismissed as a failure (qv21/10) the scientific world was in disarray. All credible searches for a solution to this silent killer seem as far away as ever.

An international gathering, the US National Academy of Science, has been told of a radical plan that its proposer claims would see an end of the HIV virus within 40 years. The work done by the Centre of Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis at Stellenbosch University, under Professor B Williams, believes that if there was a world wide campaign to treat everyone with anti retro viral drugs for five years then within a generation the HIV virus would be ineffective.

As to the cost; South Africa £3bn - £4bn over 5 years. Globally; a yearly total of £19.4bn/ \$30bn would have to be factored in.

Tues 23

Notwithstanding the ground breaking initiative, outlined at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Science for the global treatment of the Aids virus (qv 22/2), within recent times the World Health Organisation discussed another hoped for cure.

Using a mathematical model the WHO claims that if the population of Africa submits to a HIV test yearly and those found HIV+ ve were to receive expensive medicines for the rest of their lives the virus would be eradicated within seven years.

For various medical and practical reasons such a scenario would be unlikely to occur. New infections would be missed at an early stage of infection. Contacting a second sexually transmitted disease enhances the severity of HIV. Also who would remember to take the pills provided after a night out and being away from home? - **H Pisani** -

Wed 24

Obituary Dennis Brutus 14. 5. 26. - 26. 12. 09 having arrived, from the then named town of Salisbury in Rhodesia, to Port Elizabeth at the age of five with teacher parents he was first entered into Fort Hare University in 1940 on a full scholarship and left with a distinction in English.

His teaching role took him into contact with sportsmen of all races. Noticing the differences in how the white sportsmen were treated, even when they had inferior sporting abilities to black and other races competitors drew him into politics. He first joined the Teachers League and in 1959 co founded the South African Sports Association. In his opinion these two organisations were of limited effect.

1962 the more effective South African Non Racial Olympic Committee came into being. With the honour of being San – Rocs first president it was this movement that had Pretoria excluded from the 1968 Olympic Games; to be followed in 1970 by being thrown out of the Olympic movement all together.

1963 attending an anti apartheid protest in Johannesburg, shot in the back; bleeding heavily by a white policeman he was left to muse on his failed attempt to flee across the

Mozambique border only to be handed back by the Portuguese authorities as he nearly died in front of the Anglo American building in the city. Jailed on Robben Island for the breach of a banning order and a corridor cell mate of Nelson Mandela.

1966 as for most politically active opponents of apartheid London became his home after his prison release. He worked for the International Defence Aid Fund.

1971 further education in the United States, first at the North Western University Illinois then Pittsburgh University as head of the African studies department from 1975 – 1978.

Even in the USA, as Washington was showing sympathy to the Pretoria government, there was an attempt to deport him. However a Dennis Brown Defence Fund was cobbled together and after a long support campaign, even involving Tip O' Neil; Speaker of the House of Representatives and a member of the Senate, the order was quashed on 7.9. '83.

1990 's Returned to the a multi racial South Africa but refused a place in a Hall of Fame as this writer of poetry, Sirens Knuckles; Boots 1963 an anthology Somehow We Survive, 1983 with words “I cannot be a part of an event where unapologetic racists [who belong in the hall of infamy] are also honoured ... “

Thurs 25

With an already government investigation into how the countries domestic airlines are putting prices up for the World Cup season in progress (qv 30/1), the hotel industry is to come under the same scrutiny.

A typical room, near the Oliver Tambo Airport outside Johannesburg, pre tournament has a price of £95/ R145 per night.. During the 31 day football fiesta the price will increase by about one third to £125 p n.

MARCH 2010

Tues 2

Notwithstanding the reputation that President Zuma has for being a ladies man. As a guest of the British monarch he will not be, by a long chalk, any more notorious than other heads of state that have bedded down at Buckingham Palace.

With the ever closer coming of the World Cup along with the known association between the city of Leeds and schools in under developed areas of the host nation, a campaign to provide under used football togs has been launched by five pubs in the city

Collected together, under the campaign title Project Fair Play, the unwanted football shirts et al will be sent to pupils at Ukanyho School Masiphumele. A second initiative is for the pub goers, from Bar Room Bar in the city centre, the Clothiers Yeadon, the Podge Garforth and the Station pub in Guisley is to collect cash for the school to be able to build a new sports ground.

Wed 3

Speaking to the press, as he arrives for a three day state visit, the South African president, Jacob Zuma made a plea on behalf of the South African Development Community that there should be a rethink over the imposition of sanctions being placed on president Mugabe and other notables of Zanu PF.

The effect of these long time imposed, travel ban and financial clamp down on one half of the unity government, is to make those affected feel belittled in the eyes of the unrestricted elements of the coalition government.

Despite being the only country on the continent to write into the constitution a personnel freedom to express his sexual orientation without fear, it would seem that a government minister can still express a censorious opinion..

The Initiative Women exhibition, staged by the Lesbian and Gay activist Zanele Muholi, has brought accusations from a South African government minister that exhibition photographs were against “nation building ... immoral.”

The minister, Lula Xinwana, who was meant to give a talk at the opening of the event, walked out without fulfilling her engagement. Called upon to make an apology, by the director of the Gay and Lesbian Equality Project, P Mtetwa, for not knowing the stated clause in the constitution the minister indicated that despite a government grant of £26, 400 /R300, 000 it was the nature of the photos that were disturbing.

Thurs 4

A formal greeting and a ride down the Mall in a coach of state, for Jacob Zuma and his wife Thobida Madaba, was rather spoiled by comments from both the London and South African press.

The wording of an article, in the Daily Mail, describing the president at the age of 69 as a “sex obsessed bigot ... a vile buffoon” and his retort to the South African Star newspaper that “When the British came to our country they said everything [we did] was barbaric, wrong, inferior I don't know why they continue thinking their culture is more superior to ours.”

Probably the most pleasing event of the day happened in a north London suburb when he visited the London home; 51 Alexander Park Road Muswell Hill N7 which at one time was the home of Oliver Tambo. Greeted by Dai Tambo where memories were exchanged on the open house policy towards all those seeking an end of British colonial influence on the African continent.

Continued European Union sanctions, against notable Zanu PF members and president Mugabe, as argued by Zuma (qv 3/3) “would give Zimbabwe an opportunity to move forward” it said recently. With international sanctions in place it can be argued, by one half of the unity government, that the other side is at an unfair advantage and lead to accusations that the MDC is in “cahoots with the imperialist western states.”

“Few, if any African countries look up to the EU and the west generally as champions of human rights and democracy. It is time to start listening and taking our cue from leaders like Zuma who are far more engaged with the region and better placed to bring about free and fair elections in Zimbabwe.” - **B M Tendi researcher and writer** -

Fri 5

Inevitably the world of football and politics would clash, as current and hopeful hosts of the World Cup in 2018 come together on the Wembley pitch. Inspecting the facilities president Zuma espoused the virtues of his country. Football Association host, Lord Triesman, was also told “at the beginning many people said that it would be difficult for South Africa to host this. We can now say without any contradiction that we are ready, if not more than ready.”

Backing up his presidential readiness statement was an assurance that the security situation inside South Africa is of such improvement that “the fact of the matter is we have brought down crime. Rest assured the event will go without any bad event.”

Leader Comment **Uncertain welcome** has been offered to Jacob Zuma, just as in previous times African leaders have been treated by the press stereotyping “Nelson

Mandela, hero to the world, and saviour of the nation, can do no wrong in British eyes, just as President Zuma can do no good.”

Other African leaders have been turned “from saint to sinner” - Idi Amin in the 1970 's right through to the present time with president Mugabe, a hero in the 1980 's. As of this time “the absurdity runs both ways in this affair.

Sun 7

Growing need for land, underdeveloped at this time; deemed to be 50m hectares – is opening 'unused land' on the continent by owners from overseas organisations and governments.

It is noted, by the International Institute for Environment and Development, the International Land Coalition, action Aid and other NGO 's that overseas owners have moved into 'land plenty people scarce' areas. In Angola land purchasers have been made by organisations based in Italy and Brazil. In Zimbabwe China and South Africa 's entrepreneurs will make use of spare land.

On the other hand South African businesses know how to turn under used land in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Sudan and Libya into productive usage. Another project highlighted in the Rift Valley of Ethiopia, although financed by an Emirates businessman, is the production; under glass of tomatoes. The area covered will be 20 hectares of land.

Tues 9

As London prepares itself for a Department for International Development [DfID] initiative to prevent promises, made at the G8 nations; over treatment of HIV and Aids falling by the wayside, good news comes out of the state visit of the South African president to London.

So concerned are the authorities, both in London and Pretoria, about the spread of the HIV virus during the World Cup that the British have granted Zuma 's wish for help in the viruses prevention. There will be an extra 42m condoms available for use within, and over the countries borders, as sex is bought by fans from possible infected carriers.

As to the national male usage of this prophylactic 450m are distributed every year. However with 16m men sexually active there would seem never to be enough. Even Bill Gates sponsored Global Fund to fight Aids Malaria and Tuberculosis indicates that 4m people are receiving retro viral drugs, 8m are in urgent need of them and 33m persons are HIV + ve world wide. Globally 2. 5m are newly infected each year. The number of lives saved since 2002 is put at 4. 9m

For the want of £4, 000 /R 45, 000 sixteen lions, located in the San Wild sanctuary in Limpopo province will have their lives ended, as the monthly funding runs out. Owner and founder trustee, Louise Jobert, says the eight male and eight female lions; split into three equal prides occupy six hectares and each lion needs four and a half kilograms of meat per day.

There is not enough funding from the end of 3/10 however after this date the town of Tzaneen will be poorer. To try and shame the Pretoria government into keeping repeated promises of financial aid, all broken, there will be a court case.

Thurs 11

Residents of Oukasie, near the town of Brits in South Africa, protest in Pretoria. They have threatened to disrupt the World Cup tournament if their demands for housing, running water, electricity and flushing toilets are not met.

Sat 13

Journalistic representation, from Britain's predominate television broadcasters; the BBC and independent Television News, will number 445. The majority, who will be based in a purpose built studio in Cape Town, will come from the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Seen as 'being out of the loop,' the BBC journalists will operate a specially built – on the top of a hospital building – from a specially brought in flat pack assembly studio. Once installed presenters of the status of Gary Lineker and Alan Hansen will have a 360 degree view of Table Mountain Robben Island and the newly built Green Point stadium.

Even with this elaborate set up the Corporation will have to settle 73 staff at the International Broadcasting Centre in Johannesburg where the majority of the world's journalists will be based.

Sun 14

With a Fifa world ranking of 81 it would seem that the team will have, along with the need to perform well during the coming World Cup, the help of traditional medicine. Such beliefs are, it is hoped, will enable the home team; Bafana Bafana to play themselves into the number one position.

In the Mai Mai, a market in Johannesburg, tree bark from the impephu; a bark that the ancestors respond to. Stall owner Sisi Maboso says “this Banfu Banfu 's secret weapon it can be taken as an infusion or made into an ointment and rubbed into the skin.”

As to whether the Fifa authorities, or its Anti Drugs Agency, can find any banned substances Ms Mabusa says “Let them come and test I know it works.”

Mon 15

Chancellor House, in Johannesburg 's central business district, is now a shell of its former self after suffering an arson attack, and now home to squatter families. When, back in the early 1960 's, the three storey building was split into offices. One, on the third floor, was the place of work for the soon to be jailed Nelson Mandela and the late Oliver Tambo.

The city council has put forward a plan for the building to be demolished and turn the area into an urban park. Mandela family members would rather the building be restored and for it to become a national heritage site. One of the former presidents children, Zindzi Mandela, said that to do such would “accurately record the relationship he had with comrades and colleagues and the legal fraternity.

At home to 364 persons, some 15 people to a room, the person who now lives in the former legal office Dick Macomary aged 38 would be happy to move out if the council would give him a new home.

Tues 16

Remarks, made by J Malema aged 29 the head of the ANC 's Youth League, in respect of the women involved in the 2006 rape trial of Jacob Zuma (qv 9/5) have landed him the countries equality court.

Always a controversial speaker his address to students in 2009, containing words that were deemed; by the magistrate Coleen Collis “that the utterances by the respondent amounted to hate speech. It clearly demeans and humiliates women.”

The offending wording - “When a women did' t, she leaves early in the morning. Those who had a nice time wait until the sun comes out, requests breakfast and asks for taxi money.

The court ordered a fine of £4, 500 / R50, 000 to be paid to a shelter for abused women.

Reaction, from a spokesman for those who brought the case, Sonke Gender Justice, hoped that such a high profile case “will alert public figures to the potential repercussions of their words can have in perpetuating gender based violence and other forms of discrimination, and in terms of the legal implications.

Wed 17

South Africa is spending more than £1.3m /\$2m supporting the extended Zuma family. Government minister Collins Chababe noted noted that the polygamist practising president were of concern. However these stated household costs – spousal costs – paid for personal support staff as well as travel and accommodation.

Sat 20

Within spitting distance, 24 hours, of the 50th year – to all intents and purposes – say the international community take an interest in the black majority population 's living conditions, there that some that say that living in Sharpville has not improved much since the police opened fire on a crowd that were intent on handing in their pass books.

The resulting massacre killed 69 people and injured 180 members of the Pan African Congress gathered in front of the township police station. Most of the dead were shot in the back as they fled the killing zone.

Those who survived will no doubt celebrate as part of South Africa 's Human Rights Day, when at this time, deputy president Kgalema Motlanthe, will speak to residents living 30 miles south of Johannesburg.

