

Take no more nonsense from Mugabe

SOUTHERN African leaders are meeting today to discuss the coming election in Zimbabwe that President Robert Mugabe is clearly intent on stealing.

They should not allow him to get away with this. For too long the rest of this region has had to carry the burden of his party's mismanagement of our neighbour, by offering refuge to the many thousands who have fled Mugabe's rule.

It appears that behind the scenes President Jacob Zuma has shown some backbone, not allowing Mugabe to ride roughshod over

Southern African Development Countries (SADC) leaders trying to bring democracy to that country. But Mugabe has been up to his old tricks, insulting all and sundry and blustering that he will leave the SADC if he is pushed too far.

These are just empty threats. Landlocked Zimbabwe is in no shape, after decades of economic mismanagement, to operate in isolation from its neighbours.

South Africa's Lindiwe Zulu, chief envoy on Zimbabwe's political crisis, has conceded there

are challenges in the run-up to the July 31 elections.

"The process has got challenges, we can't deny that because we've seen what info has been coming out during the special vote," said Zulu.

Last weekend thousands of Zimbabwean security forces couldn't make their mark in chaotic early voting. Polling stations opened late and many lacked indelible ink, stamps, voter rolls and ballot papers and boxes.

It is hard to imagine how there can be any

improvement on the current disorganisation with polling day looming.

Many observers believe Mugabe, who previously stole elections through the killing and intimidation of opposition supporters, has changed tack and intends to steal the election by huge voter fraud. The current chaotic situation, under the control of an election commission selected by him, suits his purpose.

The SADC must insist on a fair contest in these final days with the military on a tight leash and media access for all.

THE WEEK IN WORDS

COMPILED BY
TREVOR BRUCE & SAPA



YAYA TOURE

I am an African, so I'm very glad to be back here in Africa. It is unbelievable to be part of this event and to see how happy the fans are to see us. - Manchester City star Yaya Toure ahead of this week's game against AmaZulu at Moses Mabhida Stadium.

How can they say it was food poisoning when the members were laughing their heads off for no reason? Everyone who works at Montclair knows what went on that night. - A police officer who works at the Montclair police station tells of a recent incident where nine police officers from the station were taken to hospital after they unwittingly ate a batch of muffins allegedly laced with dagga given to them by a colleague celebrating her birthday. Senior police spokesmen are now saying they are investigating 'food poisoning' at the station.

It once more proves that no matter how good and heroic our parents can be, it does not follow that children will be the same. - The Eastern Cape SA Communist Party reacting to AbaThembu King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo's decision to join the Democratic Alliance.



INA BONNETTE

Time will heal the humiliation, but the hurt will never go away. - Ina Bonnette after ex-husband Johan Kotze was sentenced to life imprisonment.

A more shocking and traumatic experience is unfathomable. - Judge Bert Barn on the ordeal of Ina Bonnette at the hands of convicted murderer Johan Kotze.

In prison you can rape prisoners if you feel like it; at least you won't be around little children. - Krugersdorp magistrate Herman Badenhorst, sentencing Neo Molaudzi, who raped and robbed a 13-year-old boy, to 28 years in jail.

Our organisation is founded on the principle of anti-corruption. No one found guilty of corruption will wear the beret. - Corruption-accused former ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema, speaking at the launch of his new organisation, the Economic Freedom Fighters.

Therefore, I also leave the office of the premier with my conscience clean that I have never done anything unlawful and un-ANC... Thank you and goodbye. - Limpopo premier Cassel Mathale announcing his resignation.

The minister must not treat the SA Air Force as the ANC's own airborne taxi service. - DA MP David Maynier after Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula used a South African Air Force helicopter to go to Tlokweng, North West, to receive a memo.

