

## January

### Sat 13

News item, as the recently elected president Cyril Ramaphosa; who gave an account of his first days in office and uncovering acts of corruption among party members in government positions, was joined of the stage by President Zuma. Such a closeness, between the two stalwart politicians, brought the audience to their feet. To show their anger there was much booing from the audience.

Those in the know speculate that it is now likely that the nation's president will be forced out of office by 1.4

News item, police in Johannesburg fired rubber bullets as a crowd attacked the H&M retail outlet in Johannesburg. The mob were angry that a sale item; a hoodie had the embossed slogan; "Coolest monkey in the jingle"

### Mon 15

The attack, on a clothing outlet in the centre of Johannesburg (qv 13/1) was encouraged by the ever growing in popularity political party the Economic Freedom Fighters. H & M in South Africa said it had stopped selling the sweatshirt. "We have got this wrong and we are deeply sorry."

### Wed 17

Evidence, brought before a House of Lords committee by the veteran anti apartheid campaigner Peter Hain, has linked a City law firm Hogan Lovells to the Gupta brothers / state capture antics that has revealed acts of money laundering / corruption linked with the disgraced Jacob Zuma.

Giving evidence, the now Lord Hain, told of having reported the London based, but internationally known firm of 2, 500 solicitors to the Solicitors Regulation Authority. His claim, of malpractice, was that the firm produced a fatally flawed report into claims of financial malpractice when I came to assessing South Africa's tax collecting abilities.

### Tues 23

News item, the death of musician and anti apartheid campaigner Hugh Masekela aged 78 has been announced.

### Wed 24

A response, from president Zuma on passing of the veteran anti apartheid campaigner and musician Hugh Masekela noted that he had 'kept the torch of freedom alive while the culture minister Nathi Mthethwa noted the jazz trumpeter as being 'one of the greatest architects of Afro Jazz.

**Obituary Hugh Ramapolo Masekela 4. 4 1939 – 23 1 2018** see various reports and profiles throughout this diarist's writings

### Thurs 25

City authorities in, Cape Town, are preparing more severe 'use of water restrictions' regulations than those that are already in force as the wider Cape region suffers the worst drought it has seen in the

last one hundred years.

Households, already restricted to 87 litres for all water dependant necessities, will have further sanctions placed on each residence by 12/4. On that date; and even earlier officials will erect 200 stand pipes across the city.

## February

### Sat 3

As drought conditions, centred of the southern city of Cape Town, seem not to have improved logistical details have been more apparent. With the cut of day of 12/4 still relevant on that day water engineers will cut of the water supply to about 75% /1m of the residencies. In their place will be erected 200 stand pipes at which 25 litres of water per person per day will be available.

As to the financial cost to the Town council its estimated that the cost of installing this hardware; R200m / £12 will not cause to large a hole in the council budget of R1.4bn, which will be the length of time before hopefully the rains come.

### Mon 5

News item, a delegation of high level members of the national executive of the African National Congress made a visit to the home of the countries president. They called for him to resign as the mass of the party were fully behind Cyril Ramaphosa. Jacob Zuma refused.

### Wed 7

News Item, following talks between the leader of the African National Congress Cyril Ramaphosa and the nations president the need for another meeting of the NEC with Jacob Zuma was not needed. After the intervention it seems that the former leader of the ANC has agreed to step down from his post 'once details have been worked out',

### Mon 12

Within the next 24 hours, the time when a special meeting of the ANC 's national executive 'special committee' will convene, to decide the fate of the nations president. While the need to call such a special meeting is unknown, given the fact that Jacob Zuma and Cyril Ramaphosa have been in close contact ever since the former businessman took over as the top man in the government.

More than likely the hold up of a full transfer of power, is due to concerns, of Zuma, that he still faces criminal charges charges. At this late stage it should be noted that Cyril Ramaphosa is supported by just over half of the national executive committee. However he has significant support from the movements Women 's League and youth wing.

At the same time, as the next move in the on going political row was detailed, the deputy president announced a 12 month long celebration of the fact that Nelson Mandela was born 100 years ago; this on the day, in 1990, that he had been released from Pollsmor Prison.

### Tues 13

News items, following a second meeting of the national executive council meeting of the ANC,

where the calls for the resignation of Jacob Zuma as state president, were made he has now agreed that he will step down. However the trouble now is the timing; he himself would like three months whereas the NEC demand that he steps down immediately.