Many who survived, including the then 16 year old and pregnant Ziphora Mameo who spent 18 months in hospital after a bone lodged in her a leg; and surgeons replaced a shattered leg bone with one of her own short ribs, or student activist I Maketi; a Robben Island prisoner for five years, still feel that the current state of politics has not delivered municipal services to the required standards. The roads remain pot holed and lack Tarmac. Unemployment is rife and two schools have recently closed.

Sun 21

Long used having to live a life in the black townships, where under apartheid there was no hope of the residents acquiring the status as an equal to that of a struggling white citizen of the country.

When one, the South African rapper Jub Jub achieves a lifestyle that even now is never likely to be open to today 's residents, anger abounds when his rapper lifestyle intrudes on their lives. The musician, real name Molemo Maaohanye, is to stand trial for the murder of four Soweto schoolboys as he raced; along with a friend T Tshabalala in a Mini Cooper through the streets.

Such was the anger of the school children thousands of them attacked the courthouse, wielding sticks and throwing stones, as they tried to seriously damage the accused. Against police advice the magistrate set bail at £900 / R10, 000. This amount would not have been hard to find even though Jub Jub has turned away from the lavish New York life style of other black performers and come home to the township.

In the news again, another example of the growing black celebrity society that excesses Recently fined in the countries equality court Julias Malema, leading light of the ANC 's Youth League (qv 13/3), spent £36, 000 / R400, 000 at his birthday celebrations. Such was the excesses he felt in right to spray journalists with costly champagne.

Some political pundits and religious leaders note that a policy of envy, between those blacks who achieve and those who aspire to achieve and do not will lead to vigilante violence.

Mon 22

this day 1962, commemorating on events 24 hours earlier – which became known as the Sharpsville Massacre – one who was there at the time; Colonel Piemar said even though the policeman “did not know how many we shot if they do these things they must learn their lesson the hard way.”

After medical doctors at Vereeiging hospital put the casualties at 56 dead and 162 injured a crowd of 6, 000 township residents ran from the central square of Langa township as they were surrounded by 60 Sten gun, stick and revolver bearing police persons. Running from the advancing line of police members of the crowd ran from house to house and forced residents to join the demonstrators.

Wed 24

With the knowledge that the football pitches are seeded with hard wearing grass a Guisley football team – along with a number of Leeds United players – have come together to raise funds for balls that are made of leather that is tough enough to withstand the harsh grasses of the township pitches that most school South African children play 'diski' on.

Along with the proceeds of the five aside match, organised along with many other charity events by the Station public house, the funds will go towards providing the facilities at Unkahanyo School in Masiphumelele Cape Town for the Project Fair Play organisation.

This international charity has the aim of helping some of the world 's most disadvantaged children experience the game of soccer.

Thurs 25

Not withstanding that Angel S Swarbooi born in 2005 (qv 21/6) may only be, if still alive, nearly five years old it is fair bet that this little girl will have seen on television in her Khayelitsha home many children 's cartoons.

Up to this present time however none will have been drawn or filmed in her home country. This is about to change. With the opening of the False Bay Good Hope College, by one of the founders of Aardman Animations – of Wallace and Gromit fame – inside the sprawling township, home grown talent will be given the opportunity to produce animations for the nation.

One of the first, of 120 students, to enrol is Anele Swiwa aged 20 who will receive a full £1, 800 / R20, 000 bursary for the 12 month course.

Of the few attempts to produce home grown animations the most controversial was an attempt by the cartoonist Zapira* to mimic British televisions produced Spitting Image programme. This however proved to controversial and was withdrawn after complaints.

* see examples of his work on diary date 13. 9. 2009

Tues 30

With the world 's attention fully on South Africa, after the police action in the black township outside Johannesburg, the police in Cape Town have become the targets of disaffected black youths as they rampage through the city centre.

In the nearby township of Worcester all the schools, churches and council administration offices were destroyed by being burned to the ground.

Wed 31

Obituary Fatima Meer 12. 1928 – 12. 3. 2010 as the family, a grandfather arrived from India in the 1880 's and with parents, father was the editor of the Indian View; a bi – weekly Urdu/English publication, and a white mother named Rachel, it seemed she was brought up in an intellectual environment.

With this background there was always the chance that a strong protest manner at the way that certain non white ethnic groups, Indian and the majority black population, were treated by the National Party government was bound to develop. Her first clash with the white authorities came at school, Dartmell Crescent in Durban. As a member of the Student Passive Resistance Committee she was able to address the Natal Indian Congress in 1945.

The meeting with husband to be Ismail Meer took place at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg where they both were associates of Winnie Mandela and her circle. They married as Ms Meer finished further studies at Durban University in 1952.

Fighting against the growing apartheid system saw her become a 'banned person' on three occasions; 1955 for 2 years, 1976 for 5 years and a similar length from 1981. There was a complete disregard for these restrictions by herself throughout these times. There was a failed assassination attempt – by the state? In 1977.

Being a strong willed women; the Mandela influence!, she never joined the Natal Indian Congress or the ANC although both claim her as their own.

The publication of a biography of Nelson Mandela; Higher Than Hope 1988. One on M Ghandi The Making of the Mahatma was turned into a film in 1996.

APRIL 2010

Thurs 1

Whilst not a direct member of the United Nations Security Council India's representative to the world body warned that the actions of Pretoria's government could be likened to the actions of Hitler as he tried to 'create a master race' and they should not be allowed to do so.

Mr C S Jha was invited to speak to the Security Council at the behest of the National Executive Council of the 29 member Asian/ African States Organisation.

Sat 3

Alarmed by the recent outbreaks of township violence, since the Sharpsville and other incidents of violence, the National Party government has imposed a state of emergency in 31 magisterial districts. During these past times it is reported that 70 blacks have been shot dead and 200 more have bullet wound injuries. There were also reports of property damage running into billions of rupees.

Police have also detained more than 250 non white political leaders. It is known that 35 Indians, all members of the South African Indian Congress are in police custody.

As part of the Africans' protest residents of the Langa and Nyanga townships, some 50,000 people, have stayed away from their work since 22/3.

Mon 5

Two black farm workers, employed by Eugene Terreblanche, a notable in the struggle against the ending of the apartheid system (qv 24.8.04), are in police custody after they reported his death at their hands. It was said that he died because of a claim of non payment of wages.

Of more concern, to the nation as a whole, is the effect that the death of this man will have on the race relations within South Africa. In recent times there has been the antics of the president (qv 4/3) and a more provocative stance by the ANC's Youth League leader J Malema.

In a recent visit to Zimbabwe the recently judicially criticised person, deemed to be a future presidential candidate, praised the work of the Mugabe government in creating an almost all black farming community across the River Limpopo. He made an impassioned plea for the authorities in Pretoria to follow suit and give more farm land to the majority population.

Obituary Eugène Terre' Blanche 31. 1 1941 - 3. 4. 2010 - brought up in the agricultural town of Ventersdorp. 1972 founded his ultra right wing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging Party [AWB] and its political arm, the White Peoples Party in 1980. Three years later charged on terrorism charges and receives a suspended sentence.

the diarist writes - for other insights into his life consult these pages and see SA Tape 31 True Stories broadcast on 4.4. 1991 when a correspondent has access at a gathering of the of the military style political rally.

Tues 6

Much as it was feared that the death of the leading light of the AWB, Eugene Terreblanche (qv 5/4), would lead to the wholesale race war that the Afrikaner right wing wanted during the period between 1990 - 1994 assurance has come from within the movement that no such offensive will take place. However according the General P Styn of the AWB said “we appeal for people to remain calm.

The age of the two suspects are only 15 and 28 and the mother of the younger one told that her son was made to wait while the older man went to the store cupboard from which he took an iron bar to beat their employer around the face leaving it unrecognisable. The two are due in court imminently.

The writer, who authored Red Dust - see SA DVD1 - is of the opinion that the death of this right wing fascist will have no effect on the numbers who come to South Africa for the World Cup. In reality it is a sorry end to a deluded life. **author , playwright and novelist G Slovo**

Wed 7

The trial date of a minor aged 15 and adult aged 28, accused of the murder of Eugene Terreblanche has been set for 14/4 as members of the right wing Afrikaner group the AWB faced a crowd of black South Africans outside the court building in Ventersdorp.

There was much heated exchanges between the two factions of society as the two groups staged a ‘sing off’ with the whites rendition of the pre 1994 national anthem ‘Die Stein’ and the other side responded with Nkosi Sikelel’i Afrika.

Outside the court Bea Terreblanche indicated that her dad had never refused to pay his workers. It was only that at this time, Easter, as well as not having any money on the farm there was no possibility of acquiring some as the banks were closed on this public holiday.

Fri 9

After research, now reported in the journal Science, at the Malapa Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site 25 miles outside of Johannesburg, a team from the Witwatersrand University claim to have discovered a new species that links humans with tree dwellers.

Led by Le Berger, a palaeontologist, the team studied two almost complete fossilised skeletons. The two, a female and a youth aged 11 or 12 years old, were found lying side by side in sediments dated at about 1.9m years old.

Although fellow scientists will dispute the claim of a new species find, with their long arm bones and a pelvis well able to walk upright *Australopithecus sediba* - Sotho for fountain or well spring has, in Berger's opinion, all the attributes to be deemed a link between a time when man's ancestors lived in trees before walking upright.

Once again the leader of the Youth League of the ANC, Julius Malema, has caused outrage. Previously it had been claimed that his singing of the song 'Kill the Boer' triggered the death of the an apartheid era 'notable (qv 5/4).

This time he rounded on a media correspondent of the BBC when he noted Malema also lived in the 'rich white suburb' of Sanderton after the Youth League head complained that South African exiles still had access to offices in the Johannesburg suburb.

Sat 10

It was as if Nelson Mandela never existed as the funeral of Eugene Terreblanche took place in Ventersdorp in North West province of the post apartheid South Africa. The congregation, as you would expect, was made up of members of the fascist AWB which at one time fought tooth and nail against the idea of the country being governed by multi racial government.

this day 1820 the first British settlers arrived at Algoa Bay in eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

Sun 11

As thousands gathered at the funeral of Eugene Terreblanche other Afrikaner farmers were mounting security operations across their farming lands as the number of attacks upon them have increased over the last number of years.

Organisations, such as the break away - 6, 000 strong - Transvaal Agricultural Union take on the role of defending the farm and its property from an increasing threat from unhappy blacks. From offices on the outskirts of Pretoria supporters tell of at least 19 murders of farmers since 1/10. In the opinion of Major General van Zyle, one who trains farmers in protection techniques, the number of white farmers that will be killed by the end of 2010 will be as high as eighty.

AgriSA, the main farmers union recorded 1, 541 murders and 1, 151 farm attacks in the period of 1994 - 2010.

Mon 12

Legal powers, which would stop - some say only limit, the practise of bribery that engulfed British Areospace Systems (qv 6/2) have recently been enshrined in law by both houses of parliament. Under this new Bribery Act, an overhaul of 1880 legislation, a new clause will make it an offence for British based businessmen to make payments to overseas officials to facilitate new business.

A new element, sexual, has been outlined by defence council working on behalf of one of those accused of killing Eugene Terreblanche. According to C Mahlangu aged 28, the dead man had plied both the accused with cider before taking them back to his house where he himself drank vodka.

Sun 18

The outrage of the ruling African National Congress against its leader of its Youth League, Julius Malema, who in past times has made comment on the relationships between white and black South Africans, will in the near future defend his latest remarks (qv 7/4) before its national executive disciplinary committee.

From being, in 10/09, a 'leader in the making ... worthy of inheriting the ANC' - **president Zuma** to " ...a guy who lived in a country in Europe back in the 1920s and 1930s and into the 1940s. That particular person was allowed to rise because people didn't take him seriously. By reporting on Julius's demagoguery and actually having it out there people may judge him - **M Makhanya editor in chief, Avusa Media newspapers SA** -

Sun 25

As former British mercenary Simon Mann, the 'lead' in an international conspiracy to overthrow the president in Equatorial Guinea (qv) , and his co accused languished in the capital Malobo's Black Beach prison certain promises were made by the former SAS soldier.

All now free, and living in South Africa, moves are being made have promises kept. While all those convicted were in jail letters were written that monies would be paid for the time spent in custody. Since the release of G Alerson 51, S Cardoso, V Dracula 51, M Bacha 49 and A Batista 53, who were all at one time served in the South African's Battalion 32 who wreaked havoc in Angola prior to independence, have had no contact with the man since there release from jail in 2005.

The case for compensation has been taken up by the Pretoria based legal firm R W Maluleke's solicitor B van de Hoven. Explaining the work in progress, searches had been made to find the companies, said to have been based in the Isle of Man, that were financing the military escapade named by one of the claimants, were not to be found. As to the whereabouts of Mann no trace could be found.

this diarist writes - during the past seven days, sources have shown various statistical pointers concerning, among others, Population, Gross National Product, Murder rate, the patient doctors ratio and the countries health spending per patient for the countries of this diarists interests.

The reason they have not been recreated is a belief that among the many pages of this work these facts are already disseminated.

MAY 2010

Tues 4

As a help to the 25, 000 England fans expected to follow their World Cup progress from the stadium, 'fan embassies' will be set up in the cities that will host matches in which they are based or play in. They will be manned by members of the Football Supporters Federation and their role will be to provide information fans may need such as travel or accommodation information.

The bad boy of African National Congress politics, Youth League leader Julius Malema faces his disciplinary hearing as of this moment. He will be defending the charge of bringing Congress into disrepute after his comments (qv 9/4) and recent praise for president Mugabe in the way he was handling the land issue in Zimbabwe.