TALK to US

FAX: (031) 308 2185
CLASSIFIEDS 0860 238 377
EDITOR:
Deon Delport (031) 308 2390
deon.delport@inl.co.za
CONTENT EDITOR:
Trevor Bruce (031) 308 2381
trevor.bruce@inl.co.za
DEPUTY CHIEF SUB-EDITOR:
Lynn Lister (031) 308 2367
lynn.lister@inl.co.za
WRITERS:
Arini Sanpath (031) 308 2284
arini.sanpath@inl.co.za
Nondumiso Mbuyazi (031) 308 2388
nondumiso.mbuyazi@inl.co.za
Duncan Guy (031) 308 2127
duncan.guy@inl.co.za
ARTS & LEISURE:
Deon Delport (031) 308 2390
deon.delport@inl.co.za
PERSONAL FINANCE:
(021) 488 4209
SPORT:
John Trachim (031) 308 2143.
john.trachim@inl.co.za



JAMES CLARKE

speaker's corner

SOME hospitals just haven't got it. Sensitivity, I mean. I wrote some time back of the standard hospital gown that one has to don before an operation. It opens down the back so everyone can see your bum.

They are specially designed to humiliate and Durban author Janet Nicholson tells me how, when she went to have a mole removed - in the outpatients department - she had to wear one. And no matter how you tie these things you know your backside is on view and there you are, in a public area, filled with swivelling eyes.

And then one has to answer a whole list of medical questions among the flapping ears.

"Fortunately," said Janet, "I don't have any embarrassing conditions, but I did hear a few from others and I was able to compare my blood pressure with everyone else's."

"I had taken a pen, crossword and glasses and was happily filling in the answers when they took me off in the wheelchair and said I would be in the theatre waiting area for about 10 minutes.

"They took away my pen and crossword book and curtained me off, except for the small gap, and everyone who walked past looked in and gave me a friendly smile and some asked if I was okay.

"And there I sat, and sat.

"I now had nothing to read. There weren't even any posters, not even instructions on the various mysterious machines. Just a cupboard marked 'blankets'.

"I knew if I closed my eyes they'd ask, even more earnestly, if I was all right.

"Five minutes became 15. They were bringing people back from the theatre. The doctor said there would be another 20 minutes' delay and left me once more sitting staring at the curtain.

"Eventually someone took pity on me and brought me a newspaper - but I didn't have my glasses."

I am sure a lot of readers will sympathise with Janet.

I've had a few spells in hospital myself over the years and know all about question time when they ask you if you drink and you suddenly feel defensive about it.

"Do you drink a little, or moderately or heavily?"

I mentioned in this column last year how I am sometimes forced to wear the hospital "Gown of Humiliation" designed in medieval times when convicted witches were forced to wear them and display their backsides around the town as a punishment.

On one occasion, as an outpatient, I too had to sit in a small cubicle with only the curtain to look at.

It was then that I had an acute dose of stage fright. I could hear a large crowd outside and dreaded the curtain being pulled aside and having to face the public in my Christmas Fairy gown.