### **Wed 14**

News item, with the certainty that if Jacob Zuma did not answer the committee 's 'recall' from his position as state president moves to have him removed from office would be brought into force. This would be a vote of no confidence vote in parliament. Such a measure, and the foregone conclusion; an agreement with all the opposition parties, had been assured after an earlier meeting.

Speaking on national television the long time guerilla fighter/ politician spoke of the reason for his decision. He noted his belief in the ideals of the African National Congress and it was for this reason; his wish not to it split into factions. While he had already indicated that he would need 3 to 4 months to leave office he went now even though he had no understanding as to what he had done wrong during his time a the nations president.

### **Thurs 15**

News item as the process to oust the disgraced state president; a person of interest that the police want to question over various alleged crimes, state president Cyril Ramaphosa took the oath of office. In his acceptance speech he made much of his claims to root out all levels of corruption throughout the political/ government system.

Some time later it was announced that the police had detained those believed to have involved in such crimes. They were also seeking the whereabouts one member of the Gupta family; who are known to have had close association with the former state president and other high level politicians.

### **Fri 15**

Even as the nation was becoming used to the end of the Zuma era of government the word on the street, in the town of Alexandra there were those residents, Lucy Mabule aged 34 and a petrol attendant who was wary of a president who came from the same stock as the one he replaced. He may be a good guy “so the same robbers stay were they were.” Another resident, H Mdwava 38, was of the opinion that the nation would have been better to search outside the nations borders. “These guys are so old they have to many scandals ... If we are going to have a president from here then let it be a woman or a young person.”

The editorial in Business Day ; the local, and well respected newspaper noted “It is with an overwhelming sense of joy and relief that SA can say goodbye to Jacob Zuma. There is no other way to greet his departure than to say Good riddance. We can be glad that it will be Ramaphosa who will be at the helm this time.”

Leader Comment, **South Africa welcomes Ramaphosa – but change takes more than one man** “the very act of Mr Zuma 's removal reminds the public that it has the power to choose its leaders and hold them accountable. That in itself bolsters democracy. It should also sharpen the minds of the ANC about the task ahead.”

### **Sun 17**

Hard on the heels of the presidents state of the nation the police have stepped up their campaign to investigate cases of alleged corruption involving both the Gupta family and a member of the past

presidents family. Such is the intensity of the investigation it has been taken out of the hands of the ordinary police and handed over to the Hawks unit who are tasked only with the most complicated or delicate criminal cases.

Duduzane Zuma is being investigated for his role in a failed state backed dairy farm scheme that brought much cash to the Indian business family. Meanwhile an unnamed and wealthy business woman has offered a reward of £30, 000 as a reward for anyone revealing the whereabouts of the missing Gupta family members and Jacob Zuma 's son.

According to an academic, Richard Calland of Cape Town University, it is the view of the people that there must be a quick response, from the government, for an improvement in the economic fortunes of the less well off if the present government is to stay in power after the next parliamentary elections.

“It is important that he has some quick wins ... this will show people he is serious and willing to take action” even though certain factions of the party may not be as supportive of the new president and his policies.

## **March**

### **Sat 10**

A Canada based company, Export Development Canada, has won a court victory for the repayment of \$41m / £29.6m from the Gupta family for their Bombardier Global 6000 business jet. The action was brought to the Johannesburg supreme court on 4/2.

To make the finding of the passenger jet more difficult the aircraft 's public tracking device has been manually disabled since that date. A world wide appeal to locate the aircraft was made outside the court.

### **Thurs 15**

Long has been the quest, by the government to follow the ideals of nearby black led governments, and settle black farmers on underused white farm land, without the ongoing violence seen north of the Limpopo River.

This policy of farmer resettlement has now resurfaced in the ambition of the ANC leader Cyril Ramaphosa. Not that, seemingly, ever went away during the latter years of the Zuma regime. To this extent the police have issued statistics that white farmer deaths over the past few years; 74 people were murdered on farms between 4/ '16 to 3/'17 whereas in the previous 12 months only 58 people died.

Speaking in parliament the president reiterated the previous governments policy of land seizure without compensation. However there will be home for those dispossessed white farmers; the Australian home affairs minister, Peter Dutton, has vowed to work out a quick entry visa for any such farmer who wishes to make a new home here.