He will return in seven days time to defend the charge

Wed 5

A recently announced music event to kick off the World Cup, to take place in Soweto on 10/6, will now hear from the internationally renowned trumpeter Hue Masekela. He will join local artists the Soweto Gospel Choir and the group named Freshlyground .

Thurs 6

The 'moral conscience' of post apartheid South Africa, Nobel prize winning cleric Archbishop Tutu, is most concerned that the idealism reached for as the struggle towards majority rule was won has now returned. Only this time the aim of all races is to 'get rich quick' at whatever the cost to your fellow countrymen.

As the World Cup draws near, an event that should be used to "show case our diversity to the rest of the world." Fans are more than likely to be aware of the large number of crimes that occur in the country than other more peaceful activities that South Africa has to offer..

Sat 8

In spite of the assurances given by members of the right wing Afrikaner AWB (qv 4/4) it would seem that plans were well advanced to disrupt the forthcoming World Cup. Police in Pretoria have arrested five suspects. Little information has been released other than the items seized include illegally held explosives, guns and ammunition.

Speaking of those arrested a spokesman for the police minister, Z Mnisi, said the arrests also took place in the town of Worcester a location that was known to have a strong right wing

following. Those arrested were detained after a twelve week long police firearms amnesty campaign

Police minister, Nathi Mthetwa, said that with 44, 000 police on duty during the tournament there was little chance of a race war breaking out in the land. He blamed such talk on the British tabloid press.

Speaking of security worries the minister indicated that the only one on the horizon was controlled by the progress of the United States. It was not beyond the bounds of possibility that the countries president, B Obama, will arrive to wish the team well if they progress further than the second round.

Wed 12

With the idea of bringing the issues of surrounding present day South Africa to 16 - 24 year olds the BBC 3 is to tackle the issues of poverty, social family breakdown and the HIV pandemic through the eyes of the partners of the England football team taking part in the coming World Cup.

With a start date of 16/5 at 9pm the five part documentary will, through the women's eyes, delve into such places the once affluent white suburb of Hillbrow, which is now the home to many of the homeless and criminal gangs that operate in Johannesburg. A second location is the cities Central Methodist Church which offers 3, 000 immigrants a place to sleep.

South African Breweries, now part of the American Miller group, a company listed on the London Stock Exchange, is to have its White Bull Lager sold from a new bottling plant built in the city of Juba in southern Sudan.

Sun 16

Written testimony from, among others, Rian Malan and Albie Sachs (qv) on the state of the 'rainbow nation' on the eve of the World Cup competition being staged in the country.

As the nation is showing signs of tension the author - *My Traitors Heart held by this diarist* - , journalist and song writer Malan reveals that the newspapers are full of the ANC's disrespectful Youth League's Malema (qv). Also they reveal that the bribery charges laid against the former police chief J Selebi arrested in 2006 (qv 17/12).

Albie Sachs As the first head of the countries Constitutional Court, based in the Old Fort area of Johannesburg, one of his memorable moments was the debate as to whether the 400 men on death row would be hung or would the death penalty be scrapped.

"The hearing began with the 11 members of the court firing questions, some gentle, some robust. Counsel briefed by Mandela as head of the government insisted that capital punishment violated fundamental norms of human rights. Then it was the attorney general's turn to be peppered as he

sought to persuade us in the name of the state that capital punishment was a legitimate form of deterrent. The case was adjourned.”

Months later with the decision made - “the issue raised profound philosophical questions and touched on deep emotions so that each of us felt called upon to express our separate views. But we all agreed one clear thing: the death sentence was an inhuman punishment that could not be justified in the democratic society based on the principals of humanity and respect for human dignity envisaged for our constitution.”

Other view sought were M Orford who worked with prisoners on death row and taught creative writing at the Victor Vester Prison, the location of detention for Nelson Mandela. Zukiswa Wanner, journalist, blogger and author.

Mon 17

Echoing thoughts first expressed on 6/5, the moral conscious of apartheid Desmond Tu Tu has spoken out about the “gutter level discourse” coming from the mouths of politicians at this time. The one time chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission also expressed thanks that the mind of Nelson Mandela was not as sharp as in a previous era.

In the former archbishops opinion former president would have rejected as unacceptable the present way that the country, and its politicians, were behaving. During the ‘struggle’ which saw the attribute of altruism penetrate all the social classes and was the line that was followed during the first five years of the multi racial government. As of this time corruption and political ambition seem to push peoples greed and their personal issues to the fore.

A second theme of Archbishop Tutu’s, participating in the Google Zeitgeist conference in London, was to praise the growing availability of the internet in South Africa and the whole African continent. Seen as an advantage to home study and cheap communication however there were, at this moment in time, limits to its usage. In rural areas there are frequent power blackouts and poor access to the grid. All these need to be addressed by government “Until Africa catches up to the west, it will lag behind.”

Obituary Frederik van Slabbert 2. 3. 40 - 14. 5. 2010 born in Pretoria and spent his formative years in Pietersberg/Polikwane where, even during his school years showed a need for his own high self achievement, where he became both captain of the rugby and rugby.

Entered the countries top learning alma mata, for the Afrikaner high flyer - Stellenbosch University - to study first theology then following a change of direction : sociology beckoned. Rhodes scholar followed by time at the University of Cape Town and a doctorate by the age of 27 in 1957. Moving, in 1973 with a professorship in sociology, to Johannesburg’s University of the Witwatersrand.

Entered parliament in 1974 as a member of the more known, *to this diarist as*, the Progressive Federal Party when it had only six members one of which was Helen Suzman. Five years later

becoming leader of the party. The academically minded Slabbert was able to increase party representation to 26 following the 1981 general election. There was an attempt, in 1985, along with Chief M Buthelezie, in a National Convention Movement, to have all party talks to end the scourge of apartheid. These failed.

Having come to be of the opinion that political parties in South Africa he resigned as party leader and as an MP early in 1986. This action was seen as a betrayal by Suzman. The next move, in 1987, joining a delegation of top level influential whites in a journey to listen to the opinions of the exiled ANC in Dakar in Senegal, a move that president Botha described as a betrayal.

Stepping out of the limelight, in the 1990's he took up various business posts - chairman of the publishing firm Caxtons and a similar position of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. In 2008 he filled the post of chancellor of Stellenbosch which he resigned from in 2009.

Tues 18

Obituary Shena Duncan 17. 12. 32 - 4. 5. 2010 born into a privileged white family, dad was an accountant, living in Johannesburg and educated at the cities Roedean school and then to the Edinburgh College of Domestic Science, now Queen Margaret University. After a spell teaching in Southern Rhodesia/ Zimbabwe a return home to a teach home economics in the city of her birth.

With a mum, Jean who in 1955 along with five other concerned housewives formed the Women's League for the Defence of the Constitution as the Afrikaner government prepared to remove the Coloured race voters off the common voting roll, it was not unlikely that the daughter would take an interest in the lives of the less fortunate. That cause was lost.

With mum as chair till 1975 when daughter took up the roll, there were other positions to fill such as editing the Black Sash magazine where many articles - authored by herself on civil disobedience, capital punishment and land issues et al to be addressed.

Between the years 1975 - 1986 the mother, of daughter and husband of Neil an architect - who lost clients because of his wives politics - served as president 75 - 78 and 82 - 86 and taking the vice president's position in between.

Noted achievements in 1985 a letter of praise from the still jailed Nelson Mandela for the "formidable impact" of the Sash women. The following year awarded the Liberal international prize for freedom and her contribution to human rights. In 2006 made a grand counsellor of the Order of Baobab for her "excellent contribution to the struggle for a non sexist just and democratic South Africa. Appointed to the Human Rights Commission, honorary law doctorates from the Universities of Cape Town, the Witwatersrand and Natal. Founder and patron of Gun Free South Africa.

Sat 22

The controversial cartoonist Zapira, *this diarist writes* see examples of his work from 2009 (qv 6/9), has become involved in a storm of protest from a religious aspect. The Council of Muslim Theologians have objected to one of his drawings that appeared in the Mail and Guardian on 20/5.

The image of the prophet that caused offence had Muhammad telling a psychiatrist “Other prophets have followers with a sense of humour!” The Council were unsuccessful in having the publication blocked.

Responding to the concerns of the Council Zapiro said he did not regret doing the drawing. “If we can’t express opinions in a democratic society we are really in trouble.”

In a venue that would have been familiar to the Reverend Trevor Huddleston, a church in the heart of the then named Sophiatown a mosaic of Christ with multi racial disciples will be unveiled at the recently rebuilt Anglican Christ the King Church in what is now Soweto.

Seen as a symbol of resistance of the 1950’s and early 1960’s the church was finally bulldozed in the 1967 to make way for a white suburb of Johannesburg.

The original mural was painted between 1938 and 1941 by an Anglican nun. Before being torn down the painting was whitewashed over and the building used as a boxing gym. The new mosaic has been designed by the artist B Chamindiyamba and paid for by London business man Stephen Hargreeves of London.

Of the new piece of art work the Bishop of Johannesburg Brian Gmond says “the original mural shaped a whole generation of believers ... My hope and prayer is that this new mural with its emphasis on reconciliation may shape the lives of this new generation in a way that brings lasting peace.”

Questioned has been the effect the World Cup being centred on the African continent following the award of hosting the tournament to South Africa in 2004. In the bid letter the then president Thabo Mbeki wrote of his countries ambitions and in its small way the hopes of a continent.

“We want to ensure that one day historians will reflect on the 2010 World Cup as a moment when Africa stood tall and resolutely turned the tide on centuries and conflict.” This aim would seem pretty impossible to achieve as the logistics of sport, great injections of cash, massive involvement of manpower are all subjected to the ‘powers that be’. In Africa. where there is power there is an endemic greed for money, there is always a way to obtain it.

Sun 23

Estimates of the number of visitors attending the World Cup, at one time as high as 750, 000, have now been revised down to only 200, 000. One of the main culprits, for out of continent visitors is the fear of crime in the country. For those fans from the five African countries, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco and Cameroon accessing the internet for the purchase of

tickets seems to be the main problem. In recent times a road show for hand to hand ticket selling has travelled to these countries for hand to hand selling.

Inside South Africa detractors of the games point out that the £3bn/ R33b that the games have cost to put on equal the loan from the World Bank that Pretoria has received to improve the countries electricity supply. However despite the limited boost in employment - 150, 000 temporary building workers - the tournament will contribute 0.2% to 0.5% growth according to U Pillay of the countries Human Science Research Council.

Mon 24

Long known of the military closeness of Israel and the then apartheid regime in Pretoria prior to 1994 evidence has been uncovered that as long ago as 1975 Tel Aviv nearly supplied South Africa with nuclear weapons.

In the just published book **The Unspoken Alliance : Israel's Secret Alliance with South Africa** by **S P Suransky** the American academic details 31/3 as the date when Israeli officials "formally offered to sell South Africa some nuclear capable Jericho missiles in its arsenal."

In the end there was no sale for two reasons. The costs were too high and the much needed approval of Israel's prime minister which, in the opinion of the then foreign minister, P W Botha would not have been forthcoming.

Tues 25

It would seem that the 'bad boy' of the ANC's Youth League, J Malema, has been fined for bringing the executive into disrepute (qv 4/5). At the same time he disclosed that he was sorry for his 'Kill the Boer' refrain. He will now rephrase to 'Kiss the Boer' although it seems to be sung 'tongue in cheek'.

Praise and condemnation were dished out after the revelations of the American academic in his book (qv) detailing the long military cooperation between Israel and the apartheid South Africa. The office of the President of Israel, S Perez, who in 1975 led the negotiations with foreign minister Botha said "there exists no basis in reality" for this claim. Some might say that such a strong denial is itself an admission as the normal procedure from this country is total denial of any nuclear weapons policy even to this date.

In Pretoria those 'notables' who were involved, or even on the fringes of academic world or who worked towards bringing the two warring sides together - Professor W Esterhuyse - said "most of us knew there were close cooperation on nuclear research with not just with Israel but also with France. But we had no evidence."

Leader Comment **Time to come clean** "the great value of the research into the dealings between Israel and South Africa "is not simply that it puts on record that Israel does indeed have nuclear weapons nor that it might in the past have thought about handing weapons to another state" it allows us to delve into the nuclear relationship between Israel and America

Thurs 27

The opera singer dubbed 'the black Pavarotti' and chosen - by Nelson Mandela - to sing at the opening of the World Cup on 11/6 has died of meningitis.

Sipho Ntsheba aged 24 was held to be a 'poster boy' of what a poor boy from a township outside Port Elizabeth. From the depths of New Brighton he moved from the church choir where his father was a preacher to study acting and drama and ended up winning a scholarship, at the age of 16, to Cape Town University. In 2004 a career move to the Royal School of Music opened for him.

It was while he was in rehearsals that he was infected with bacterial meningitis and hospitalised to his home towns Livingstone hospital. His death occurred on 22/5.

The future of politics, on the African continent, is highlighted by some who fear that a country that has been governed by one political party for a number of years would be reluctant to hand over power after it lost a general election. - **World Briefing** -

Gold Price \$1, 248..95 / oz in 4/10.

Sat 29

Letter **Dr Z Skweyiya South African High Commissioner London** detailing the argument as to how an African country, although run by one political party for many years (qv 27/5) can determine a smooth transmission of power. Sixteen years of ANC government at national level with it having to hand over power, in two provinces since 1994, diminishes the credibility offered.