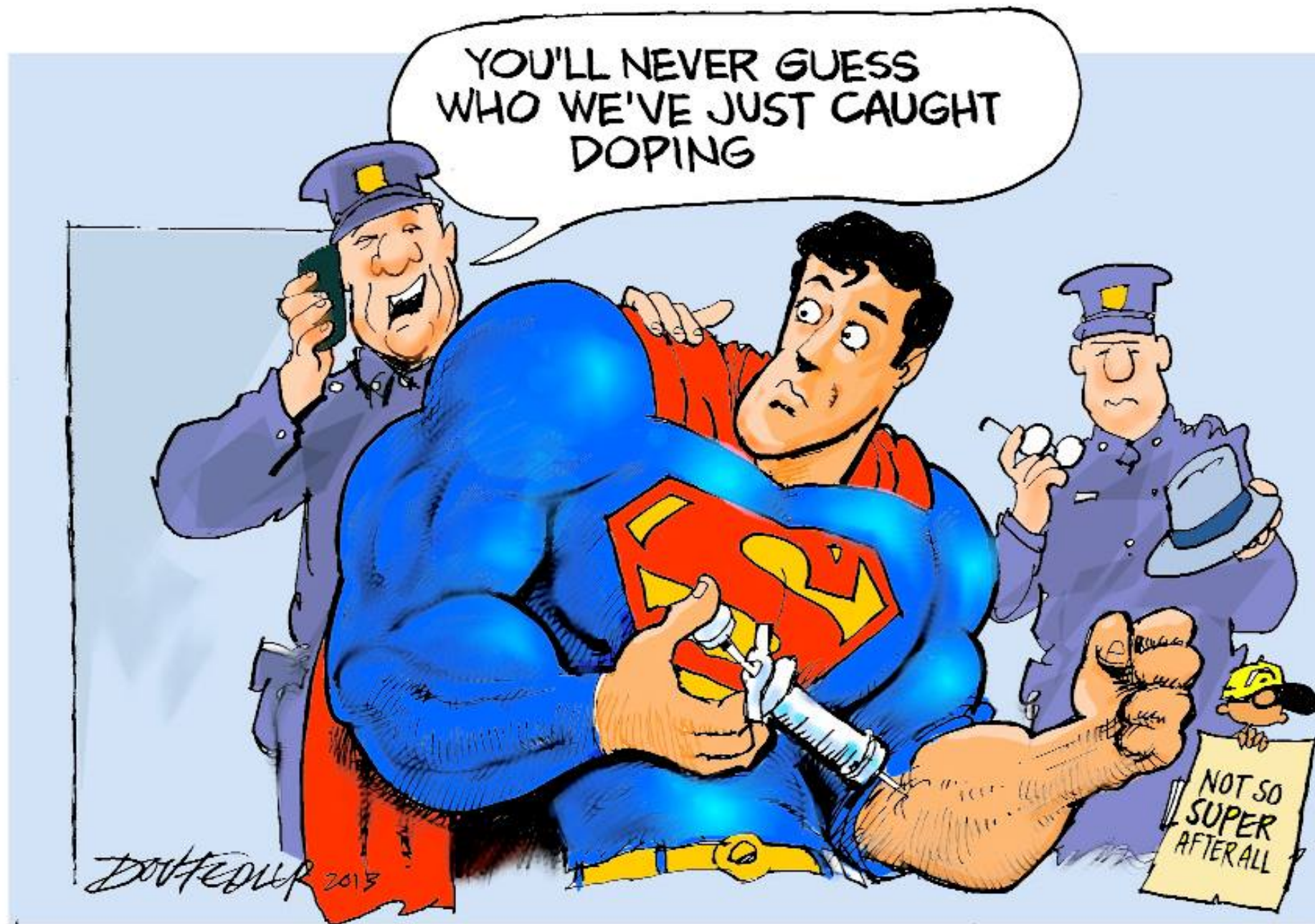
When eventually I took my curtain call, there was a well-known business leader on a stretcher a metre away. He lay there for some time and, I thought, that was even worse - to lie on one's back among strangers, without your teeth, trying hard not to exchange glances.

I thought of greeting him, but then I would have had to ask, "How are you?" - a silly question, seeing he was about to have a knife stuck in him.

And he would probably have felt obliged to ask me how I was and, because I was in for something I wouldn't have liked to have had to explain in a crowd, I would have been struck dumb.

I've never been lucky enough to be admitted into a hospital for, say, a rugby injury, or even a Scrabble injury - or even to have been mercifully unconscious.

Come to think of it, they should anaesthetise you from the moment you put on the gown.



Your Views

Race tent prices too high for ordinary people

From: MR VIJAY SURUJAL
Phoenix

THE DURBAN July, South Africa's premier race on the horse racing calendar, attracts many people - even those who do not know anything about betting on horses.

To book a spot in one of tents can set you back between R495 and R3 500, and that excludes the R200 entrance fee into the Greyville Racecourse.

While the more expensive tents provide buffet lunches and finger snacks, I still can't fathom the reason for the exorbitant prices.

As you enter the marquee a bracelet sticker is attached to your wrist which serves as a pass out. The bulk of the space inside the marquee is further divided into

VIP, VVIP and sponsor's selected guests areas.

If you are not a punter then you need to entertain yourself at the bar, and if you are neither a punter nor a drinker then you need to admire the fashion in the marquee.

The After Party begins at 7.30pm and stops suddenly at 10.30pm

With the euphoria of the Durban July, the temptation of being captivated by the glitz and glamour of this event is difficult to resist.

If you are booking a place in one of the tents at the Durban July, don't have high expectations. Just mingle, let your hair down and have fun, because long after the event is over, you will be wondering what you paid for.

Pastor's big July rip-off

- It cost R1 000 a ticket
- No food or drink provided
- Musicians didn't pitch



TOO EXPENSIVE: The Independent on Saturday reported last week that one tent at the Durban July was a 'rip-off'. Now a reader adds his comments.