### **Sat 17**

The recently retired Jacob Zuma has been charged, by the states prosecution authority, with corruption charges from a time when he was deputy president. In total he faces 16 charges relating to 783 instances of alleged wrongdoing.

*Some of the above details have already been aired in this authors diatribe;* The former presidents

then financial advisor, Schabir Shaik, has already served time in jail on corruption charges. For further details, which eventually were investigated by the Heath Commission after 1999, see 28/11 of that year. With a final report being published in 2001 (qv 17/11).

## April

### Mon 2

News item, the death of Winnie Mandela, the one time wife of the first black president of South Africa has died. Much discussion about her long struggle, as part of the growing apartheid era struggle to overthrow the whites only government.

### Tues 3

With the passing of one deemed as the Mother of the Nation, by the black majority in the time before Nelson Mandela became South Africa 's first black president, the demise of his ex wife describes as some as an enigma wrapped up in a mystery there has been much praise and thought about the life and times of Winnie Mandela

Here struggles with the apartheid states police through the long period of years separated from her jailed husband, while she brought up two children on her own. While at the same time keeping 'here people' and the thoughts of the international community alive of a free and multi racial government for South Africa.

Many felt that here actions, and near conviction, surrounding the death of one of her self appointed security team; Stompie Maketsi the Winnie Mandela Football Club was a point where she began to fall out of favour with those, from overseas, that supported the aims of the African National Congress

Tributes remembering Mama Mandela; “She refused to be bowed by the imprisonment of her husband, the perpetual harassment of her family by the security forces, detentions, banning and banishment. Her courageous defiance was deeply inspirational to me and generations of activists.” **Desmond Tutu**

“With the departure of Mama Winnie[we have lost] one of the very few who are left of our stalwarts and icons. She was one of those who would tell us exactly what is wrong and right, and we are going to be missing that guidance,” **Cyril Ramaphosa South African president** -

'[She] has run an incredible race. It is no only us as South Africans but the continent as well as the global village that have experienced a loss.' - **Mmusi Maimans SA Opposition leader** -

**Obituary Nzoma Winifred Z M Mandela 26. 9. 1096 – 2. 4. 2018** *authors note* see relevant indexes 1980 to date.

### Fri 6

News items, former president Jacob Zuma will make his first appearance in court over allegations of corrupt dealing in the procurement of military hardware in 1999. After entering the Durban court building he was accused of breaching eighteen laws concerning money laundering, and fraud. In his defence he deemed the bringing of these charges as being politically motivated.

As the ex leader of the African National Congress left the building he was mobbed an crowd of supporters.

### Sat 7

The ramifications, for the future of the African National as the ongoing political party in government,

may in the mind of the Richard Callard; seen as a expert in the nations politics could be determined by how the supporters of the former president react to the the coming court case which was adjourned until 6/'18.

If it was Zuma 's wish he could make trouble for the new leader; Cyril Ramaphosa and motivate supporters from his power base in Natal province evidenced by the crowds of supporters gathered outside the Durban court house.

Probably key to the case are the 783 individual payments made by the then president to his former financial advisor Schabir Shaik.

### **Thurs 12**

As in time past, whether it was to celebrate an occasion of joy or the mourning of a 'notable', the Orlando soccer stadium in Soweto was always at its heart. Nothing different now as the a massed celebration; memorial for the life of Winnie Mandela drew the masses to this focal pint of the heart of the liberation struggle.

Words spoken in praise of her life and being the focal point of the majority populations struggle for political rights, that ended in 1994, include those of her grandson Bambatha Mandela who described her as “an extraordinary woman, a mother, a fighter.”

### **Sun 22**

Despite the drinking water, supply in Mozambique, is no where near as critical in neighbouring South Africa the governments concerns for its supply in the not to distant future are palpable. Projections for the nations capital, Maputo over the next 17 years estimate that the population will rise from its 1.7m to 3.5m.

As of this day, in the township of Chamanculo, outside the capital, whose homes had been connected to the mains for a number of years are having to return to individual collecting water from a single tap. Recently a private construction firm the, Portuguese construction firm Pragosa, have allowed residents to use water supplied from the firms private bore hole. Thus putting them on a par with those of Mozambique 's wealth who can afford to have their own drilled supply.

### **Fri 27**

At the recent Commonwealth Games in Brisbane the 'bad girl' of South African athletics Caster Semenya; who suffers from hyperandrogenism, *who first surface in this diary* in 2009 (qv 20/8), won a gold medal in the 800 and 1500 metres respectively.