Mon 31

this week 1898 The Boers have a sentimental objection to 'suzerainty' but no objection to the paramount of Great Britain in such external affairs of the republic as might concern our rivals.

JUNE 2010

Tues 1

Working on from the Pretoria's stance in 2007 (qv 24/3) to the relevance of the United Nations Security Council a leading light in the European international field has come out in favour that more African countries should be represented at the 'top table' of world wide responsibility.

As president Sarkozy prepares to take the helm of the G8 and G20 groups of big economies in 2011 he will back such moves. The president was speaking at the 25th Africa France summit. One of the initiatives, previously supported by Britain, is that African states will have a 10 year tenure of UNSC membership instead of the present two years. There would be no right of veto for the African members

Long gone, for South African Breweries, are the deeds of being the financial backers for many sporting events brought to the apartheid state, As of this time SAB Miller, as it is now known, is looked on so favourably that their bottled beers will adorn the shelves of the drink selling outlets in all nine cities where the World Cup tournament is taking place.

Thurs 3

Detailing the thoughts about the coming World Cup through the eyes of two families who live in the shadow of the new build stadia.

Port Elizabeth township is now the home of a one time domestic, Evelyn Mfuniselo, to a white family who fled the country in 1976. Still feeling a paternal instinct family a daughter returns to question attitudes of the coming upheaval. Rather than welcoming the many thousands of visitors as the radio et al is telling them it would seem they fear the foreigner. It is a belief that children and young women will be abducted, raped or sold as sex slaves overseas.

Now deep in the white Johannesburg of Waverly suburb there are tales, from the family of the writers dad that the \$5bn spent on the coming tournament would have been better spent. Tales of renting out, during the tournament, a flat for £9, 000/ R 100, 000 which in normal times would cover rent for a whole 12 months. Highlights greed - family of Fifa chair S Blatter runs only company licensed to sell tickets and accommodation.

Fri 4

Now it is known that Israel and the apartheid regime cooperated in the nuclear field (qv 24/5) new evidence has been unearthed that the mechanism detailed as a nuclear trigger was also provided by the authorities in Tel Aviv.

Journalists, in the year 1979, had revealed that the then - and soon to be disgraced - minister of information Eschel Rhoodie - had transported this piece of much needed technology between the two countries. It was packed in a tea chest and travelled as part of hand luggage on a South African Airways flight to its African destination. However this could not be revealed at the time because of censorship and Rhoodie's concern for his own safety.

One of those journalists involved was the then editor of the Rand Daily Mail Allister Sparks told the tale in *Business Day* which, *the diarist writes*, is ironic as this publication is the media outlet that opened after the Rand Daily Mail closed in 1985.

Sat 5

It would seem that the Fifa organisation are so determined to keep all aspects of events on and off the pitch under their control that the 9/3 gift from Britain is subject to rules and regulations. With the acknowledged increase of sex workers arriving into the World Cup venue cities the games organisers have refused to allow the distribution in at stadiums and fan parks.

The gift of condoms, given at the time of president Zuma's visit to London, makes up only a small proportion of the 71m that the authorities in Pretoria are available for distribution in a country where it is claimed 5.7 million people are infected by the HIV virus. There are an estimated 1, 400 infections every day and 1, 000 Aids deaths.

The government aims to test and treat and provide the much needed anti retroviral drugs to 80% of the countries population within the next 12 months.

Sun 6

Pre World Cup friendly - SA 1 : 0 Denmark

Despite all the good works that the Prince Harry and his Lesotho based Sentabale charity, formed in 2006 (qv 28/4) has achieved in its endeavours to lessen the effect of the HIV virus on the kingdoms children it is said that many people would be happy for the landlocked nation incorporated into South Africa as a way of managing a declining economy.

The kingdom, a former British colony, granted its independence as a reward for keeping the Boer nation without a sea port during the colonial times, has had a close association with its neighbour during the apartheid era. On the one hand it provided the migrant labour to keep the economy afloat. On the other it was used as a base for the ANC to launch its incursions against the white regime.

Now with its economy on the land ruined, crop growing land flooded by those across the border to provide power and drinking water for the city of Johannesburg only 250 miles

away. The growing of cotton has been lost to cheaper production methods by the Chinese. What crops they do grow are supplemented with the production of marijuana grown between the rows of maize. The drug is then smuggled into South Africa.

Leader Comment **Now is the moment for hope** “..... For South Africa, the host nation and for the African continent as a whole, this is an astonishingly important event. Happily the fears of thousands of empty seats have proved baseless. It looks as if many ordinary Africans will be represented as the prices of unsold tickets tumbled. We hope they will take ownership of this contest

Mon 7

From their time in Zimbabwe the North Korean World Cup hopefuls planned to take part in a second warm up game. This time in the Makulong stadium in Tembisa township near Johannesburg.

Although, not under the control of the Fifa authorities, thousands of soccer fans made an attempt to be at the game. Such was the confusion and rush to enter the arena that crush and trample injuries occurred among those wishing to watch the game.

Wed 9

Long is the dream of a fast rail track, from the Cape to Cairo the dream of Cecil Rhodes, as of now it can be said that the first link has been continent wide chain has been completed. Ahead of schedule a fast train link, between Johannesburg's Oliver Tambo Airport and the cities commercial hub.

At a cost of £2.51bn / R24bn 12.5 mile/ 20km route takes passengers too or from the airport at a ticket price of £8.90 in 15 minutes. Named the Gautrain it is capable of 100mph and eventually the high speed line will continue to the commercial capital of Pretoria in as little as 40 minutes.

As the country celebrates 150 years of train travel government minister Jeff Radebe comments “South Africans can achieve the impossible when we put our minds to it.”

Thurs 10

Figures from the BP Statistical Review of World Energy indicates that in the year 2009 South Africa consumed 518,000 barrels of oil. This figure is a fall of 3% for the amount used in 2008. In comparison the whole of Africa used 3,082,000 a 1% fall and World usage was 84,007,000 down 2%. The UK figure was 1,611,000 a 4% fall in consumption.

Sources indicate that their source in Rustenburg was working in the laboratory of a gold mining company in this same part of the then, 1960's, apartheid South Africa. His job test

minerals, with precious metals within as to the value of their value. Upon returning the unused material would be returned, wrapped in this diarists source material "as a way of feeding leftist political thought to the mine force and letting them know that action was under way to bring an end to apartheid.

Fri 11

Amid all the hype, of the opening ceremony of the World Cup in the Soccer City stadium in Soweto, comes news of the deaths of three British nationals in a road traffic accident in the north east of the country.

The dead, two women and a male passenger were on a field trip from the Further Education college, Brooksby Melton in Melton Mowbray Leicestershire. Others, among the 18 students, who were injured were taken to the hospital in the nearby town of Nespruit.

It appears the driver, who was from Zimbabwe, was travelling too fast as he was taking a corner on this hilly section of the road just outside the town of Barbetton. The police are considering a charge of culpable homicide against him.

The bidding war which began, in Frankfurt in 2009 (qv 14/10) for the prison diary reminiscences of a then jailed Nelson Mandela, have just become more interesting. It has just been announced that the American president, Barrack Obama, has agreed to write the forward to Conversations with Myself.

The former presidents publishing company, Curtis Brown, says that his auto biography, published in 1995, has sold 6m copies around the world.

One mans determination never to travel even to the post apartheid state has evaporated in the hunt for a good game of football.

Sat 12

With the hype and the celebration comes sadness. As the 13 year old grand daughter of Nelson Mandela was returning from the eve of Cup music festival (qv 5/5) Zenani was the victim of a fatal road traffic accident. In these circumstances the former president did not make an appearance at the first match in the tournament. The final score, SA 1 : 1 Mexico.

The efforts of Leeds public houses, in their Pub Watch campaign, (qv 2/3) to send soccer shirts to other schoolchildren at Ukhanyo School in Masipumelele and other township shanties near the newly built World Cup stadia in Johannesburg and Cape Town. In all about 1, 500 children will benefit.

Sun 13

With a settled life, outside Africa, N Du Toit one of the conspirators - who along with Simon Man was released from jail in 2009 (qv 3/11) has had his tales told as a member of the mercenary force and their attempt to overthrow the government in Equatorial Guinea.

The account of his life, much of it spent in the apartheid era Special Forces of the South African Defence Force, is co written with James Bradazon and is titled **My Friend the Mercenary**.

Tues 15

As the European football supporters contend with the African soccer tradition of the Vuvuzela there is much disquiet among competing teams and the match commentators. From the players, especially the goal keepers, there is a little difficulty in passing round plans of attack positioning of team mates.

Broadcasters complain that their words cannot be heard because of cacophony of the trumpet like instrument. Such is their concern that technology may be brought in that will lessen the sounds of vuvuzela above the sounds of the fans chants.

In Britain it would seem that home based fans cannot get enough of this instrument. Branded here as the Vu Vu horns it is claimed that 22, 000 have been sold in 12 hours by a large supermarket retailer. This equates two every 2 seconds. As to their future appearance in the stadiums of the Football League authorities indicate that any decision would be up to individual club management's.

Unhappy at not receiving promised pay £133 / R1500 a marshalling steward at the Durban stadium was among 500 World Cup stewards who went on strike in the port city. A second venue, in Cape Town also saw industrial action. In the event Danny Jordan, the head of the local organising committee, had to ask the local police to take over the security responsibilities until the low pay issue is resolved,

From the United Nations High Commission for Refugees comes a report on the worlds refugee status. It would seem that in 2009 South Africa is the host country for 47, 074 refugees under the care of the UNHCR. Angola and Zimbabwe, both net losers in the residential states had 141, 021 and 22, 449 refugees who were being monitored outside their country of birth.

Thurs 17

Some of the township residents adjacent to the city of Pretoria have, with the help of an white Afrikaner benefactor been able to watch World Cup matches, following the gifting of a television set.

Around 600 African penguins, *this diarist is of the opinion that a previous name was Jackass*, who are already an endangered species have perished in a sudden cold snap on Bird Island.

A spokesman for the National Parks Authority said that such cold weather conditions at this time of year were unusual. However on this occasion this drop in temperature had combined with rain and windchill and resulted in this many fatalities of this very recently designated endangered species.

With only 700 breeding pairs of African penguins on Bird Island the loss of more than half the population's chicks presents an added threat to their dwindling numbers.

World Cup SA 0 : 3 Uruguay attendance 42, 658

Fri 18

Nelson Mandela at the age of 91 braved the cold of the South African winter to attend a memorial service for the life of his great granddaughter Zenani Mandela who died on the eve of the World Cup opening ceremony.

Much of the memorial service, that took place at the 13 year old's school - St Stithians College in Johannesburg, was taken over by her class mates as they showed a montage of picture of Zenani's life time those also attending were Winnie Madikizela Mandela, whose child, Zinzi, was the dead girl's mother. Another guest was George Bizos who was lead defence council for the soon to be jailed ANC leader after the 1962 Rivonia trial

As to the driver, S Mankazana aged 23, who was returning Mandela's great granddaughter home from the Soccer City stadium after the musical concert, police have charged him with culpable homicide and possible drink driving. He will face the court on 26/7.

Sun 20

Up to this present time criminal cases, passing through the 56 special World Cup courts, have resulted in only in eight convictions. Administration costs are running at £500, 000 a week. In other words each conviction has cost £160, 000.

According to an unnamed Fifa official, quoted in the *South African Mail and Guardian*, "A senior magistrate invited us into his office to watch the football on television, while he sat with his feet on the desk, drinking Coke Lite and flicking through the latest FHM and a David Baldacci novel."

Tues 22

The crime of rape, of which there were 30, 190 reported in 2009 (qv 13/6), will be somewhat averted if a scientific invention is more widely known about. Devised by Dr S

Ehlers the Rape Axe is a female condom which would be worn if she was going on a blind date or into a situation where a lone women could feel vulnerable

The device is armed with teeth like hooks, which latch onto a man's penis during penetration. It cannot be retracted as to try and do so will only make it grip harder. There is no breaking of the skin nor can the aggressor pass water or any other fluids. Neither can he walk away. One disadvantage has been noted : men may perform more violent acts on their women victims.

It would seem that such a device is most urgently needed in South Africa as a report in 2009 found that 28% of men had raped a woman or girl, with 1 : 20 confessing to raping someone in the last 12 months.

Wed 23

World Cup France 1 : 2 SA attendance 39, 415. So with this set of results the host country has failed to qualify for the knock out stage.

Sun 27

As the World Cup progresses to the 'one game and you're out' Ghana is the only African country to progress to the tournaments quarter finals. Speaking of this a achievement a spokesman for the African national Congress praised the west African All Stars as they have defeated the Australian team to enter the semi final stage.

Generally there has been a good atmosphere between the fans and the police. Stadium facilities have not been found wanting and the fear of crime has been much over played say the many overseas visitors. One of the greatest benefits to South Africa has, in the eyes of Bishop Tutu, has been a countrywide revival of national spirit.

Mon 28

Obituary D Soggot 6. 8. 31 - 24. 5. 2010 with a lineage of Lithuanian Jewish origin and a dad who was a butcher was a graduate of the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg where for two years he taught political science from 1953.

Deciding to join the Bar on the side of the defence he joined others Lithuanian/Jewish persons, S Kentridge and George Bizo's, who in there time would make their name in the defence of persons charged with the so called crimes of apartheid.