Bizos a true hero of the Struggle for 50 years

From: SIYANDA MHLONGO
KwaDukuza

TO SEE comrade George Bizos's eyes full of tears should send a signal to the children and grandchildren of comrade Nelson Mandela that this outstanding cadre is not a "fly-by-night" comrade or a "stiff rider".

He accepted it when he was outmanoeuvred out of the Judiciary Service Council, but ill-treatment by Madiba's children for greed shame us.

Eight lawyers among white comrades gave all to set us free from apartheid bondage: Bizos, Sydney Kentridge, Bram Fischer, Vernon Berrange, Albie Sachs, Joel Joffe, Bob Hepple, Arthur Chaskalson, Joe Slovo and Harold Wolpe. As we speak, Bizos is representing some families who lost their breadwinners at Marikana in the same way our people died in Sharpeville, Soweto,

Boipatong, Bisho and Ngoye.

To political novices and specifically to Madiba's grandchildren, Bizos is just an old man who wants popularity by his association with Madiba, but to us he is a genuine comrade who together with Fischer, Berrange and Joffe saved the Rivonia trialists from death. In the league of Struggle lawyers who serve with Bizos are many esteemed lawyers - the list is long.

All South Africans must be humbled by the high degree of patriotism Bizos always demonstrates and his loyalty to the truth, constitution and rule of law.

The 50th anniversary of Liliesleaf and how Bizos and his team saved Madiba from the gallows makes one ask the question "Why is it not a punishable offence to steal with impunity from the public purse; why are the elders silent about Nkandla?" - Letter shortened

Claims about Polokwane conference off the mark

From: DR ZOLA SKWEIYA
South African High Commissioner to the UK

IN YOUR report "Would-be king out in the cold" (The Independent on Saturday, July 13), you claim that I "reportedly approached" Tokyo Sexwale in the run-up to the ANC's Polokwane conference in December 2007 to put himself forward for the ANC leadership as an alternative candidate to (then) ANC deputy president Jacob Zuma and (then) president Thabo Mbeki.

I want to place on record that I at no time approached Sexwale and urged him to stand for the presidency, either before or after the Polokwane conference.

Would-be king out in the cold

How it all went so horribly wrong for former golden boy Tokyo Sexwale



I was at no time approached by anyone in connection with the report that was published in your

newspaper and find it unacceptable that conjecture is stated as fact.

Madiba numerical brainteasers

From: PROF AZIZ INAN
University of Portland, Oregon, US

SOUTH African anti-apartheid revolutionary Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born on Thursday, July 18, 1918, and this Thursday, July 18, 2013, marked his 95th birthday. In his honour, I constructed the following numerical birthday brainteasers:

1. Mandela's age of 94 is special because it underscores the 94th year of the 20th century (that is, 1994) when Mandela became the president of South Africa. Also, this year's number 2013 equals 33 x 61, where 33 plus 61 equals 94.
2. The full date number of Mandela's 95th birthday can be expressed as 18-7-2013, or simply, 1872013. This date will also be the

first day of the 96th year in Mandela's life. Interestingly enough, 1872013 equals 11 x 13 x 13 x 19 x 53, where the sum of the prime factors 11, 13, 19 and 53 equals 96! In addition, if numbers 1 to 26 are assigned to the letters of the English alphabet as A being 1, B being 2 etc, the sum of the numbers assigned to the letters of Mandela's birth name, "Rolihlahla", coincides with 96.

3. Mandela's 96th birthday in 2014 will also be special since 96 represent his name, "Rolihlahla".

7. Mandela's 97th birthday in 2015 relates to his name "Nelson" because the reverse of 97, which is 79, equals the sum of the numbers assigned to the letters of "Nelson".

Happy 95th birthday, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela!

Contact James Clarke at:
jcl@onwe.co.za
www.jamesclarke.co.za
blog://stoepstalk.wordpress.com



The Editor reserves the right to shorten and edit letters. Only letters or e-mail with the full name, address and telephone number of the writer will be considered. Pseudonyms will only be used if verifiable contact details are in our possession. Write to PO Box 47549, Greyville, 4023. Fax us at 031 308 2715 or e-mail satmail@inl.co.za. No attachments please.