Undeterred by a new ruling of the sports governing body, the International Athletics Federation, will in 11/'18 bring in a new rule covering persons with such a condition. This comes at a time when an IAAF chief medic, Dr S Berman; speaking in a personal capacity, is of the belief that such athletes will be given their own classification; intersex athletes. The time span five to ten years. Until such a time Caster will have to to keep on taking medication to lower her testosterone levels prior to a competition.

Overall at the Games South African 's medal total was 13, 11, 13 Gold Silver Bronze

### **Sun 29**

This writer is of the opinion that the new rules for 'intersex athletes (qv 27/4) to be introduced by the

IAAF in 11/ '18 will curb the career of the world renown 800 and 1500 metre track runner Caster Semenya. When introduced such races, above the 400m distance will not be open to such athletes unless they agree to medical treatment that lowers their heightened levels of testosterone.

Taking the advice of an Endocrinologist, Peter Sonkson of the International Olympic committee, it is noted the amount of the male hormone in both genders bodies disappears among elite athletes. Even the IAAF 's own research the the only field sport where there is notable difference of levels of the sex hormone is the hammer and poll vault. At the 1500 meter level testosterone levels in male and female runners show no difference.

## May

### Sat 5

Such has been the attention, paid by the residents of Cape Town; concerning saving of water use as per the fear of the on going drought, that the feared Day Zero has been pushed back to an unspecified day in 2019.

Up to date statistics; 507m litres residents use per day by 30/4. Even though the ideal usage would be 450m litre/day officials are of the opinion that with a reservoir levels at 28% household supply are assured at this time. However the provinces farmers have suffered a 25% loss of their crops thus forcing employers to let thousands of workers go.

### Tues 8

Despite the take over of a self esteemed moderate president, C Ramaphosa, the land policies of former president Zuma seem to be in the ascendancy. As of this time the very act of land reclamation; usually in urban areas is in the hands of local government officials deploy a private security firm known as the Red Ants.

Its not as though the Red Ants are well rewarded financially; only £7. 40 per day. Most of their recent work has been the clearance of squatters from buildings in Johannesburg and Pretoria. There are reports that the Ants are guilty of crimes, ranging from theft to acts of murder, without having to face the consequences.

The company, operating out of undeveloped farmland in Gauteng province, is owned by Johan Bosch. He reasons “We do evictions for the government..... You can't allow land invasion to happen.”

### Mon 14

The death has occurred of photographer Sam Nzima who pictured, in 1976, the dying school student, Hector Peterson aged 12, being carried away from the growing conflict that spread from the Soweto township to engulf the whole of the apartheid state and brought the world 's attention to the brutalities that the white regime that governed the nation at the tip of the African continent. The 83 year old died in hospital on 12/ 5 in Mpumalanga province. For his epic the photo journalist spent 19 months under house arrest.

Of those times president Ramaphosa noted “Sam Nzima was one of a kind. His camera captured the full brutality of apartheid oppression on the nations psyche and history.”

### Sun 27

With the rates of foetal alcohol syndrome/ spectrum especially notable in the wine producing areas of the nation residents in the townships of the Western Cape; Guguletu or Roodewal has seen a rise of 72% among school age children. The cause; the mothers intake of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy.

Nationwide FAS affects more children in South Africa than anywhere else in the world' 111 per 1, 000 head of population- a rate 14 times than the global average of 7.7 per 1, 000; stated in the US 's JAMA Paediatrics.

British research indicates that to combat this growth in a disease that can hamper child development, that may cost £2.9m to educate a child with FAS across their life span Canadian research indicates that such a person is 19 times more likely to spend time in jail because of this.

Home grown self help groups, in mentor mums in Esselen Park township and elsewhere in the wine growing Cape province have been in place since 2002. Formed by an Afrikaner farmer, local mums visit young pregnant women to offer help and advice as how to avoid the temptations that will harm the development of their child.

## **June**

### **Sun 17**

Further to adventures of of Dr Julian Bayliss of Oxford Brookes University, in 2012 (qv 22/1), Dr Simon Willcock; of Bangor University, has led a multi national team of 28 scientists into the pristine tropical forest of Mozambique. Also part of the expedition were specialist climbers who were able to lay ropes that made it possible for team members to climb to the top of 125 meters tall Mount Lico which at its high was the ancient centre of an active volcano.