His first, taste of the defence of one accused of crimes carried out in the name of racial freedom, as junior council, was part of the defence team of J Harris on a charge of murder in 1964. As a bomb exploded at Johannesburg's station a women was caught in the blast and died. The death occurred even though a telephone warning was given. Thus found guilty of murder Harris became the only white South African to be executed for political crimes during the apartheid struggle for freedom

There were successes. Most notable was the defence of the 22 township residents in what became known as the Delmas treason trial of 1985 - 1988. More poignantly there was a close associations with Steve Biko, Winnie Mandela and the trade unionist M Mayekiso. Before Namibia independence, in 1990, close work with Swapo and the defence of residents of Katurua township. Special note should be made of an attempt, that failed, for the South African intelligence services to plant a spy on the defence team.

Wed 30

A previously unreported, *by this diarist*, intrusion into the dressing room of the England World Cup team has been claimed to be orchestrated to show that the South African police were not in control of security. Thus bringing the concept of an adequate police operation during the tournament into question.

A British journalist, S Wright of the Sunday Mirror newspaper, made great publicity of the wanderings of a football fan who wandered into the dressing room and spoke to David Beckham about the teams miserable performance against a team from Algeria, which was drawn 0 : 0.

As police searched for the culprit, Pavlos Joseph, the format of an interview was laid out for publication back home in England. Once done, and located by police the fan appeared in a Cape Town Court. The charge against the journalist, according to commissioner Bhekie Cele, were defeating the aims of justice and flouting the immigration act. He is set to make his second court appearance, the first was on 28/6, within the next 24 hours.

As to the effect of the countries traditional medicine (qv 14/3) the reality has come back to haunt Dabulamazi Mothanke as his efforts to “place a curse, done at the behest of the local People newspaper who wanted an England victory as they took on the team from Germany, will make all their stars feel they have fog in their eyes. The defenders will be blind for 90 minuets.” England returned home having been defeated 4 : 1.

Wed 7

Out of athletics since 2009 (qv 20/9) Caster Semenya has been given permission to return to the track and the pursuit of more world records. Here first possible attempt may be the Commonwealth Games that begin in Delhi in 10/10.

While out of the world spotlight her training regime has seen her best attempt at attaining a time for the 800 metres - for which she won gold in Berlin that year with a time of 1.54.45 secs a long way off. According to her coach the closest has been just under 2 minuets.

JULY 2010

Thurs 1

The trespassing football fan, Pavlos Joseph (qv 30/6) has been fined for his intrusion £65 /R 750 after pleading guilty. At a separate court hearing Sunday Mirror journalist S Wright charged, with two offences, will appear before a court again in the next seven days.

Broadening the claim of knowing Pavlos's whereabouts it is said that the Fifa organisation could be said to hold some responsibility. According to him the phone number of the organisation was on the card given by the guilty youth to the policeman who released him on bail.

Sat 3

In the legal case, against the former police commissioner, J Seblie, the evidence given by Glen Agliotti - jailed in 2007 (qv 6/12) - has ensued a conviction in the court of Justice Meyer Joffe The former president of the Interpol organisation, who left in 2008 (qv 14/1), has been found guilty of links links to organised crime and taking £103, 000 /R1.2m in bribes in a clear case of corruption. He was found not guilty of defeating the ends of justice.

Commenting of the guilty verdict a government spokesman, J Mthembu, said that the verdict clearly indicated that the country was governed by laws that applied to all persons without fear or favour of their status.

Sun 4

Under the Mercer Cost of Living Index Luanda, the capital city of Angola, is known as the most expensive city for ex pats to live in.

The costs - 2 bed unfurnished flat to rent for one month £4, 480. Daily newspaper £316. A Hamburger meal £11. 20. A litre of unleaded petrol £0.34. A litre of milk £2.11.

In comparison London, in 17th place on the Mercer Index, the figures are £2, 500, £1. 80, £3.87, £1.13 and £0.76 receptively.

Mon 5

While it is becoming accepted that rates of male HIV infection fall after circumcision (qv 9/3) medical researchers, in London and southern Africa now understand that abstinence from sex would reduce new infections.

In support of their claim epidemiologists, Whiteside and Parkhurst, from the London School of Tropical medicine had noted that infection rates are cut by 45% after a four week period of denial. To come to these conclusions - immediately after the Muslim

holy month of Ramadan, when sex acts are banned during a period of fasting for one month, infections fell - rates were studied in Pakistan and other Muslim countries.

In South Africa, despite being a predominantly Christian country, such a scheme was praised by epidemiologist Alan Whiteside of KwaZulu Natal University as it would provide countries with a one off short term adaptation that is cost effective in a country that has an HIV infection rate of 18.1% or 5.7m people.

Also outspoken in support was D von Wissel of the Swaziland national Emergency Response Council on HIV/Aids who even suggested the cool of a southern African spring to trial such a method of braking the cycle.

Sat 10

As the World Cup tournament enters its final hours, the deciding match between Spain and Holland takes place within 24 hours, interim figures on the number of crimes committed in the Johannesburg area have been released.

According to the private security firm ADT crime was down in the western suburbs of Johannesburg by 70%. In the east of the same city over the last four weeks the crime rate has fallen by 60%. In the 'special courts', specially set up to deal with tournament related crime only 100 people have been found guilty of offences.

With the intention of forcing the country to face the taboo subject of the HIV crisis that continues to blight South Africa artist Yiull Damaso has painted a parody of the 17th century painting 'The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulip' by Rembrandt.

In this modern depiction, those who are gathered round are viewing a dead Nelson Mandela. Those who are observing the lesson are De Klerk, Mbeki, and president Zuma who are all very much alive at this time. One who is not is Nkosi Johnson (qv), an Aids activist who died at the age of 12.

When the painting was shown, on the front page of the Weekly Mail as well as being on show in Johannesburg for 2 days, the ruling ANC government condemned the showing of the countries first black president as a corpse. According to a spokesman such a depiction is deemed in African society as a 'foreign act' and liable to bewitch the living. The painting takes no regard that Mandela, coming up to his 92nd year, is still active.

On the back of the international gathering, that is the World Cup, a special education conference has been called by the host nation. After a decade of promises from the western nations to back a United Nations, Unesco, plan to educate the continents school children the finance promised have not been kept.

Ten years ago £7.3bn / \$11bn was promised to provide Africa's 32m children a seat in a classroom. As the world wide economic crisis hit governments reigned in the amount of aid offered, In 207 \$1. 72bn was donated. Within 12 months international donations had fallen to \$1.65bn or 7% aid/ pupil.

According to Unesco Sub Saharan school age children account for 45% of the world's children who do not go to school and 1 : 3 attend secondary education classes.

Obituary B Davidson 9. 11. 14 - 9. 7. 2010 already with a pre war interest in journalism now joined the New Statesman magazine through which he was able to meet South African trade unionists, Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo at the beginning of the African national Congress's campaign of defiance against the apartheid laws and the National Party government. Such was the interest in justice that he filled the position of vice president of the Anti Apartheid Movement between 1969 - 1985.

Through many of his travels, through sub Saharan Africa, saw contacts made with many of the liberation movements that were fighting in Angola and Mozambique for freedom of the colonial yoke.

Sun 11

While the film *Invictus* can be seen as Nelson Mandela's successful attempt to have the black majority come together with the white minority to celebrate the nations winning of a minority sport the soon to end World Cup is achieving the same purpose for the whites. **C O Oba journalist, Daily Nation Kenya.**

Leader Comment **South Africa was the real winner of this World Cup** with a pre tournament history of "crime, poverty and corruption" might the World Cup build up the countries "stockpiles of national optimism" much as the 1995 RFU win did at that time?

"South Africa's record of optimism in response to a terrible historical legacy has been a vital social and economic asset. The World Cup, as down payment on a nation feeling upbeat about itself again, was money well spent.

Mon 12

With a graceful traverse, riding in a golf cart, of the Johannesburg Soccer City stadium Nelson Mandela was able to make a brief appearance at the World Cup final. The match ended 1 : 0.

As to the fears of a rush of crime the special police courts only dealt with 194 crimes and with the extra 40, 000 security personnel it could be said as the overall crime rate fell (qv 10/7) the criminal class may have taken a forced sabbatical. As the man at the head of the South African arm of the Fifa organisation Danny Jordon insisted that "the nation has crossed a huge psychological barrier" to move away from the perceived belief that it is an inferior one.

In praise of **Caster Semenya** (qv) who was not supposed to win gold medals, she came from poor north of the country and trained at a club that had no track, nor club house. Without money for shoes she would tear and scar her feet on the brambly ground. It would appear that the nations athletic officials lied to her over the gender

verification tests ordered by the International Amateur Athletic Association. Her chance to add the gold medal won in 2009 will come in Finland on 15/8.

Tues 13

In its haste to be seen as part of the wider world the government of Jacob Zuma managed to put on the World Cup for £3.5bn and allow the Fifa organisation, eleven weeks later, to walk away with a tax free profit of £2.5bn.

Other appeals to the commercial world were - allowing the Sony electrical company to plonk a plastic dome in the centre of Nelson Mandela Square, even now not a very upscale market place in the Johannesburg of Sanderton. This along with a free for all of private jets at King Shaka Airport in Durban which disrupted travel throughout the region rankled.

“If the 2010 World Cup had any significance beyond football, it was to show South Africa’s visitors - in excess of 400, 000 - and perhaps the country itself that it has no shortage of intelligent, capable eager young people whom, if they are given the chance, a viable future can be built.”

Hard on the heels of the countries successful hosting of the World Cup it has been announced that South Africa is to make a bid to host the Olympic Games in 2016.

Fri 16

Watched by a crowd of 3, 000 people, Caster Semeya came to the Finish city of Lapeenranta’s Kimpinen stadium, for her first outing since the International Amateur Athletic Association had banned her from the sport 11 months ago.

Racing in the 800m, and finishing in a time 2. 44.2 which was only 9 seconds slower than her world record time, both her and her coach were pleased with the resulting first place. Her next outing will be the Commonwealth Games which take place in Delhi in 10/10.

Sun 18

Just as concern was shown in 2009, for the numbers of black rhino wandering the Kruger National Park (qv 8/10) who face the threat of death as poachers seek new supplies of rhino horn, so now the reality of this illegal poaching hit home in the smaller Krugersdorp Nature Reserve.

In the last few days it has been reported that the body of last female black rhino has been found in the Park that is located outside the city of Johannesburg. Although smaller, at 1, 500 hectares the animals therein were visited by 200, 000 in 2009.

Officials, fro the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species [Cites] estimated that there are only 18, 000 black and white rhinos on the continent. In the 1970’s there were 65, 000.

At game auctions animals can be sold for as much as £85, 000 /R1m. In recent times the courts in South Africa sentenced two Vietmanese poachers to 10 years in jail.

The strict rules, imposed by Fifa, to prevent no other organisation providing goods or services within a defined area adjacent to football venues has been noted as to “involve a lollipop maker who is being dragged through the courts for calling a sweet ‘The 2010 Pop,’ while a Port Elizabeth bar owner was threatened with a £4, 500 fine for putting up posters reading ‘The Phoenix and Stage Door Pub welcomes the world to the World Cup’.

In mitigation of the silliness a Fifa spokesman said “They tried to take advantage.”

Mon 19

“A pair of elephants in the Kalahari desert, part of a collection titled Black and White “ as seen by photographer Hannes Lochner who spent two years in the desert and depicting the wildlife therein.

Now defined as ‘Mandela Day’ the first leader of a multi racial government celebrated his 92nd birthday. On this day world wide events of public service should forthcoming by communities.

As to Nelson Mandela’s immediate family words of encouragement for public good deeds from Graca Machel were spoken. As to her husband he was “no longer physically strong, but he remained strong in spirit”.

Tues 20

As one medical trial, involving microbicides in an attempt to lessen the chances of females succumbing to the Hiv virus, ended in 2009 (qv 14/12) there has been signs of a successful medical trial overseen by researchers from KwaZulu Natal University in South Africa.

Giving details, at the Unaid conference, of the study termed Caprisa 004 carried out by the Centre for the Aids Programme Research 889 women aged 18 - 40 and Hiv negative and sexually active were invited to join. The method of safeguarding the threat of the viral infection was the use of a vaginal gel with the addition of the already respected anti retroviral drug tenofovir in a 1% concentration.

This microbicide plus method is to be used before and up to 12 hours after the sex act has occurred. The lead researcher, Dr Q Abdool Karim let it be known that a women who kept to this regime had, after the first year a 39% protection. Constant use would offer a 54% protection rate.

The battle was now on to find a pharmaceutical company, inside South Africa, who could mass produce such a medicated gel. A leading HIV campaigner thought such problems could be overcome within two years.

Spreading the message of the dangers of the HIV virus has hit the television screens of Africa, and many other communities where unprotected sex occurs, through the MTV channel.

One such programme Shuga, for the student population of Nairobi Kenya. Academic studies, by Unicef and the US Presidents Emergency Plan for Aids [Pepfar], carried out by John Hopkins University in Baltimore USA indicated that more than 60% of the youth audience new the programmes message and identify lessons to be learned.

Thurs 22

With all the signs that Caster Semenya is destined for the Commonwealth Games, following her 16/7 800m victory, the hidden thoughts of her fellow competitors have been revealed.

Jenny Meadows, a British athlete, has spoken about overheard conversations from fellow athletes, whilst waiting to be called onto the track. Comments overheard include, from E Piccone : Italian who came 6th in the Berlin Games in 2009 , “These kind of people should not run with us. For me, she’s not a woman. She’s a man. “ “I don’t think there is acceptance , to be honest. When I raced in Gateshead I know some of the other girls were saying ‘Oh so Caster’s back.” - **J Meadows on whether athletes accept her return. -**

Archbishop Tutu, nearing the age of 79, has announced that he is to withdraw from public life.

Fri 23

The size of UK exports to the country are put at £2, 252m.

The bombshell clerical announcement of Bishop Tutu’s (qv 22/8) will be a two stage affair. From the actual date of his next birthday, 7/10, to his actual retirement in 2/11 the sometimes deemed ‘moral consciousness’ of the country will work only one day a week. After that date he will, in his own words “have done as much as I can and need time to do things I have really wanted to do.”

The well versed, in the use of the courts system, of the Bushmen of the Kalahari in Botswana (qv), are to return to fight to be allowed back into the centre of a game reserve to use its water hole. They were evicted in 2004 (qv 20/2). As was the case six years ago (qv 14/12) the British charity Survival International, which champions the rights of the world’s indigenous peoples, will be assisting.

As of this moment the disposed, some 500 persons, have to trek in and out of the reserve, a distance of 300 miles, to collect some water.

More hurt has been heaped on the Mandela family as two of the former presidents grand children had guns held to their head as a robbery was taking place in their Johannesburg home. No one was injured nor was anything stolen.

Wed 28

Despite the degree of leniency shown in 2009 (qv 21/10) to four Free State University white students, R Malherbe, S van de Merwe, D Grobler and J Roberts after their racist approach to four black workers was uploaded onto the internet. Legal charges have now been laid before the four.

This case was instigated, despite the university employees at first agreeing to take part in the fake initiation ceremony. It was only later that they realised that they had been humiliated.

In court the whitee, charged with illegally and deliberately injuring another person's dignity, at first denied the charge. Now, after admitting their guilt they await the magistrates decision on a punishment.

The driver of the vehicle that was carrying Nelson Meadela's grand daughter back from a pre World Cup music event has been charged with her murder. Sizwe Mankazana aged 23 will appear in court again on 27/8. He was freed on bail.

AUGUST 2010

Thurs 5

The country's former police chief, Jackie Seble aged 60, has been sentenced to 15 years in jail after being found guilty of corruption, having been found guilty of taking bribes to turn a blind eye to drug trafficking.

The case forced the country to face an unpalatable truth: that the man leading the crusade against the crime epidemic was a criminal. The judge cited a past speech by the former fighter in the struggle to end apartheid in which he said that police would stop corruption "so we can fight with clean hands."

Sat 7

a note in history - 26 9 1997 has Nelson Mandela hosting a dinner, in Cape Town, to honour the election of the new president of Liberia Charles Taylor. Unbeknown to the then South African president one of the guests the British model Naomi Campbell received a gift of allegedly uncut diamonds. Later these were handed over to the then head of the Nelson Mandela Children's Foundation J Ractliffe. Rather than hand them over to the police immediately only at this time have they been handed over to the police.

As noted in the book *Young Mandela* (qv 14/10) there was always the possibility of as a young man Nelson fathered other children than those with his two wives. One to surface at this time, through the work of the respected newspaper Mail and Guardian is Mpho Pule.

Now deceased, the result of a stroke in Bloemfontein in 2009 a letter has been produced of a 8/9 letter sent to his Johannesburg home. Then aged 50 Ms Pule was told, by her grandmother, that she was the result of an association between the emerging political leader and her mother Sepeiti Monakali in 1945 Cape Town.

A government minister in Swaziland has resigned amid rumours he has had an affair with one of King Maswati the Third's fourteen wives, Ndumiso Mamba, the justice minister and childhood friend of the monarch stepped down as the scandal rocked the kingdom.

The pro democracy movement, Solidarity Network, alleged that the minister had been having an affair with M Nothando Dube, the 12th wife - Msawati married No 11 in 2005 (qv 19/9).

Fri 13

Four illegal gold miners, trying to dig at the established Aurora Mining Company site, have been shot dead by security guards working in the mine that is part owned by Zondwa Mandela, the grandson, and the present president Jacob Zuma.

It would seem that this company has a reputation for paying poor wages and over the last seven months reports have been received, from the mainly migrant work force, of poor working and living conditions with a lack of clean water and an electricity supply to contend with.

Authorities including the National Union of Mineworkers called for a police investigation and “anyone found guilty of unprovoked shootings should be charged, tried and punished.”

Sun 15

Determined to introduce measures that are seen as demeaning the rule of the African National Congress, such as the media exposure of the countries president and his out of wedlock children, the government plan to put restraints on the working practices of the countries journalists.

Such measures, under consideration, are laws that would make it illegal to leak or publish information deemed classified by the government’s media tribunal. Breach of such a rule would be a period of 25 years in jail.

Naturally such restrictive journalism, in a country until now lauded as having a free press, has caused journalists - inside and outside South Africa - to protest. As of now 37 newspaper editors have signed a letter of protest and the Vienna based International Press Institute has sent a letter showing its concern to president Zuma.

Sun 22

The number of Mc Donald restaurants in the country is 132.

Tues 24

Seven days of strike action, by public service workers, has badly affected the running of many of the countries hospitals. This lack of health services, as doctors and nurses are among those that are on strike, has seen the minister of health - a former doctor - A Motsoaledi - return to work in the Chris Hani Baragwanatha hospital in Soweto where in a previous life his day consisted of medical rounds and attending to in an outpatients there.

Throughout the country almost 1.3 million workers are on strike, with severe clashes with police and soldiers occurring in Gauteng and Northern Cape provinces. Unions are demanding a pay rise of 8.6%, which is twice the inflation rate, and an increase of housing benefit from R 500 to R1, 000 / £88 per month. On offer from the government in pay rise of 7% and a R200 increase in housing benefit.

An average South African wage is £560 /R 6, 383, per month which is 40% more than a low paid public service worker.

With a diary mention in 2003 (qv 22/12) the insurance/ banking company Old Mutual is to sell its share in the countries fourth largest bank to the British bank HSBC. After

purchasing 55% of Nedbank for £4.5bn the new owner will have seen off a rival bid from Standard Chartered Bank and gains what it sees as a means of expanding its interests in the country.

As always such sales has to be agreed by the government in Pretotia as the authorities fear such assets being sold to overseas businesses.

Thurs 26

Much to the anger, of members of the Christian Church, a church pastor in the Khaylelitsha township outside Cape Town has been accused of preaching about Christ's that they have found offensive.

The Reverend Xola Skosana aged 43 has, in a three part sermon titled 'Jesus was HIV positive', brought the issue of HIV infection back into the limelight once again as up to 1, 000 deaths due to HIV related diseases are dying every day.

In his most recent church service at his non denominational Way of Life Church in the township the cleric, was one of the 100 young persons who took the test to determine whether they was HIV infected or not.

Explaining his reasons for assuming the Son of God was thus infected the Reverend noted that in the Bible there were many references to him being among the poor and destitute. He wondered why the modern day church did not speak out more and encourage better treatment for those 'destitute and poor' in this a modern age.

Fri 27

As he public service workers strike continues thousands of noisy, but peaceful, strikers marched through the centre of Johannesburg to show there intention to stay away from the hospitals and schools et al until their demands are met.

With every confidence president Zuma is out of the country on an official visit to China. With a salary of £193, 000 /R 2.2m those marching through the countries first city noted the disparity in his wage and their own.

As the conflict, now in its ninth day, continues the partner in the ANC government the trade union movement consider its future relationship with the former liberation movement. According to Zwelinzima Vavi, secretary general of Cosatu, questions are being asked. Has this administration lost its way in its efforts to improve the quality of life promised at the start of the 'war of liberation.' Are they more interested in acquiring the trappings of power than keeping to their promises?

Within the next seven days the Confederation of South African Trade Unions is to consider calling out all its 2m members in support of those who have withdrawn their labour.

Sun 29

Leader Comment **Turning to censorship betrays South Africans** as “one journalist was arrested over a story he had not even published” does not tell the whole story of the country down at the tip of the African continent.

After the “organisational triumph, a defining moment in national esteem and a repudiation of centuries old ‘Afro pessimism’” that was the World Cup now the mass of the people are far from celebrating as thousands of public service workers withdraw their labour.

“The ANC , admired by democrats around the world, is surely bigger and better than ... Having welcomed the praise of the international community for South Africa’s marvellous hosting of the World Cup, it should now heed criticism of actions that are squandering the goodwill.”

With efforts to draw in private sector workers into the government/public service workers strike those refusing to work may rise by 320, 000 as the mineworkers are said to be on the verge on joining the protest. Elements of the vehicle manufacturing industry, some 70, 000 workers are already on strike and joined the march through Johannesburg on 27/8.

SEPTEMBER 2010

Wed 1

With a well known history of fighting an oppressive regime, note her many literal battles with the apartheid government prior to 1994 author and activist Nadine Gordimer has once again taken up the cudgels on behalf of an oppressed people.

On this occasion it is the world of journalism that is under threat. The present government is mifeul to introduce measures that will severely limit journalists powers of investigation into activities that would embarrass the government or would damage the security of the state.

Thurs 2

A row has erupted within the South African art world as Cape Town's National Gallery appoints its first non white director of Collections. The position has been filled by Riason Naidoo who was born in a Coloured township near by.

The controversy arises because, for the first time in the galleries 139 year existence and 69 years since their bequest paintings by the likes of Joshua Reynolds Thomas Gainsborough have been removed from the display.

In his defence the new director has said that "the art world in South Africa has been largely white. Cape Town is known to be quite colonial. They have been replaced, during a five month show, by the likes of home grown artists such as Mary Sibandes's Conversations with Madam CJ Walker.

The editor of Art Times G C Brown thinks he has rushed this show and compromised the curatorial professionalism the National Gallery is known for.

Fri 3

Widespread demonstrations have broken out in Maputo the capital of Mozambique. The protesters blocked streets with piles of burning tyres and looted shops in the vicinity. These second day actions were caused because of a 30% hike in the price of bread imposed by the government.

Police fired on the rioters and as a result up to ten people have died. Police were engaged in an investigation into the source of emails and text messages which the organisers had brought the demonstrators onto the streets

Sat 4

With knowledge of the world's poor grain harvest, and the unrest such shortages evoke (qy 3/9), United Nations officials from the Food and Agriculture Organisation have called a special meeting to discuss the consequences of the recent 5%. The meeting, which will be in Rome, is to consider the plight of the of the people in the developing world where food costs add up to 70% of a families income.

Sun 5

The 53 member nations of the African Union (qv) are keen for the continent join in the international space race. To such ends a feasibility study has been ordered as to the violability of setting up an African Space Agency. Not withstanding the possibility of Africa placing a man in space there would be many technological spin off which would, it is hoped, would provide huge employment opportunities throughout Africa. There will be those who are against such a plan due to the scare resources. Critics will say any spare money should spent on controlling disease and poor medical provision.

With a history of already hosting international space projects, Cape Town has recently been awarded the International Astronomical Union's Globe for opening up the possibilities of space to the developing world. The country is still in the running, for the 2012 announcement of which of two countries will house the Square Kilometre Array [SKA] which has a budged of £1.25bn. Consisting of a radio telescope that is 50 X's more sensitive and 10, 000 times faster than any radio imaging 'scope yet built.

In the long term the SKA will consist of 3, 000 antennas outside the town of Carnarvon in the Northern Cape. Other elements of the radio receiver would be located in Namibia, Mozambique and Botswana et al.

Mon 6

As the public service workers strike enters its fourth week strikers are to vote on a government of 7.5%. While this offer, is below their demands, it wood seem that the housing allowance has been raised to the R 800 that the one million + civil servants were asking for.

Tues 7

With, just short of their demands met nurses, teachers and other public service workers have been ordered back to work as of now. During the next 21 days union official will consult their members as to the next move. One union leader, Thobile Ntola of the South African Democratic Teachers Union said "there comes a time in any strike in which we must weigh our options. It would seem that the cost of the strike, in economic terms has been put at £90m / R1bn.

Despite this apparent settlement 70, 000 petrol station workers and vehicle dealerships have been on strike since 25/8 over a wage rise of 20%. Also the National Union of Mineworkers has reported that 8, 000 of its members at Northern Platinum stopped work over a 15% wage rise demand within the last 24 hours.

The government is being taken to the equality court by Sans Bushmen who claim that former colonial powers and now the present government have in the past committed 'cultural genocide' and this present government show a lack of recognition to a peoples who were the first inhabitants of what is now South Africa.

In support of their claim a group of Khoisan leaders marched through the centre of Cape Town, on 4/9, to the gardens below parliament to claim these Company's Garden's be renamed the Khoi Boesman [Bushmen] Gogosa Gardens in honour of one of their chiefs.

The renaming of these, the countries oldest public gardens, is only one of eight demands that the Khoi are making at this time. Others include 'full linguistic recognition,' recognition of their traditional leaders, review of land claim rights and a proper and substantial implementation of all agreements to settlement claims.

One who studies the San people, who in 2004 (qv 7/2) were known to painted rack art on caves in the Drakensburg mountains, Professor B Smith of the Rock Art Research Institute at Wittswaterand University, said of this latest claim "We have a big restitution process and the Khoisan have to take their place with everyone else. Not all the land is going to be given back because its not practical."

Thurs 9

Despite being the most widely spoken of the 11 official languages of the country the Zulu language has not had an update of an English/Zulu dictionary for at least 40 years. In order to rectify this deficiency, when almost one in four of the population are Zulu by birth Oxford University Press Southern Africa have compiled one.

Megan Hall, the publisher's manager for dictionaries its chief usage will be with the 2.8m school children who study the language.

Fri 10

In a country where it is written into the constitution the freedom of people to have same sex relationships, there are still pockets of conservatism. At the 'Kiss in the Avenue' event, staged in the heart of the of Afrikanerdom - the town of Stellenbosch a photograph of two of the town's University male students kissing has again brought the issue of same sex relationships to the fore.

Since the photo appeared feelings of the town's residents and those living the wider world have been splashed throughout the media. It would seem that women, who had seen the picture on the front page of the student newspaper, *DieMatie*, were OK about the kiss. It was the Afrikaner and the African males who objected to in.

This has come to light after both Czpan and M Brown have been involved in a car accident in which Czpan lost his life. His passenger is fighting for his life in the Netcare C Barnard Hospital in Cape Town.

Sat 11

Some figures to remind the present head of the Roman Catholic Church the folly of the advice given by one who held the role in 2005 as to the right or wrongness of using condoms to prevent the spread of the HIV virus.

Someone dies of Aids every 2 minutes in South Africa ; Botswana where 23.9% of adults between 15 and 49 are HIV + ve ; Swaziland where 26. 1% of adults have the disease ; Namibia 15% and Lesotho 23%.

Mon 20

Mindful of the world's concerted efforts to improve the lives of the many children born in the Third World at the beginning of the 20th century there follows a catch up report of the lives of a mother and her child in 2005 (qv 21/6) in Khayelitsha Cape Town.

Angel Siyavuta Swartbooi D O B 2/6 and mother to Nonzuzo, aged 23, still live in the same shack that Siya was born in. The mother has ambitions for her son to be a lawyer later in life. The five year old has had good reports from his nursery school, which he started in 2008, and only after one month there he knew all his recitations. At the age of three it is said that he could count up to 20.

As to the mum Nonzuzo after admitting at the age of 18 she was too young to have a baby and admits it was a struggle in the early years. After this interruption in her education a return to school was called for. Having completed this and passing grade 11 and also her matric exam she found a six month college course in office administration - gaining the top marks in her class - in 2007.

With ambitions to become a tourist guide, thwarted as the £883 / R10, 000 was out of her reach, a job as a waitress in a casino, in 2009, provides the cash to live on. For a 12 hour day, plus one hour travelling at each end, her 7am - 7pm wage brings in £185 /R 2, 100 pr month. School fees for Siya are £13 per month.

As to the families living conditions, they now have their own single room shack 12 metres square, for mum dad and Siya to live in. In this one room there is a single bed, fridge, cooking pots, vacuum cleaner, gas canister, one wardrobe, TV, cheap stereo amplifier and a floor covered in lino. After 10pm it is still unwise to venture out into the town because of the gangs of boys and youths hanging around on the unmade roads. There has been changes for the good - a youth centre equipped with computers, a fitness gym and a guest house for foreign guests.

There will be a brother or sister for Siya in 9/'10 who has also been fathered by Benson Ntsimango.

fact file - 42.9% of the nation live on less than US\$2 / day. The mortality rate, for under 5's is 67/ 100 births. Life expectancy is 53 years. Children's education sees 85.9% of girls and 85.7% of boys in school. Debt per capita stands at US\$874.83.

Wed 22

Police mount an operation to clear an illegal squatter camp adjacent to a township in Hout Bay, Cape Town. During the raid forty people were injured as the authorities ordered the removal of what the authorities called 'illegal structures.'

Mon 27

The crime of 'corrective rape' carried out against the countries lesbian community has been numbered at ten per week in Cape Town. Recently four men, charged with this crime in 2006 after stabbing 19 year old Z Nkonyana and beating her to death with a with a golf club in Khayelitsha, managed to escape from the court building. A fifth man was not so fortunate in his escape bid.

Out of one women's growing concern for the victims of such crimes comes the one women play **Ncasmisa! Kiss the Women***, written and performed by Pam Ngwambeni. The play, which comes to the UK's Afrovibes festival of South African theatre, music an visual arts is written and directed by Peter Hays. Long concerned with theatre, with the issues that affect gay men, this play explores the experiences of black lesbian life in the townships.

*** 7 - 10. 010 Albany Theatre, London, then Birmingham and Manchester**

OCTOBER 2010

Tues 12

The woman Tiny Viginia Makapo a teacher at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy outside Johannesburg who was charged in 2007 (qv 6/11) has been found not guilty of any of the charges brought against her. The former dormitory matron at the \$40m school for young girls had been accused of fondling girls when outside the school.

At the time the American chat show host promised a full overhaul of the school. "I will be forever proud of the nine girls who testified with the courage and conviction to be heard."

Wed 13

Speaking of the effects of not having a safe working environment in throughout the countries gold and, diamond or coal mines can have a severe effect on future production. The National Union of Mineworkers has it written into the employment rules that for every miner killed all mines in that group will be close for a 24 hour period. **World Tonight Radio 4 22. 00**

Fri 15

According to the most recent statement from Amnesty International on the treatment of political prisoners in Angola the health of 37 political detainees in Conduege prison in Dundo Luanda Norte province.

In 2009 Human Rights Watch detailed the arbitrary arrest of 38 people in Cabinda. It was also noted that despite the countries oil and diamond deposits Angolas two thirds of 18.5m population still exist on less than \$2 per day.

Tues 19

It would seem that those businessmen who were determined to win contracts to build football stadia for the recent World Cup were not averse metering out retribution to those who tried to expose such misdeeds.

Police report that in the past two years eight persons who stood in the way of such practices have been died suddenly or murdered. The latest death, reported in the Sunday Times is that of local official J Nkambule aged 37 who collapsed at his home in Mpumalanga province. a post mortem report says that he was poisoned. His crime standing in the tender process for the £118m / R1.3bn Mbomela Stadium in Nespruit.

It is said that the dead man was on the verge of persuading an admitted hit man, a Mozambican national : Josh to go into the police witness protection programme.

Mr Nkambule was at the time of his demise facing the legal charge of defeating the ends of justice, conspiracy to commit a crime, incitement and fraud. In the past he was a leader of a

2002 plot to oust the then president Mbeki from his position. Dismayed with the politics of the ANC he then became deeply involved with the political party the Congress of the People (qv).

The Mbomela stadium forced the relocation of two schools, angry protests from a neighbouring township. Hosted 4 matches for almost £30m per game or £327, 500 per minuet.

Thurs 21

With much tension created in the world of journalism, the government wants to introduce tighter controls on the industry (qv 18/8). The African National Congress chose this day - National Press Freedom Day to launch their own newspaper. The New Age promises 'more positive news' and to highlight the achievements of the government. On the eve of publication the papers editor, Vuyo Mvoko his deputy and three other senior staff resigned.

Financial backing and ownership of the paper is in the hands of Atul Guptais and his family, who arrived in the country in 1993. They made their fortune in computer sales and have a nine year relationship with the president and his family. Two of the family brothers are business partnership with Zuma's son Duduzane.

Tues 26

Ambitious plans to turn areas of the Northern Cape into - it is claimed - the worlds largest solar park after giant mirrors as strewn across the province in a concerted attempt to turn sun power into electric power. The cost of the project is expected to be £18.4bn / R 200bn and after its first 10 years achieve an annual output of 5 Gigawats of electricity. Which is 10% of current energy needs.

As 200 potential investors, from within and without South Africa gather in the provincial town of Upington, they will be studying a master plan envisaged by the American construction company Fluor. Project manager, J de Vries, said the companies aim was to have solar power electricity flowing into the national grid by 12/2012 to produce 1Gw using a mix of solar technologies.

As the continents largest produces the largest carbon footprint efforts to reduce it will be welcomed. Concerns have grown as the World Bank, in 4/10, approved a loan of £2.37bn / \$3.75bn for the authorities to construct one of the worlds largest coal fired power stations. From a country where only 40% of households were linked to the grid in 1994 the 16 years of multi racial government has seen this figure rise to 83%.

Thurs 28

A proposed visit to Israel by the Cape Town Opera company has been criticised by the soon to retire Desmond Tutu. The veteran anti apartheid campaigner likens the treatment metered out to the Palestinians by the Tel Aviv government to the treatment the National Party metered out to the majority black and the Coloured ethnic groups prior to 1994.

However the opera company insisted that the 11/10 tour would proceed to showcase the American opera Porgy and Bess. The countries Jewish Board of Deputies condemned the clerics remarks.

Fri 29

Much as natural scientists, are collecting seeds for preservation at Kew Gardens in London, a similar conservation project is being masterminded from Nottingham University. These scientists are intent on collecting the DNA from animals that face extinction. When the time is right these 'lost' animals can be cloned in much the same way that Dolly the Sheep was.

To this end a scientist in South Africa is studying the excreta of the endangered white rhino to learn more about its breeding cycle. - **Today Radio 4 6.53am** -

Sun 30

The programme, titled Exercise of Conscience, delved into the world of the persons who were opposed to serving in the military during times of armed conflict.

Of interest *to, this diarist* white soldiers who refused to serve in the South African Defence Force on the Namibian border or in the townships served time in Pretoria's Central Prison. Here strict regimes were maintained. One episode, detailed by one who was jailed, was the order to wear military uniform. His first refusal led to a Court Martial and so did the second one. In the end he was given a dishonourable discharge from the army.

Now twenty odd years later this individual has become a 'man of the cloth' and a speaker on conflict resolution. - **Something Understood** -

NOVEMBER 2010

Tues 2

Among the competitors from 10 countries at the 9th Optics Valley International Acrobatics Arts festival in Wunan China was the contortionist Nokulunga Buthelezie.

With eight seasons of a British television 'classic' to its credit the television channel M Net is about to confirm, or blow apart the theory that South Africa is still a racially divided nation.

With all the winners, since 2002, of the nations Pop Idol show being either white, mixed race or Coloured the 2010 winner has a 50% chance of being from the black majority population. Lloyd Cele, aged 28 a pastor goes head to head against a 30 year old music teacher. They will perform 'Just the Way Your Are and 'Hallelujah' respectively.

While the academics note that the number of whites who have won in previous years could be said to indicate that over 80% of white homes have a television. For the majority population the television ownership rate is put at 17%.

this date 1899 The siege of Ladysmith in Natal began, when the Boers encircled the town.

Wed 3

The self penned memoir of Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom, which is about to be turned into a film, has been drawn into conflict as one of the films backers is accused of paying bribes to secure an arms contract.

Described as one of South Africa's largest filming projects the production company, Vidiovision, has accepted £6.74m / R75m of the projects estimated cost of R261m from the German company Ferrostaal who were bidding to supply three submarines for the navy.

Such anger has been created among the countries politicians that the Democratic Alliance's shadow minister of trade, Tim Harris, is to ask the Nelson Mandela Foundation if it is aware of the link between Ferrostaal and alleged corruption charges.

If the film, described as the 'definitive Mandela film, ever sees the light of day two of its main stars will be Tom Hooper known for The Kings Speech The Damned United alongside John Adams. The film is to be directed by Anat Singh.

Sat 6

this day **1962** The United Nations General Assembly passes a resolution condemning South Africa's racist apartheid policies and calls for member states to cease military and economic relations with the nation.

Tues 9

Mozambique, one of the countries who benefits from the Global Campaign for Education, has in the recent past had to divert funds away from the provision of education as the people erupted into violence because of food price rises (qv 3/8).

As the situation became worse the authorities in Maputo diverted the aid into providing food subsidies. Since its introduction, in 2008, twenty thousand teachers have been hired and almost 100, 000 pupils have been educated in 3, 000 newly build classrooms. The children's education was only saved when \$56m of new financing was granted by the World Bank.

The GC of E is a coalition of 100 organisations in 100 countries including Oxfam, Education International, Action Aid and Save the Children. Within the next 24 hours donor countries will meet in Madrid to allocate the remaining £50m / \$80m which is well short of the monies promised £1bn needed to keep schools open world wide for the next 12 months.

Thurs 11

The private hospital company Netcare, who in 2002 (qv 19/2), were commissioned by the London government to recruit South African medical staff to transfer to the National Health Service have been fined a large amount of cash, after becoming embroiled in an organ donation scandal.

It has just come to light that during the period 6/01 - 11/3 that the company that ran Netcare St Augustine's Hospital in Durban - Netcare KwaZulu - has performed 102 operations on Israeli citizens who were in need of a replacement kidney and thus broke the countries Human Tissue Act. Donors were paid between \$6, 000 and \$20, 000. The parent company received £342, 000 / R 3.8m in total.

Pending are charges against four surgeons, a doctor, two employees of Netcare and one translator. All will appear in a Durban court on 23/11.

Fri 12

Still such are the demands made on Nelson Mandela that the Foundation, named in his honour and the organisation that runs every aspect of the former president life, has had yet again to issue a plea on behalf of the former political prisoner.

Even though he himself announced a retirement in 2004 (qv 2/5) the Nelson Mandela Foundation says that the former president receives 4, 000 messages and requests a

month. The Foundation has now issued firmer requests to the public that hopefully will allow Nelson Mandela an even more tranquil life as a 92 year old.

Stating these new 'ground rules' the Foundation notes - he no longer gives interviews to the public, those undertaking research or members of the media. No support, or endorsement for, projects or a cause that are brought to his attention. No more signings of books, memorabilia or photographs.

Mon 15

A British national, aged 31, who was in the country with his wife of just seven days has now become a widow. As the two were travelling home from a dinner on 13/10 their car was car jacked on the road. The unnamed groom was pushed from the vehicle in the Gugulethu area outside Cape Town. The brides body was found on the back seat of the hired Volkswagen in the Harare township of Khayelitsha.

Police figures show that the country still has the highest crime rates in the world. On average there still 46 murders committed a day.

Tues 16

Local police, in the Cape Town district have appealed for help in capturing the killer of the recently married bride Anni Dewani aged 28 who was found dead on the back seat of a taxi in the Harare area of Khayelitsha (qv 15/11).

The bridegroom, Shrien Dewani, who formerly worked in the city of London before relocating to the west country to run a string of luxury old peoples homes with his brother, as PPS Healthcare.

It can be noted that in 2009 police figures show that there were 14, 000 car jacking crimes in the country.

Wed 17

Such are the number of rhino's diminishing at the hands of the poachers and increasingly crime syndicates that the officials of SANParks have called on president Zuma to allow members of the national army to be deployed in catching the criminals.

In the Kruger National Park in recent times two poachers were shot dead by wardens and died later in hospital. Nationally rhino deaths, as of this time, are 261, which is more than the total for the whole of 2009 - 122 2008 - 83. Estimates that rhino, of which the country is home to 90% of the total, deaths by the hand of those seeking the animals horn are running at 20 per month. Of the poachers caught, 119, rangers from Kruger NP accounted for 45 people detained.

It would seem that the risks involved far outweigh the rewards in the minds of a successful poacher when rhino horn is valued at £35. 000/ Kg.

The loss of the endangered species not only happens from the national parks as private parks are also targeted. In the last 12 months Inkwe Valley Game Park in the Limpopo Valley has lost five rhino. Here it is not unknown for management to use private security guards. The cost of which is £2, 683/ R 30, 000 per month.

Thurs 18

As of his date two persons have been charged with the murder of the recently married Annie Dwani whose body was found in Kaylitsha (qv 15/11). **Radio 4 news 22. 00**

Fri 19

The murder of a tourist is a rarity say the police however the murder and attacks on women who live in the townships is not so uncommon. It has been said that more than 700 people who live in Guguletu have been killed in the last five years.

On a daily bases these figures, from the South African Institute of Race Relations, indicate that there is one homicide every two and a half days in the densely populated area outside Cape Town.

Throughout the country, in 2009, police reported there were 68, 322 reports of sexual offences committed against women. This is an average of one every eight minutes. This in a country where 1 : 4 males admitted to researchers of the Medical Research Council that they had raped a woman.

Sun 21

One of the subjects, covered during an interview by a German journalist, over the Pope's concerns about the use of condoms as a means of preventing the spread of the HIV virus will upset the more conservative members of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 2009 (qv 18/3) Pope Benedict was wholly against their use. As of now the pontiff sees the use of the profolactive useful in 'certain circumstances.' Within the pages of the book length interview 'Light the World : The Pope the World and the Signs of the Times indicates that the use of a condom "can be the first step in the direction of moralisation " He was referring to male prostitutes.

Still shocked by the recent murder of British bride the residents of Cape Town's sprawling townships, Guguletu, are not surprised that those accused of the Dwani murder, where now three persons will face court within the next 24 hours, are from the neighbouring Khayelitsha. In the residents mind their township is populated with Western Cape born Coloureds, The residents of Khayelitsha are deemed new inhabitants who came from the Eastern Cape looking for work.

Mon 22

On a continent that is the global centre of the HIV/Aids infection and has an estimated 158 million Roman Catholic church members opinion of the recent announcement of the Popes change of heart (qv 21/11) are varied.

Speaking before mass at the Holy Trinity church in Johannesburg a Congolese students praised the use of the condom when it's seen that the male prostitute was trying to protect his client against infection. In the small town of Braamfontein a church attendee, close to the Nelson Mandela bridge said "for the sake of reducing HIV, it's the right thing to use protection especially in Africa.

Tues 23

Two of the persons accused of the murder of new bride Annie Dewani in Khaylitsha (qv 21/11) have appeared in court. Zola Tonga aged 31, who was the couples taxi driver at the time of the car jack, and M Qwabe aged 25 are both charged with kidnap, murder and agrivated robbery in the Wynberg regional court. A third accused, X Mmegeni aged 23 will before the same court within seven days facing the same charges.

There is some talk of the taxi driver turning 'states evidence' in order that he receives a more lenient sentence.

Wed 24

A multi national trial, nearly 2, 500 men and trans gender women, from South Africa and five other nations, have identified new product that could stop the rate of HIV infection. The trial, overseen by the American National Institute of Medicine was carried out by the independent Gladstone Institute.

Findings from the study, which began in 2007, found that there were 48.3% infections if the anti retroviral Truvada once again. This itself is a combination of two other anti retrovirals Emticitabine and Tenofovir and the protection offered was increased to more than 72. 8% if Truvada was used consistently.

According to figures, from the United Nations the population of Luanda, the capital of Angola, will in the next fifteen years grow by 69.3% from as of now 4.39m. The same survey has shown that slum numbers have dropped from 46.2% [1990] to 28% as of this date in South Africa.

Fri 26

Detailing further the Medical Research Councils report on the countries attitude to rape (qv 19/11) it can be noted that 28% of men in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal admitted to forcing sex on a female. In wealthy Gauteng the figure was 37.4% and 25.3% of women said they had suffered rape.

The author of the report, Rachel Jewkes, noted that the breakdown of those questioned : 998 comprised of 511 women and 487 females of whom 90% were from the majority black population. The rest, 10% were white.

Other views aired were - same treatment for male and female all agree. @A woman should obey her husband 86.7% [m] 57.9% [f]. Family numbers final say : 53.9% / 29.8%. Male permission for women to work 27.3% / 22.2%. To the question "is it

possible for a women to be raped by her spouse m and f. Women cannot refuse sex 38.7% / 29.3%. Male right to punish spouse 22.3% / 8.8%. Is the person raped promiscuous 32%. Desired 20.1% / 15.6%.

Sat 27

While the Medical Research Councils report (qv 26/11) was a South African initiative undertaken by Professor Jewks this same person carried out a similar investigation in 2009 (qv 18/7). An unattributed statistic says that a women in Britain is raped every 10 minuets.

As the investigation continues into the murder of the young bride in Khaylitsha (qv), where three persons have already - or a bout to - appeared in court charged with an assortment of crimes, the widower will be invited to return to Cape Town.

According to the well respected Weekly Mail newspaper the police now consider Shiren Deweni to be involved in his wife's murder. If there was no voluntary return an extradition order will be sought by the authorities in Pretoria.

Sun 28

According to the United Nations Habitat report titled The States of African Cities 2010 : Governance, Inequaties and Urban Land Markets the population of -

Cape Town will rise from the present 3.4m to 3.8m by 2025. A similar projection for the city of Johannesburg notes that from 3, 7000, 000 living people there : in the next 15 years the needs of 4, 100 000 will have to be catered for.

Already noted, (qv 24/11), Angola's capital Luanda will rise from 4.8m - 8.1m

Mon 29

a diarist writes - as a whole load, of previously unseen diplomatic communications between American diplomatic missions - from around the world - and Washington come into the public domain the historic background following the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990 has been revealed.

Known that it was his intention to see the British prime minister - as he travelled to the Wembley concert - soon after his release (qv 13/4) the publication of the American dispatch spreads some new light on this issue.

Now it is accepted that the then leader of the ANC had every intention of speaking to the prime minister. He was advised not to by his appointments secretary Zwelakha Sisulu. The cable was dated 3/5.

Tues 30

The governments efforts to portray the country as multi cultural nation has taken another blow. The award winning Afrikaner writer, Amelia Botes aged 53, has said that she is scared of black people.

Her comments were made to the Weekly Mail and Guardian where she told her interviewer she was comfortable answering the door to any other ethnic group. When it came to being confronted by a black man “she felt threatened.”

In a move that will see one of the United States major retail companies continue its world wide expansion Walmart has made an offer to the South African based Masmart outlet to acquire a controlling interest in the retailer of low cost goods in 14 countries on the continent.

Priced at £1.5bn / R16.5bn the American company has the backing from 35% of the supplier of products ranging from low cost foods to construction material. Another 15% of share holders have promised Walmart management non binding support, for the owner of the British supermarket chain Asda, to oversee the management of Masmart 288 stores throughout the continent.

Despite assurances to, the executive of the South African Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union, that all existing agreements covering all aspects of rights and practices will be honoured with the 70% of company employees who are members of the union, there is still the prospect of legal action to oppose the merger.

DECEMBER 2010

Sat 4

the diarist writes - As is well known the plight of the ethnic population of the southern African lands have not, in some cases, throughout history been treated as they should. One such group were the Herero and Nama peoples who lived in the south west of the continent.

First coming to light in 2000 (qv 6/9) then in 2004 (qv 11/8) and finally in 2005 (17/8) a more detailed explanation of the issues behind the German occupation of the now free state of Namibia is found in **The Kaisers Holocaust : Germany's Forgotten Genocide and the Colonial Roots of Nazism** by D Olusoga and C W Erichsen published Faber @ £20.

Sun 5

Hard on the heels of the proposed take over of the Masmart retail outlet (qv 30/11) the union representing 70% of the workers, Saccawu, were at pains to point out that their promised legal fight will be to ensure that the union campaign for centralised bargaining will be honoured by the new management.

To other interested parties, economists and other large scale employers, the buy out by Walmart will be beneficial to the whole South African nation. The economist Mike Schussler says "all new employment is worth having in our country when up to 60% of the population doesn't enjoy the dignity of a formal job."

Wed 8

In the Western Cape supreme court one of those persons accused of the murder A Dewani (qv 15/11) has been found guilty of her murder. His fellow conspirators M Quabe and X Mmengeneni will face the court on 25/2.

With an 18 year jail term in front of him Zola Tonga, who could have faced another six years, made good his promise to turn states witness (qv 23/11). His evidence sheds new light on the car jack/murder as it was claimed that the husband had asked him to arrange the death. It was said that £492/ R 5, 000 was offered for organising the killing.

Reading, from a police confession the provinces director of prosecution R de Kock, it was stated that for 'having a client taken off the scene, a women, he was willing to pay £1, 380 / R 15, 000. The approach was made outside the Cape Grace hotel on 15/11. A down payment of R 1, 000 was made within the next 24 hours.

Thurs 9

In London's City of Westminster magistrates court, at around the same time that Zola Tonga was giving his evidence (qv 8/12), Shiren Dewani was fighting an extradition request by the South African police.

Having been granted bail, of £250, 000, a senior district judge overturned that decision on behalf of the National Prosecution Office in Johannesburg, the recently widowed joint owner of a number of care homes in the west of England was committed to prison.

American diplomatic cables, leaked (qv 29/11), indicate that having been visited by Julius Malema of the ANC's Youth League on 5/11 2009 were "concerned that [representing] a generation which does not remember the struggle against apartheid comes to adulthood, they may be less content to accept mere rhetoric to express their anger at what they may see as continuing inequality."

Sat 11

In spite of new evidence, from the South African authorities - new CCTV footage of a hand over of cash between widower Shiren Dewani and taxi driver Zonla Tonga - London judicial sources granted bail to the 30 year old as he fights extradition to South Africa.

This new evidence is said to show a handing over of an initial £90 / R 1, 000 in a plastic bag at the five star Cape Grace hotel as a down payment for the services of a 'hitman' to murder his wife Anni Dewani.

Sun 19

With little response, from the South African police concerning their need to extradite Shiren Dewani allegedly for the murder of his wife, the family have gone on the offensive to show how the couple were so much in love that a murder was beyond belief.

To this end the wedding video, showing the couple in a loving embrace has been released by the family through the London based publicist Max Clifford. Other reasons have been offered as to why South Africa was chosen for the honeymoon. As a country the couple knew anything about the thinking was that with the S and A initials, the same as the newly married, it was an ideal setting for such an event.

Even as the Cape police show little urgency in seeking an extradition warrant the local media have determined that to arrange any such murder would take far longer than the 25 minutes that the authorities say Shiren took to arrange such in the time it took to travel from the airport to their hotel. This is despite the seen communications with the then taxi driver Zola Tonga.

Sun 26

With many of the cities throughout the world already with a street or building named after the countries non white president Cape Town is to have its own 20 years after Nelson Mandela stepped through the doors of Posssmoor Prison on the outskirts of the city.

In times past, 2001, there were approaches to the city council. These calls went unheeded as the council was dominated by the Democratic Alliance party and opponents of the national government. Another reason given was that the cities population were mainly ethnic Coloureds rather than black.

Nelson Mandela Boulevard will replace the exiting Eastern B, a three lane highway that runs close to the new sea front stadium built for the recent World Cup tournament.

The former presidents name heads a list of about 30 'notables' that will see either buildings, squares or parks given the, already agreed Albert Luthuli - founding president of the ANC or Krotoa, a women who was the first to marry a Dutch settler in the 17th century.

The most pressing issue now, which the council admit is not even at the discussion stage, is the renaming of the township streets, and removing the NY status. These names, followed by a number, are generally believed to stand for Native Yard which is disputed by city hall. In their mind they stand for nothing more offensive than Native Yard.

Tues 28

The long and turbulent life of Winnie Mandela, one time wife of the countries first president of an ANC led government, is to have it turned into an opera. It is to be produced by the South African State theatre.

It will be given its world premier in a theatre in Pretoria in 4/11. With the advertising strap line "she gave voice to a time voice to a place ... voice to a people. Love her or hate her but come and hear her, not in the original language of opera - Italian - but a mix of English and Xhosa. The 60 strong orchestra will perform a fusion of western and traditional African music.

Warren Wilenski, producer and librettist of Winnie the Opera comments that the life of this, at one time known as Mother of the Nation, is perfect. "The highs and lows of her life are to big for a normal dramatic story."